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No. 192

## House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROSE of New York).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
December 3, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAX ROSE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### PRAYER

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

Send Your spirit of peace and calm, that all might have confidence in Your faithfulness to us, and that no matter what lies ahead, Your grace is abundantly available.

For millions of Americans, it is a season of anticipation of the coming of God's blessing. It is also a season of difficult memories for many because of addiction, divorce, or the first Christmastime without a loved one. Bless all who are in need of Your healing presence.

These same realities are shared by many in the people's House, even while they engage in ongoing tense and difficult negotiations and address contentious issues. Lord, have mercy on Your people, and provide the grace that is needed for the work of the House to be fruitful and beneficial for all Americans.

May all that is done in the days to come be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER 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.

### 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, December 3, 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 December 3, 2019, at 12:00 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1138.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

### RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE STATEN ISLAND COUNCIL OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

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

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friends, Mendy Mirocznik and Scott Maurer, and the Staten Island Council of Jewish Organizations.

Every year, COJO puts on incredible events that celebrate Jewish tradition and bring together the Jewish community with other communities of faith from across Staten Island. Now, more than ever, this work is essential to maintaining and building upon the fabric of our great borough.

All too often, though, external forces work to separate communities and isolate them, which leads to polarization, misunderstanding, and fear.

Not with COJO, though. COJO works to build bridges between communities so that we can come together. Most importantly, COJO ensures the security of the Jewish community on Staten Island, which, unfortunately, feels more and more at risk due to recent events.

Across the country and around the world, we see a rising tide of anti-Semitism, from hate speech and graffiti in my district to terror attacks at synagogues across the country.

Now, more than ever, COJO's work is necessary, and I am proud to work with them each and every day to build a safer Staten Island for all.

### COMMUNICATION FROM LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, THE HONORABLE LANCE GOODEN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TRONE) laid before the House the following communication from Ryan Ethington, Legislative Director, the Honorable LANCE GOODEN, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 2, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the

□ 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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Rules of the House of Representatives, that I, Ryan Ethington, have been served with a subpoena for testimony and documents issued by the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

After consultation with the Office of the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

RYAN ETHINGTON,  
Legislative Director,  
Office of Congressman Lance Gooden.

#### APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2103(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress on the part of the House for a term of 6 years:

Mr. Robert Anacletus Underwood, Hagatna, Guam

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:45 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1545

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CLAY) at 3 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

#### CITIZENSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF MILITARY MEMBERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS ACT

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4803) to facilitate the automatic acquisition of citizenship for lawful permanent resident children of military and Federal Government personnel residing abroad, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4803

*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 "Citizenship for Children of Military Members and Civil Servants Act".

#### SEC. 2. FACILITATING THE AUTOMATIC ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP FOR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT CHILDREN OF MILITARY AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL RESIDING ABROAD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1431) is amended—

(1) by striking the section header and inserting "CHILDREN BORN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES AND LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE; CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH CITIZENSHIP AUTOMATICALLY ACQUIRED";

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

"(c) Subsection (a)(3) is deemed satisfied in the case of a child who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States if—

"(1) the child is residing in the legal and physical custody of a citizen parent who is—

"(A) stationed and residing abroad as an employee of the Government of the United States; or

"(B) residing abroad in marital union with an employee of the Government of the United States who is stationed abroad; or

"(2) the child is—

"(A) residing in the legal and physical custody of a citizen parent who is—

"(i) stationed and residing abroad as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; or

"(ii) authorized to accompany and reside abroad with a member of the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to the member's official orders, and is so accompanying and residing abroad with the member in marital union; and

"(B) authorized to accompany such member and reside abroad with the member pursuant to the member's official orders, and is so accompanying and residing with the member."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 320 and inserting the following:

"Sec. 320. Children born outside the United States and lawfully admitted for permanent residence; conditions under which citizenship automatically acquired."

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 4803, the Citizenship for Children of Military Members and Civil Servants Act. This bipartisan legislation provides a simple solution to ease the burdens imposed by our current citizenship laws on those who have chosen to serve our Nation abroad, and their children.

Most children who are born outside the United States to U.S. citizen parents are deemed U.S. citizens at birth. But under our current citizenship laws, this process can be more complicated for children whose parents don't meet certain bureaucratic requirements related to residency, a concept that is generally defined according to where one physically resides.

This often affects military families and certain other Federal employees serving abroad. As a result, when establishing U.S. residency is not possible because of a parent's overseas service to the Nation, these families, who make great sacrifices for our country, are at a disadvantage.

Without access to a streamlined citizenship process, parents must either guide their children through a lengthy and expensive naturalization process or find some alternative way to establish U.S. residency, which may even require them to cut short their overseas service commitment to the armed services.

In August, Members on both sides of the aisle were taken aback by the administration's reversal of a 15-year-old policy that allowed families of military servicemembers and Federal Government employees to meet the residency requirement for acquisition of citizenship purposes while serving abroad.

H.R. 4803 will implement a small but important fix to our citizenship laws by restoring and codifying the previous policy and bringing consistency to what were once differing policy provisions between the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State.

H.R. 4803 will provide greater flexibility to individuals who have dedicated their lives and careers to serving our Nation by treating their children like other children of U.S. citizens who were born overseas, allowing them to be automatically recognized as U.S. citizens once certain conditions are met.

H.R. 4803 will thus eliminate the inconvenience, expense, and delays of the naturalization process that such children are required to undergo under current law and allow their parents to continue serving our Nation in the military without interruption.

I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), my friend and colleague, for partnering with me on this commonsense, bipartisan fix, as

well as Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member THORNBERRY, Subcommittee Chair LOFGREN, Subcommittee Ranking Member BUCK, along with Mr. GALLEG0 and Mr. LIEU. I appreciate their willingness to work across the aisle and to demonstrate that it is possible to find common ground on some immigration and nationality issues.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4803, the Citizenship for Children of Military Members and Civil Servants Act.

Most people believe that, in all circumstances, as long as one parent is a U.S. citizen, a child is automatically a U.S. citizen. In reality, the Immigration and Nationality Act lays out specific residency, physical presence, and other requirements for when a child is deemed a U.S. citizen and what procedures a parent must go through to claim that citizenship.

For instance, section 320 of the INA requires that a child of a U.S. citizen automatically becomes a U.S. citizen if the child is under the age of 18 and is "residing in the United States in the legal and physical custody of the citizen pursuant to a lawful admission for permanent residence."

This creates a problem for some U.S. citizens and their families who are serving overseas in the military or other U.S. Government positions and who cannot return to the United States.

Until very recently, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, USCIS, had been interpreting the term "residing in" to cover children of U.S. citizen government employees or members of the U.S. Armed Forces who were employed or stationed outside the U.S. That interpretation, however, was inconsistent with other parts of the INA and inconsistent, even, with the State Department's interpretation.

Thus, there were instances when a U.S. citizen parent was told by USCIS that their child was automatically a U.S. citizen, but when the parent tried to obtain a U.S. passport for the child, they were told that the child was not yet a U.S. citizen because the proper process had not been followed.

In late August, USCIS issued policy guidance aimed at correctly interpreting "residing in" to be consistent with the INA and the State Department's interpretation.

It should be noted that, even if H.R. 4803 is not enacted, the children affected by USCIS' new guidance will still be able to claim U.S. citizenship; however, their families will have to jump through many more hoops to do so.

Luckily, this issue affects fewer than 100 families per year, most of whom are cases of adoption or where the child is a teenager when the parent naturalizes.

USCIS was legally correct to do what it did, but we in Congress are also right to make the technical change that allows the affected child to be automatically considered a U.S. citizen.

The committee ranking member worked closely with Chairman NADLER to craft H.R. 4803. The bill deems the child of a U.S. citizen parent to be in compliance with the residence requirements of INA section 320 in circumstances where: one, the U.S. citizen parent is an employee of the U.S. Government stationed abroad or a spouse of that employee residing abroad with that employee; or, two, the U.S. citizen parent is a member of the Armed Forces stationed abroad or spouse of that member residing abroad with that member, and the child is authorized to and is accompanying the member.

The bill ensures that children of U.S. Armed Forces members and U.S. Government personnel are not disadvantaged merely because their parents' service to our country requires them to be deployed abroad.

I am pleased that the legislative process worked as it should, that Republicans and Democrats saw a legal issue that needed to be fixed and we worked together to pass the affecting legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

This bipartisan legislation would provide greater flexibility and support to those who have dedicated their careers to serving our Nation when they have children born abroad.

I again thank my colleagues for the bipartisan nature of the work and support of this bill. I urge all my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4803, the Citizenship for Children of Military Members and Civil Servants Act.

I applaud Judiciary Chairman JERROLD NADLER (D-NY) and House Judiciary Ranking Member DOUG COLLINS (R-GA) for introducing this bipartisan legislation aimed to fix a problem in current citizenship laws.

The current citizenship law implemented by this Administration in October, serves as a disadvantage to certain children who are born abroad and reside with a parent serving overseas in the military or as a federal government employee.

Under current law, such children are required to establish U.S. residency in order to obtain citizenship, which can be difficult when a parent is stationed overseas.

This small but important change is the necessary fix for U.S. armed forces and in federal government positions overseas.

I am glad we could work together to introduce this bipartisan legislation that provides greater flexibility and support to those who have dedicated their careers to serving our nation.

American citizens who are deployed members of our military or government officials working abroad should have confidence their children will receive U.S. citizenship.

Military families are already making tremendous sacrifices to serve our country abroad and the children should not have to be penalized.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4803 because our military families should not have to deal with the bureaucracy of this Administration for their children to be United States citizens.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4803, 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.

## ADVANCING MUTUAL INTERESTS AND GROWING OUR SUCCESS ACT

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 565) to include Portugal in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E1 and E2 non-immigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of Portugal, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 565

*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 "Advancing Mutual Interests and Growing Our Success Act" or the "AMIGOS Act".

### SEC. 2. NONIMMIGRANT TRADERS AND INVESTORS.

For purposes of clauses (i) and (ii) of section 101(a)(15)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(E)), Portugal shall be considered to be a foreign state described in such section if the Government of Portugal provides similar non-immigrant status to nationals of the United States.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the AMIGOS Act is a bipartisan bill that I introduced, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA), my colleague, to encourage greater investment and trade between the United States and Portugal.

H.R. 565 makes Portuguese nationals eligible for E-1 and E-2 nonimmigrant visas if the Government of Portugal provides similar nonimmigrant status to U.S. nationals. Access to these investor visas will allow Portuguese investors to support projects in the United States, which will benefit our economy as well as that of Portugal.

As one of the first countries to recognize the United States after the Revolutionary War, Portugal is one of our closest economic partners and strongest allies. Today, the United States maintains that longstanding relationship as the fifth largest export market for Portugal and its largest trading partner outside of the European Union.

I am proud to represent the First District of Rhode Island, home to one of the country's largest and most vibrant Portuguese communities, a community that has made outstanding contributions in the arts, culture, business, and public service in this country for many decades.

From 2010–2015, we saw a 30 percent increase in trade between the United States and Portugal. 2015 also marked the year that the United States became Portugal's largest trading partner outside the European Union, with bilateral trade reaching \$4.2 billion. Bilateral trade in goods and services between the United States and Portugal has continued to grow, with a 9 percent increase from \$8 billion in 2018 when compared to just a year earlier. There are currently over 130 American companies operating in Portugal in a wide range of economic sectors, including pharmaceutical, chemical, technology, banking, and health sectors.

In 2018, the United States' direct investment position in Portugal was \$2.8 billion, an increase of 37 percent from 2017. The direct investment position from Portugal in the United States, however, experienced a 3.5 percent decrease to \$1 billion from 2017 to 2018.

While the majority of the countries within the European Union had pre-existing bilateral investor treaties with the United States before joining the EU, Portugal did not and is one of the only five EU countries whose citizens are not currently eligible for E-1 or E-2 visas.

In the absence of a bilateral treaty, which Portugal cannot enter due to the rules of the European Union, Congress has the power to authorize E-1 and E-2 benefits to other countries; and we have exercised our authority to do so for both Israel in 2012 and New Zealand just last year. I am pleased to lead the effort to do the same for Portugal.

Foreign direct investment plays a significant role in the U.S. economy. One of the most important factors in encouraging investments in the United States is the availability of business-related visas, like nonimmigrant E-1 and E-2 visas. Allowing Portuguese citizens access to conduct substantial trade between the United States and Portugal or invest a substantial amount of capital in the United States to qualify for nonimmigrant E-1 and E-2 visas will help strengthen U.S.-Portugal ties and promote an increase in Portugal's investments in the United States.

Extending visas to Portugal not only gives Portuguese businesses an opportunity to invest in the United States, but it is a mutually beneficial relationship that promotes jobs in both countries and growth in United States businesses and our economy.

□ 1600

I am proud to lead this effort to support our ally and friend, Portugal. I want to thank Chairman NADLER for his strong support of this legislation and for bringing this bill to the floor today. I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 565, the AMIGOS Act.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman said, currently the nationals of 84 countries are eligible for E-1 and/or E-2 status. During fiscal year 2017, about 48,000 E-1 and E-2 visas were issued.

In the past, countries became eligible for these programs through treaties signed with the U.S. However, in 2003, the Judiciary Committee reached an understanding with the U.S. Trade Representative that no immigration provisions were to be included in future trade agreements. Henceforth, legislation would be required to add countries.

This bill would make Portuguese nationals eligible for E-1 and E-2 visas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which will strengthen the really important and historical relationship between the United States and Portugal, which will help to promote economic growth in both of our countries, lead to the creation of good paying jobs, and really strengthen the long and important economic relationship between our two great countries.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 565, "The Advancing Mutual Interests and Growing Our Success Act" or AMIGOS Act.

Despite deep ties with Portugal, it remains one of only five EU countries whose citizens are ineligible for E-1 and E-2 visas.

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, nationals of countries with which the United

States maintains a treaty of commerce and navigation may be admitted temporarily to the United States to engage in international trade, an E-1 visa, or to develop and direct an investment enterprise, E-2 visa.

E-1 and E-2 visas may be granted to individual traders and investors or to employees of organizational traders and investors.

Applicants for E-1 and E-2 visas must generally demonstrate the existence of a bilateral treaty of commerce and navigation between the applicant's country of nationality and the United States.

Some treaties allow for the admission of both E-1 and E-2 nonimmigrants, while others allow for the admission of only E-1 or E-2 nonimmigrants.

In addition, the visa applicant must be a national of the treaty country.

If the applicant is an employee of an organizational trader or investor, both the applicant and the organization must possess the nationality of the treaty country.

The nationality of the organization is determined by the nationality of the individual owners—at least 50 percent of the organization must be owned by nationals of the treaty country.

The enterprise must be more than marginal and must generate income beyond that which is required to provide a minimal living for the investor and their family.

An individual investor must be coming to the United States to develop and direct the business.

An applicant who is an employee of an organizational trader or investor must be coming to the United States to fulfill an executive or supervisory position or possess skills that are essential to the firm's U.S. operations.

Spouses and minor children accompanying or following to join the principal E-1 or E-2 nonimmigrant will be admitted for the same period of stay as the principal trader or investor.

Congress has the ability to take action to improve the historical relationship between the United States and Portugal.

If H.R. 565 is enacted, Portuguese nationals would become eligible for E-1 and E-2 visas, but only after an agreement for reciprocal treatment between Portugal and the United States is finalized.

In 2012, Congress passed—and the president signed into law—H.R. 3992 to permit Israeli nationals to participate in the E-2 treaty investor program. However, Israeli nationals did not have the ability to apply for E-2 visas until May 1, 2019, when an agreement with Israel was finalized and took effect.

It was favorably reported by the House Judiciary Committee without amendment by voice vote; passed by the House on motion to suspend the rules (371 to 0) and passed by the Senate, without amendment, by Unanimous Consent.

Similarly, S. 2245, the "Knowledgeable Innovators and Worthy Investors (KIWI) Act," became law on August 1, 2018, but New Zealanders were unable to apply for E-1 and E-2 visas until June 10, 2019 when an agreement for reciprocal treatment took effect.

It was Discharged by the Senate Judiciary Committee by Unanimous Consent and passed by the Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent; passed by the House on motion to suspend the rules by voice vote.

The last two bills to add countries to the E-1 and E-2 visa programs passed Congress without controversy.

Portugal is a longstanding United States ally, with “bilateral ties dating from the earliest years of the United States, when Portugal recognized the United States in 1791 following the Revolutionary War.”

The United States is also Portugal’s largest trading partner outside the European Union (EU), with bilateral trade in goods and services reaching \$8 billion in 2018, a 9 percent increase from the previous year.

Similarly, U.S. direct investment in Portugal reached \$2.1 billion in 2017, with U.S. companies playing a significant role, investing in the Portuguese banking, pharmaceutical, and chemical industries.

Both countries have also agreed to a bilateral income tax agreement to prevent double taxation.

Portuguese participation in the E–1 and E–2 visa programs will deepen an already strong bilateral trade and investment relationship, and benefit business communities in both countries.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 565, “The Advancing Mutual Interests and Growing Our Success Act” or AMIGOS Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 565, 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.

#### GOOD CONDUCT TIME CREDITS FOR CERTAIN ELDERLY NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4018) to provide that the amount of time that an elderly offender must serve before being eligible for placement in home detention is to be reduced by the amount of good time credits earned by the prisoner, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4018

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

#### SECTION 1. GOOD CONDUCT TIME CREDITS FOR CERTAIN ELDERLY NONVIOLENT OFFENDERS.

Section 231(g)(5)(A)(ii) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60541(g)(5)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking “to which the offender was sentenced” and inserting “reduced by any credit toward the service of the prisoner’s sentence awarded under section 3624(b) of title 18, United States Code”.

#### SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4018 is a modest, but important, bill that I introduced with Ranking Member COLLINS to address an inadvertent drafting error in the Second Chance Act, one that has prevented elderly offenders who qualify for early release under a pilot program for compassionate release from receiving credit for the good conduct time they have accrued while in custody.

Our Nation’s Federal prison population is rapidly aging. Of the 1.5 million adults currently in State and Federal prisons, there has been a 300 percent spike in the elderly population since 1999. By 2050, it is estimated that one-third of the prison population of the United States will be over age 50.

Today more people die of old age in U.S. prisons than ever before, and from 2001 to 2007 alone, nearly 8,500 people over age 55 died behind bars. The Federal prisoner reentry initiative, a pilot program created under the Second Chance Act, allows offenders who are elderly and have served at least two-thirds of their sentence to petition for release from prison and to serve their remaining term of imprisonment in a halfway house. This program is not only humane, it is fiscally responsible.

The increasing number of elderly prisoners is leading to soaring costs for the Bureau of Prisons. With a more elderly prisoner population, prison infrastructure must be outfitted or equipped to accommodate the unique needs of elderly prisoners. Prisons need to be outfitted with ramps, lower bed heights, bunk beds eliminated, handrails installed in showers, and other structural changes. Also, prison staff need to be trained to work with elderly prisoners and move elderly prisoners around the facilities.

We imprison too many elderly inmates unnecessarily for far too long, and the data reveals that the recidivism rate is reduced dramatically as the population ages. Good conduct time is provided to all prisoners who have satisfactory behavior in the Bureau of Prisons. A prisoner can earn 54 days of good conduct time or days off their sentence per year, however, due to an inadvertent error in the Federal

prisoner reentry initiative, elderly inmates are not permitted to receive credit for good conduct.

Elderly inmates, who otherwise have satisfactory behavior, should not lose the good conduct time they have earned solely as a result of this drafting error. Such an unjust result was not the intent of Congress when drafting the Second Chance Act, as the intent behind this compassionate program is to release a vulnerable population from prison when they present little risk to their communities.

H.R. 4018 would correct this problem, and therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4018, the elderly offender good conduct time legislation. Last year, Ranking Member COLLINS and Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES led the way in drafting and shepherding through Congress the First Step Act. Attorney General Barr has repeatedly stated his intent to fully implement the provisions of the act.

Our job as legislators in this space is twofold; first, to conduct oversight to ensure the First Step Act is responsibly implemented; and, two, to address issues in that implementation.

One such technical issue is addressed by H.R. 4018. This bill would allow the Bureau of Prisons to transfer eligible elderly, nonviolent offenders from BOP facilities into home confinement when they have reached 60 years of age and served two-thirds of the term of imprisonment to which they were sentenced.

This is a bill technical in nature designed to correct a flaw in the First Step Act that will promote fairness in the implementation of good conduct time, as reformed in the First Step Act, and ensure our prisons do not become nursing homes. I believe that if we do not ensure that this act works, we will lose credibility with the American people, and any future efforts to reform our criminal justice system will fail.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same. I thank the gentleman for his support of this fine legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CLINE, Chairman NADLER, Ranking Member COLLINS, and Mr. JEFFRIES for their leadership on this effort.

Mr. Speaker, the process for earning time off for good conduct in prison is important as a matter of fairness and also effective prison administration.

Individuals who earn good conduct time should not lose credit for this time because of an error in a statute, and elderly, nonviolent offenders should receive credit for the time they have earned.

Therefore, H.R. 4018 is required to address an unfortunate, inadvertent

error. I am glad that it will. I appreciate the support, and for all of these reasons I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this good, bipartisan bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4018, 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.

#### SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS (TB), MALARIA, AND ITS SIXTH REPLENISHMENT

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 517) supporting the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and its Sixth Replenishment, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 517

Whereas the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria is an effective partnership of governments, the private sector, civil society, and affected communities to transform the response to these epidemics;

Whereas since the Global Fund's creation in 2002, and in close cooperation with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), more than 32,000,000 lives have been saved in countries where the Global Fund invests;

Whereas the Global Fund has contributed to extraordinary improvements in global health, including by helping to reduce by half the number of AIDS-related deaths since 2005, contributing to a 37-percent decline in TB deaths from 2000 to 2016, and a 60-percent decline in the number of malaria deaths since 2000;

Whereas the Global Fund and its partners work to uphold a steadfast commitment to transparency and accountability, receiving high marks in multilateral aid reviews and by independent watchdogs;

Whereas despite progress achieved to date in combating AIDS, TB, and malaria, significant challenges threaten future progress, including drug and insecticide resistance, reaching marginalized and vulnerable populations, and complacency in the fight against infectious diseases;

Whereas United States leadership has been critical to the Global Fund's success as its largest donor and through its oversight role on the Board of the Global Fund;

Whereas the Global Fund amplifies and supports the results of United States bilateral health programs, including the PEPFAR, the President's Malaria Initiative, and the United States Agency for International Development TB program;

Whereas a statutory cap on United States contributions to the Global Fund has successfully leveraged increased contributions from other donors in prior Global Fund replenishments;

Whereas the United Kingdom and Japan, for example, already have pledged significant

increases to the Global Fund for the Sixth Replenishment;

Whereas the Global Fund's requirements for cofinancing have spurred domestic investments, with recipient countries committing 41 percent more of their own funding to fight AIDS, TB, and malaria for 2018 to 2020 compared to 2015 to 2017;

Whereas recipient countries are expected to increase their co-financing by 48 percent, growing to \$46,000,000,000 from 2021 to 2023; and

Whereas with these resources secured, the Global Fund projects it will reduce the number of deaths due to AIDS, TB, and malaria by nearly 50 percent, avert 234,000,000 infections or disease cases, and save an additional 16,000,000 lives: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) encourages the Global Fund and its partners to continue their valuable contributions to end the epidemics of AIDS, TB, and malaria;

(2) affirms previous commitments of the United States to providing 33 percent of the budget to the Global Fund, including for the Sixth Global Fund Replenishment held on October 10, 2019, in Lyon, France, as demonstrated by the \$1,560,000,000 provided by H.R. 2839 in the 116th Congress (providing FY2020 appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs), as passed by the House of Representatives;

(3) urges donor countries to step up the fight and increase their pledges for the Sixth Global Fund Replenishment and supports continued diplomatic engagement to improve burden sharing;

(4) urges Global Fund recipient countries to continue to make and meet ambitious cofinancing commitments to sustain progress in ending the epidemics of AIDS, TB, and malaria; and

(5) encourages United States bilateral aid programs to continue their collaboration with the Global Fund to maximize the lifesaving impact of global health investments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs).

□ 1615

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 517.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, there is no better example of American interests and values intersecting in our foreign policy than global health issues.

On the one hand, global health challenges are strategic challenges. Countries and communities with poor access to healthcare are less productive, less stable, less able to act as strong partners. Unchecked, pandemics can blow across borders and make their way to our own shores, threatening the American people, so we have a real interest

in working to tackle global health problems.

At the same time, we, as Americans, want to see people everywhere lead healthy, happy lives, and access to healthcare allows more people to pursue greater opportunity.

That is why, over the last two decades, the Global Fund has been such a remarkable foreign policy initiative. It has helped reduce by half the number of AIDS-related deaths worldwide since 2005. From 2000 to 2016, it contributed to a 37 percent decline in tuberculosis deaths. Since the year 2000, the Global Fund has helped reduce the number of deaths from malaria by 60 percent.

America's contributions to the Global Fund have helped to fund these vital programs, and our leadership has helped drive billions in additional investments from other donors and recipient states. In October, the Global Fund received pledges of more than \$14 billion for the next 3 years from 75 donors. Sixteen million people will benefit from this lifesaving assistance.

This is work that we should all be proud of. It has helped advance core American interests around the world. It has shown the character of our country, our spirit of generosity and compassion.

It is essential that the Global Fund's work continues. That is why I am proud to support this measure from Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL. This resolution puts the House on the record reaffirming our support for the Global Fund, reiterating how important its work is. It says that the funding the House already approved for next year shall go forward because the Global Fund's future success depends on American involvement.

The Global Fund has built a tremendous record of success. We need to keep that record going so that we can continue to help people around the world withstand life-threatening but preventable diseases.

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, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 517, a resolution by Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL, supporting the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

The Global Fund is a financing partnership of governments, private donors, and civil societies that have a shared purpose of ending HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria. Since its founding in 2002, the Global Fund is credited with saving millions of lives.

Nor is our contribution to combat these diseases limited to the Global Fund. As my colleagues know, since its inception in 2002, the Global Fund has worked with U.S. programs, such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, which has radically and positively changed the course of health outcomes.



President Bush initiated the PEPFAR program, which has been transformative in so many countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. According to PEPFAR's latest data, over 18 million lives have been saved due to PEPFAR's intervention.

I would note the success in blocking mother-to-child transmission of AIDS during pregnancy. At the end of September 2019, Mr. Speaker, over 2.6 million babies born of HIV-infected mothers have been born HIV free.

In addition to President Bush's extraordinary leadership, we should also note the lasting reforms and contributions of Mark Dybul. Mark served as the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator from 2006 to 2009, implementing PEPFAR during that critical period. He then went on to serve as the executive director of the Global Fund, instituting reforms such that we stand here today recognizing the critical role that the Global Fund is playing in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Among other things, Mark insisted on the key role that faith-based organizations play in the fight against the spread of HIV. Africa, in particular, is a faith-based continent, and to neglect the role of the churches, as some had advocated at the time, would be to neglect the single most important grassroots institution in the lives of the people on the continent.

Mark also spearheaded risk avoidance strategies, including keeping adolescent girls in school, which has proven critical in delaying the onset of sexual activity and reducing the transmission of AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, the American people allocate \$6 billion a year to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, which Congress extended for another 5 years via legislation that I authored with Democrat BARBARA LEE and that President Trump signed into law on December 11 last year.

Along with funds we dedicate in USAID's global health account to combat AIDS, TB, and malaria, our contributions to PEPFAR and the Global Fund make our global leadership unparalleled in the entire world. And it is not just simply providing funds. It is the leadership and commitment to excellence demonstrated by people such as our Global AIDS Coordinator today, Deborah Birx, and her team, which makes our commitment so impactful.

Yet, to sustain its progress, the Global Fund needs at least \$14 billion over the next 3 years. To help the fund reach its goal, the U.S. commitment would need to be \$1.56 billion. I am happy to say, 2 months ago, the Global Fund held its replenishment meeting, where pledge amounts for the next 3 years were submitted. The United States Government pledged \$1.56 billion, with other donors coming to the table to help the Global Fund raise the critically needed money.

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership, and also Chairman ENGEL as well as Mr. SMITH for their commitment on this and so many issues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 517. This important resolution reaffirms our commitment to ending AIDS and calls on our government to maintain its historic contribution to the Global Fund.

As one of the original authors of the Global Fund and as co-chair of the HIV/AIDS Caucus, I am pleased that we are moving this bill forward.

This legislation has one of the greatest impacts on lives of people around the world. Since 2002, the Global Fund and PEPFAR have saved 32 million lives. That is 32 million lives. That is unbelievable.

What is more, the Global Fund has cut the number of AIDS-related deaths in half since 2005 and helped to reduce TB deaths by 37 percent.

Mr. Speaker, our country's strong support of this program, which has been bipartisan, coupled with new scientific advances, has helped us turn the tide on achieving an AIDS-free generation.

Just this year, during the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment Conference, the United States maintained its strong commitment to \$1.56 billion a year. That is a 33 percent contribution to this important fund.

I am glad that we are here today to reaffirm our commitment to the Global Fund and its sixth replenishment fund. The bipartisan and multilateral commitment to this program cannot be overstated.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to close by lifting up the legacy of my predecessor, a great statesman, Congressman Ron Dellums, who inspired my legislation to establish the framework for the Global Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my partner, Republican Congressman Jim Leach, for his spirit of bipartisanship in helping me get this bill through the Banking and Financial Services Committee; former President Bill Clinton, who signed the Global AIDS and TB Relief Act of 2000 to establish the Global Fund; and, of course, the late Kofi Annan, who served as Secretary General of the United Nations and who boldly took this idea to the U.N. and led the global effort for support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this resolution, vote "yes" to saving lives.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank everyone for being here today. Sunday, of course, was World AIDS Day, and we led a delegation to the United Nations. We had high-level meetings, and everyone applauded the United States for its leadership.

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

consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL), the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH and Mr. SIREs, and Mr. ENGEL for their hard work on this important resolution that I support, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

Over the last 17 years, 32 million lives have been saved as a result of the Global Fund partnering with U.S. programs to change the course of health outcomes. Yet, there is much more work to do. The Global Fund set a fundraising goal of \$14 billion over the next 3 years in order to save an additional 16 million lives.

Since 2003, the United States has been a longtime and consistent partner of the Global Fund and the largest bilateral donor. The U.S. has historically provided \$1 for every \$2 raised by other donors.

Our contributions have been an effective tool to leverage other donors and secure greater commitments. However, uncertainty over final spending bills has complicated the U.S. contribution. That is why my friend Chairman ENGEL and I introduced this resolution, to reaffirm our commitment to the Global Fund and assure our donors of this U.S. commitment.

In October, pledge amounts for the next 3 years were submitted, and I am pleased that this resolution played a role in affirming the U.S. commitment to the Global Fund and helped spur more donors to step up to the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution, and I also hope that we can consider a final appropriation bill soon that provides the necessary \$1.56 billion over the next 3 years to the Global Fund.

Rarely, Mr. Speaker, in this Chamber do we pass laws and resolutions that have such a direct impact on the lives of others. That is the true calling, the true mission, that I think we share on both sides of the aisle, to make this world a better place. This resolution will certainly do that.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of factors have come together over nearly 20 years to account for the success of the Global Fund, but in my view, the most crucial piece of the puzzle has been American leadership.

I worry about what has happened to American leadership in recent years. I worry when an American administration sends budget after budget to Capitol Hill asking us to slash our investments in diplomacy and development by a third. I worry about the message that sends to the rest of the world,

about the lives which could be lost if we reduce our commitment to the fund, and about what it could mean for all the success that efforts like the Global Fund have achieved.

Mr. Speaker, it is important today that the House send this message, that we express our clear support for the Global Fund and our support for bringing American leadership to bear on global health challenges.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H. Res. 517, which I have proudly cosponsored. This resolution reaffirms our nation's commitment to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Amid the worldwide progress that has been made to counter these diseases, it is critical that we maintain our financial contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

As the first registered nurse elected to Congress, I wholeheartedly support the funding of efforts to prevent and eradicate infectious diseases. The Global Fund is the world's largest supporter of prevention, treatment, and care programs for AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. With these investments, it has decreased the number of AIDS-related deaths by half since 2005, contributed to a 37 percent decline in tuberculosis deaths from 2000 to 2016, and facilitated a 60 percent decline in the number of malaria deaths since 2000.

On behalf of families and young children across the world, it is our duty to advance the resources needed to address health in all our communities. We must maintain our longstanding commitment to the Global Fund. This is a critical commitment to saving lives, averting new cases, and increasing the ability of people around the world to withstand life-threatening but preventable diseases.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MALINOWSKI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 517, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## END NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES ACT

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3460) to facilitate effective research on and treatment of neglected tropical diseases through coordinated international efforts.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3460

*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 “End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act”.

### SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

Sec. 3. Statement of policy.

Sec. 4. Findings.

Sec. 5. Definition.

Sec. 6. Rule of construction.

Sec. 7. Expansion of United States Agency for International Development Neglected Tropical Diseases Program.

Sec. 8. Actions by Department of State.

Sec. 9. Multilateral development and health institutions.

### SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to support a broad range of implementation and research and development activities that work toward the achievement of cost-effective and sustainable treatment, control, and, where possible, elimination of neglected tropical diseases for the economic and social well-being of all people.

### SEC. 4. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified 17 neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Approximately 2 billion people, almost one-third of the world's population, are at risk of contracting an NTD, and more than 1.4 billion people are currently afflicted with 1 or more NTDs.

(2) In 2013, WHO adopted a comprehensive resolution on NTDs recognizing that increased national and international investments in prevention and control of neglected tropical diseases have succeeded in improving health and social well-being in many countries.

(3) NTDs have an enormous impact in terms of disease burden and quality of life. NTDs cause the loss of up to 534,000 lives and 57 million disability-adjusted life-years each year. NTDs surpass both malaria and tuberculosis in causing greater loss of life-years to disability and premature death. Many NTDs cause disfigurement and disability, leading to stigma, social discrimination, and societal marginalization.

(4) NTDs create an economic burden of billions of dollars through the loss of productivity and high costs of health care required for treatment. People afflicted by NTDs are less productive than their healthy counterparts. NTDs jeopardize the ability of people to attend work and school, or to produce at full capacity. For example, controlling one NTD, hookworm, in children can result in a 43-percent increase in future wage earnings.

(5) The social, economic, and health burden of NTDs falls primarily on low- and middle-income countries, where access to safe water, sanitation, and health care is limited. At least 100 countries face 2 endemic NTD burdens, and 30 countries carry 6 or more endemic NTDs.

(6) NTDs are not confined to the developing world, however. Several NTD outbreaks have been reported in the United States and other developed countries, especially among the poor. In the United States, NTDs disproportionately affect people living in poverty, and especially minorities, including up to 2.8 million African Americans with toxocariasis and 300,000 or more people, mostly Hispanic Americans, with Chagas disease.

(7) Many NTDs can be controlled, prevented, and even eliminated using low-cost, effective, and feasible solutions. Understanding the economic burden of NTDs on productivity and health care costs can help to assure governments and donors that the resources directed toward NTDs represent a good investment.

(8) Research and development efforts are immediately needed for all NTDs, especially those for which limited or no treatment currently exists.

(9) Critical to developing robust NTD control strategies are epidemiological data that

identify at-risk populations, ensure appropriate treatment frequency, and inform decisions about when treatment can be reduced or stopped.

(10) Of the 14 most common NTDs, roughly 80 percent of infections are caused by soil-transmitted helminths (STH) and schistosomiasis. STH are a group of 3 parasitic worms (roundworms, whipworms, and hookworms) that afflict more than 1 billion people worldwide, including 600 million school-age children, of whom more than 300 million suffer from severe morbidity. Schistosomiasis is another helminth infection affecting at least 200 million people in developing countries, but some estimates indicate that the true number of people affected may be double or even triple that number.

(11) The benefits of deworming are immediate and enduring. A rigorous randomized controlled trial has shown school-based deworming treatment to reduce school absenteeism by 25 percent. School-based deworming also benefits young siblings and other children who live nearby but are too young to be treated, leading to large cognitive improvements equivalent to half a year of schooling.

### SEC. 5. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term “neglected tropical diseases” or “NTDs”—

(1) means infections caused by pathogens, including viruses, bacteria, protozoa, and helminths that disproportionately impact individuals living in extreme poverty, especially in developing countries; and

(2) includes—

(A) Buruli ulcer (*Mycobacterium Ulcerans* infection);

(B) Chagas disease;

(C) dengue or severe dengue fever;

(D) dracunculiasis (Guinea worm disease);

(E) echinococcosis;

(F) foodborne trematodiasis;

(G) human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness);

(H) leishmaniasis;

(I) leprosy;

(J) lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis);

(K) onchocerciasis (river blindness);

(L) scabies;

(M) schistosomiasis;

(N) soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH) (roundworm, whipworm, and hookworm);

(O) taeniasis/cysticercosis;

(P) trachoma; and

(Q) yaws (endemic treponematoses).

### SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to increase authorizations of appropriations for the United States Agency for International Development.

### SEC. 7. EXPANSION OF UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES PROGRAM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Since fiscal year 2006, the United States Government has been an essential leader in global efforts to control seven targeted neglected tropical diseases: lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis), onchocerciasis (river blindness), schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis (roundworm, whipworm, and hookworm), and trachoma. Additional information suggests that such efforts could also produce collateral benefits for at least three other neglected tropical diseases: foodborne trematodiasis, scabies, and yaws (endemic treponematoses).

(2) The United States Government is a partner in the London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases (2012), which represents a new, coordinated international push to accelerate progress toward eliminating or controlling 10 NTDs by 2020.



(3) While many of the most common NTDs have safe, easy to use, and effective treatments, treatment options for the NTDs with the highest death rates, including human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), visceral leishmaniasis, and Chagas disease, are extremely limited.

(4) The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Neglected Tropical Diseases Program has made important and substantial contributions to the global fight to control and eliminate 5 of the most common NTDs. Leveraging more than \$15,700,000,000 in donated medicines, USAID has supported the distribution of more than 1 billion treatments in 31 countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

(5) Since 2014, the USAID Neglected Tropical Diseases Program has been investing in research and development for the treatment of certain NTDs to ensure that promising new breakthrough medicines can be rapidly evaluated, registered, and made available to patients.

(6) The USAID Neglected Tropical Diseases Program is a clear example of a successful public-private partnership between the Government and the private sector and should be judiciously expanded, as practicable and appropriate.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the USAID Neglected Tropical Diseases Program, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, should—

(1) provide integrated drug treatment packages to as many individuals suffering from NTDs or at risk of acquiring NTDs, including individuals displaced by manmade and natural disasters, as logistically feasible;

(2) better integrate NTD control and treatment tools and approaches into complementary development and global health programs by coordinating, to the extent practicable and appropriate, across multiple sectors, including those relating to HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, education, nutrition, other infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene;

(3) establish low-cost, high-impact community- and school-based NTD programs to reach large at-risk populations, including school-age children, with integrated drug treatment packages, as feasible;

(4) as opportunities emerge and resources allow, engage in research and development of new tools and approaches to reach the goals relating to the elimination of NTDs as set forth by the 2012 World Health Organization publication “Accelerating Work to Overcome the Global Impact of Neglected Tropical Diseases: A Roadmap for Implementation”, including for Chagas disease, Guinea worm, human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), leprosy, and visceral leishmaniasis; and

(5) monitor research on and developments in the prevention and treatment of other NTDs so breakthroughs can be incorporated into the USAID Neglected Tropical Diseases Program, as practicable and appropriate.

(c) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—The Administrator of USAID should incorporate the following priorities into the USAID Neglected Tropical Diseases Program (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act):

(1) Planning for and conducting robust monitoring and evaluation of program investments in order to accurately measure impact, identify and share lessons learned, and inform future NTD control and elimination strategies.

(2) Coordinating program activities with complementary USAID development and global health programs, including programs relating to water, sanitation, and hygiene, food and nutrition security, and education

(both primary and secondary), in order to advance the goals of the London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases (2012).

(3) Including morbidity management in treatment plans for high-burden NTDs.

(4) Incorporating NTDs included in the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010 into the program as opportunities emerge, to the extent practicable and appropriate.

(5) Continuing investments in the research and development of new tools and approaches that complement existing research investments and ensure that new discoveries make it through the pipeline and become available to individuals who need them most.

#### SEC. 8. ACTIONS BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) OFFICE OF THE GLOBAL AIDS COORDINATOR.—It is the sense of Congress that the Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally should fully consider evolving research on the impact of NTDs on efforts to control HIV/AIDS when making future programming decisions, as necessary and appropriate.

(b) GLOBAL PROGRAMMING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State should encourage the Global Fund to take into consideration evolving research on the impact of NTDs on efforts to control HIV/AIDS when making programming decisions, particularly with regard to female genital schistosomiasis, which studies suggest may be one of the most significant cofactors in the AIDS epidemic in Africa, as necessary and appropriate.

(2) GLOBAL FUND.—In this subsection, the term “Global Fund” means the public-private partnership known as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria established pursuant to Article 80 of the Swiss Civil Code.

(c) G-20 COUNTRIES.—The Secretary of State, acting through the Office of Global Health Diplomacy, should encourage G-20 countries to significantly increase their role in the control and elimination of NTDs.

#### SEC. 9. MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH INSTITUTIONS.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDING.—Congress finds that the treatment of NTDs, including community- and school-based deworming programs, can be a highly cost-effective intervention, and schools can serve as an effective delivery mechanism for reaching large numbers of children with safe treatment for soil-transmitted helminthiases (roundworm, whipworm, and hookworm) in particular.

(b) UNITED NATIONS.—The President should direct the United States permanent representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to urge the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme to—

(1) ensure the dissemination of best practices and programming on NTDs to governments and make data accessible to practitioners in an open and timely fashion;

(2) highlight impacts of community- and school-based deworming programs on children's health and education, emphasizing the cost-effectiveness of such programs;

(3) encourage governments to implement deworming campaigns at the national level;

(4) consider the designation of a portion of grant funds of the institutions to deworming initiatives and cross-sectoral collaboration with water, sanitation, and hygiene efforts and nutrition or education programming, as practicable and appropriate;

(5) encourage accurate monitoring and evaluation of NTD programs, including deworming programs; and

(6) engage governments in cross-border initiatives for the treatment, control, preven-

tion, and elimination of NTDs, and assist in developing transnational agreements, when and where necessary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs).

□ 1630

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIREs. 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. 3460.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking Mr. SMITH from New Jersey, a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for his hard work on this bill, which seeks to make progress on this pressing global health challenge.

There is a category of diseases—what we call neglected tropical diseases—that pack a particularly nasty punch on populations living in poverty without adequate sanitation. These are precisely the kinds of diseases that hold entire communities back. They drive up health costs, lead to lost wages, undercut productivity, and deprive children of the shot at a better future.

What is especially wrenching about these diseases is that they cause all this harm, despite the fact that we have the tools to combat them. Very elementary public health efforts can stop these diseases in their tracks: research, drug distribution, and basic public health intervention. Yet these diseases affect more than 1 billion people around the world, according to the World Health Organization.

To its credit, USAID is already focusing on these diseases. The Agency's Neglected Tropical Disease Program has worked to distribute nearly \$16 billion worth of donated medicines in more than 30 countries. It is a good start, but these efforts aren't yet equal to the challenge.

This legislation underscores the serious challenge posed by neglected tropical diseases and encourages USAID to expand its work to grapple with this problem. It also sets up a stronger diplomatic approach for dealing with these diseases by requiring the State Department to push for broader action through the U.N., the Global Fund, and the G-20.

In short, this measure pushes for a smart, broad-based effort for getting at these preventable diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support it, and 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, I thank Mr. SIREs for his strong support for this legislation and for his leadership on neglected tropical diseases. I thank my other colleagues, Mr. McCAUL and, of course, Ms. BASS, who has also been a great supporter of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, neglected tropical diseases, or NTDs, are a group of parasitic and bacterial diseases, including worms, which blind, disfigure, and sometimes kill victims from among the world's poorest people, trapping the most marginalized communities in cycles of poverty. There are numerous examples of them, including Chagas, dengue, and leprosy.

Can you believe, Mr. Speaker, that there are over 200,000 cases of leprosy in the world today? And there is an intervention. There are drugs that can treat, mitigate, and even cure it, but sometimes people do not get access to them, and that causes serious, serious problems.

The worms—and I will get into that in a minute—are absolutely devastating, as well, and they need to be addressed very aggressively.

Mr. Speaker, approximately 2 billion people—almost one-third of the world's population—are at risk of contracting an NTD, and over 1.4 billion people are currently afflicted with one or more NTDs.

Over the years, Mr. Speaker, I have chaired numerous hearings on this: one in 2013; one in 2016, the global Zika epidemic; and many others, always focusing on the fact that we need to do more.

These are preventable, but they are certainly treatable. But if you don't get the drugs and you don't get the intervention, that person is made—and those who are like that person—to suffer horrifically.

I introduced the End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act in four separate Congresses—2014, 2015, 2017, and again this year—so I deeply appreciate Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member McCAUL's strong support for this legislation and the leadership for bringing it up today.

NTDs have an enormous impact in terms of disease burden and quality of life. It causes the loss of life to about 534,000 people. NTDs surpass both malaria and tuberculosis in causing greater loss of life-years to disability and premature death. They cause disfigurement and disability, often leading to stigma, social discrimination, and societal marginalization.

NTDs create an economic burden of billions of dollars through the loss of productivity and the high costs of healthcare required for treatment when it gets, especially, to a critical stage.

People afflicted by NTDs are less productive than their healthy counterparts. They jeopardize the ability of people to attend work and school or to produce at full capacity.

The social, economic, and health burden of NTDs falls primarily on low- and middle-income countries, where access

to safe water, sanitation, and healthcare is limited.

At least 100 countries face two endemic NTD burdens, and 30 countries carry six or more endemic neglected tropical diseases.

As I said, they can be controlled. They can be prevented and even eliminated, using low-cost, effective, and feasible solutions, especially when treated early.

Research and development efforts are immediately needed for all NTDs, especially those for which no treatment currently exists.

Recent data published by the WHO confirm that, in 2018, more than 1 billion people were treated for at least one of five neglected tropical diseases.

Not well understood, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that neglected tropical diseases are infecting large numbers of vulnerable people—especially children—in developed countries, including the United States. Of course, these include West Nile virus, dengue fever, and, most recently, Zika.

An article published in the medical journal *The Lancet* scrutinized this emerging threat and was titled, "Neglected Tropical Diseases: No Longer Someone Else's Problem." The article references world-renowned NTD expert Dr. Peter Hotez of Baylor College of Medicine, who, I note parenthetically, twice testified at hearings that I chaired.

I read his book—and I read it not once, but twice. It is a wake-up call to what these horrible diseases do. But he estimates that more than half of the 20 million Americans living in extreme poverty are infected with at least one neglected tropical disease. That is right here in the United States of America.

The End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act supports the treatment, control, and elimination of NTDs primarily by ensuring that USAID's NTD Program effectively integrates treatment, control, and elimination efforts with other development issues, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, water and sanitation, and education.

It also directs, as my good friend Mr. SIREs pointed out a moment ago, the U.S. Government to advocate for increased efforts to address NTDs among international institutions such as the U.N., World Health Organization, and World Bank.

Let's not forget that of the 14 most common NTDs, roughly 80 percent of infections are caused by soil-transmitted helminths and schistosomiasis.

Soil-transmitted helminths are a group of three parasitic worms—roundworms, whipworms, and hookworms—that afflict more than 1 billion people worldwide, including 600 million school-age children, of whom more than 300 million suffer from severe morbidity.

Schistosomiasis is another helminth infection affecting at least 220 million people in developing countries, and the World Health Organization estimates

that 90 percent of those individuals are in sub-Saharan Africa.

The benefits of deworming are immediate and enduring. A rigorous, randomized controlled trial has shown that school-based deworming treatment reduces absenteeism by 25 percent. School-based deworming also benefits young siblings and other children who live nearby but are too young to be treated, leading to large cognitive improvements equivalent to half a year of schooling.

Let me also point out to my colleagues that the treatment for worms is simple and cost-effective. Treatment for hookworm, for example, in Tanzania costs about 4 cents per treatment to knock this terrible disease out of the intestinal tract. Yet one-off deworming treatment is not enough, as, without sanitary and hygiene behavioral changes, people will get reinfected.

What we need to do, and what this bill does, is to integrate our USAID deworming programs with our WaSH programs—water, sanitation, and health—coupled with our nutrition interventions.

Let me just also make a point that needs to be underscored with exclamation points. There is a very, very robust public-private partnership that USAID leads with pharmaceutical industry companies such as GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, and Merck.

And, of course, my friend in the chair and my friend managing the bill on the Democrat side know, because these companies hail from the great State of New Jersey—Merck in Rahway, for example—every U.S. taxpayer dollar invested is leveraged with \$26 in donated medicines, resulting in \$22 billion worth of donated medicine, which is extraordinary. I don't know of any other health program where the pharmaceuticals have stepped up like this to say: We are not going to sell you these drugs; we are going to donate them.

We also have helped train 6.5 million individuals in countries around the world to fight NTDs, helping them build and strengthen health systems. So we are, I think, making a difference. We need to do more.

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

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL), the distinguished ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act, a bill sponsored by my good friend, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I want to commend him for his efforts as being a steadfast leader on this very important issue that is going to save lives—and has saved lives. He is really the conscience, I think, of this body when it comes to this issue.

NTDs represent a group of parasitic and bacterial diseases that currently afflict more than 1.4 billion people worldwide. They can result in severe disabilities such as blindness, compounding existing social and economic challenges in the areas where these diseases thrive.

To be clear, the United States has taken a leadership role in the fight against NTDs. As many of these diseases have approved treatments, USAID's NTD program has supplied medicine to key impacted countries using an innovative public-private partnership, as Congressman SMITH alluded to.

Since 2006, USAID has leveraged more than \$22 billion in donated medicines to provide about \$2.6 billion in treatments. However, there is much more to be done, especially to build global political support to fight NTDs.

To that end, this bill directs our flagship global health program, PEPFAR, to find opportunities to integrate NTD research and care into their existing efforts to fight HIV/AIDS, where appropriate.

To lessen the U.S. burden in this fight, this bill also encourages greater participation in the research, treatment, and care of NTDs from the Global Fund, the United Nations, and other G-20 partners.

NTDs pose a significant threat to health outcomes and have a detrimental effect on developing economies. I again thank Mr. SMITH for his great leadership on this issue. And, once again, to pass something in this House that will save lives is truly one of the most gratifying experiences that we, as Members of Congress, have.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me again thank Mr. SMITH for all his hard work on this bill.

This legislation shows so clearly how we can use development and diplomacy in tandem to help meet serious global challenges. It is why diplomacy and development are so important in our foreign policy.

There is no doubt that neglected tropical diseases have a major roadblock for impoverished communities around the world. There is also no doubt that we have the tools to combat them if we can garner the resources and the political will to get the job done. That is what this bill aims to do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote "yes" on this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3460.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1645

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (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.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 546

Whereas, in 2014, Russia illegally occupied Ukraine's Crimea region and parts of eastern Ukraine;

Whereas these actions are in direct violation of fundamental principles of international law, as well as the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum;

Whereas, in 1998, the Group of Seven invited Russia to join the group in an effort to encourage continued political and economic reforms in Russia;

Whereas, in March 2014, the Group of Eight suspended Russia as a direct result of its actions in Ukraine, and instead continued as the Group of Seven;

Whereas, on April 3, 2014, President Barack Obama signed into law the Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014, which states that "it is the policy of the United States that the continued participation of the Russian Federation in the Group of Eight (G-8) nations should be conditioned on the Government of the Russian Federation respecting the territorial integrity of its neighbors and accepting and adhering to the norms and standards of free, democratic societies as generally practiced by every other member nation of the G-8 nations.";

Whereas, since 2014, the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, has continued to violate international law in Ukraine's Crimea region and elsewhere, and has continued to undermine democracy and human rights both at home and abroad; and

Whereas, on August 26, 2019, President Donald Trump, announced his intention to invite the President of Russia to next year's Group of Seven summit: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reiterates its unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine;

(2) condemns Russia's aggressive actions in Ukraine, including the illegal occupation of Crimea and ongoing destabilization of eastern Ukraine;

(3) condemns the Kremlin's assaults on democratic societies worldwide, including in the United States and other Group of Seven countries;

(4) reaffirms its full support for the suspension of Russia from the Group of Eight;

(5) calls on all leaders of the Group of Seven to oppose the readmission of Russia unless and until it has ended its occupation of all of Ukraine's sovereign territory, including Crimea, and halts its attacks on democracies worldwide; and

(6) disapproves of Russia'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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 546.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ENGEL, Ranking Member MCCAUL, and members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee for their unanimous support for H. Res. 546 during its markup, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

In 2014, Russia was expelled from the Group of Eight as a direct result of its aggressive actions in Ukraine, including the invasion of the Crimea region. The remaining seven nations agreed that Russia's future inclusion would be conditioned on its respect of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Later in 2014, this international agreement was codified into U.S. law when the Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act was signed into law by President Barack Obama.

Within this legislation, introduced by my colleague from Kentucky, Congressman HAL ROGERS, is a clause stating that continued Russian participation in the Group of Eight shall be conditioned on Russia respecting the territorial integrity of its neighbors and accepting and adhering to the norms and standards of free, democratic societies as generally practiced by every other member nation of the G-8.

In the time since this legislation was signed into law, Russia has not changed course. Instead, it has increased its aggression in Ukraine and has undermined democracy in numerous nations. In response to Russia's continued flouting of international democratic standards, I introduced H. Res. 546 to reiterate longstanding bipartisan congressional sentiment that Russia's actions should have consequences on the international stage.

If we allow Russia to participate in future G-7 summits without meeting the previously set conditions, we are signaling that Russia can continue to act with impunity and that the United

States will not stand firm in the face of Russian aggression.

It is my hope that the House of Representatives can, once again, come together as we did in 2014 to condemn Russia's actions in Ukraine, reaffirm support for Russia's expulsion from the G-8, and stress that future participation must hinge on respecting the territorial integrity of other nations.

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, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 546.

I want to thank Mr. SIREs for authoring this very important resolution, which reiterates that Russia should not be permitted to rejoin the Group of Eight summits until Putin's flagrant aggression radically changes.

Since the Russian invasion in 2014, Ukraine has been embroiled in a battle for territorial sovereignty. For 6 years, Russia has illegally occupied the Crimean Peninsula and supported separatist fighting in the Donbas region of Ukraine.

For over a decade, Russia has also illegally occupied the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions of Georgia, which constitute 20 percent of Georgia's territory.

Mr. Speaker, I visited Tbilisi within a week after Putin's invasion into South Ossetia when the thought was they might even go the rest of the way into Tbilisi, and I can say I saw firsthand the IDPs—the internally displaced persons—the refugees, the loss of life, and people who were wounded; and, again, it was all reminiscent of the bad old days of the Soviet Union now being replicated by Vladimir Putin.

Putin has violated fundamental principles of international law, and he has done so with impunity. He has refused to respect the territorial integrity of its neighbors and denied the standards of democratic societies.

These invasions and occupations have displaced thousands of ethnic Ukrainians and Georgians and resulted in severe human rights abuses against both populations. Moreover, Russia's meddling in the democratic elections of the United States and our allies throughout Europe have further demonstrated Putin's complete disrespect for the values and beliefs shared by other members of the Group of Seven.

This resolution condemns Russia's occupation of Crimea and other destabilization efforts in eastern Ukraine, reaffirms U.S. support for Ukraine's territory and sovereignty, and admonishes Putin's assaults on democratic processes around the world.

Most importantly, this legislation establishes that Russia should continue to be suspended from the Group of Seven until Putin adheres to the standards of democratic societies.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague from New

Jersey for authoring this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL), who is the ranking member.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 546.

Under President Putin's leadership, Russia has invaded and occupied parts of Ukraine and Georgia, assassinated political opponents at home and abroad, and enabled the corrupt regimes of Assad in Syria and Maduro in Venezuela.

Putin has also waged cyber warfare and disinformation campaigns against the United States and our allies, interfered in our elections, and spied off of our coasts with their submarine warfare capability.

All of these actions go against the fundamental principles of the Group of Seven and threaten democracies around the world.

As I have said many times over the years, Mr. Putin is not our friend. The United States and our allies cannot trust him to be a reliable partner as long as he continues to lead his country down a path of corruption, assassinations, and oppression.

As stated in this resolution, Russia should not be readmitted to the Group of Seven until Putin respects the principles shared by the other members, relinquishes his choke hold over Crimea, and ceases his global attacks on democratic institutions. Maintaining the integrity of the Group of Seven is vital to the group's success, and Russia cannot be allowed to bully its way back in.

I would like to thank Representative SIREs for his hard work on this resolution, and my good friend, Representative SMITH, for championing this resolution today. Under Putin's leadership, the world has become more deadly and more dangerous, and his people have fewer freedoms and greater poverty.

In closing, we need to stand up to dictators like Mr. Putin. I do think this is not, again, a Republican or a Democrat issue. Standing up against a hostile enemy, Mr. Putin and the Russian Federation, is an American issue.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a good, bipartisan measure. I thank my colleague, Mr. SHIMKUS, for supporting it and my good friend from New Jersey, Congressman SMITH.

Time and time again, Russia ignores the standards and norms of democratic societies and actively operates counter to American interests. If we do not stand firm against Russian aggression and allow them to participate in future G-7 summits, we will be rewarding Putin for his attacks on our country and our allies and that will damage our

partnerships and alliances around the world.

With this measure, Congress makes it clear that we do not support Russia's inclusion in the G-7 as he continues to attack us, our partners, and democratic institutions around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all Members would join me in supporting its passage, 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 Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 546.

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. SIREs. 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.

#### REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT AND OTHER AGREEMENTS TO ENSURE A LASTING PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 585) reaffirming support for the Good Friday Agreement and other agreements to ensure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 585

Whereas, on April 10, 1998, the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom signed the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas the main goal of the Good Friday Agreement was to bring an end to the violence on the island of Ireland and to ensure self-determination, peace, and reconciliation for the people of the island of Ireland;

Whereas the successful negotiation of the Good Friday Agreement stands as a historic and groundbreaking success that has proven critical to the decades of relative peace that have followed;

Whereas an exit from the European Union by the United Kingdom that does not appropriately protect the Good Friday Agreement threatens to undermine progress that has been made in moving beyond the legacy of the past in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the power-sharing agreement negotiated between the Government of Ireland, the Government of the United Kingdom, and parties in Northern Ireland in 1998 was a critical step toward negotiating lasting solutions to the issues described in the Good Friday Agreement and in other agreements that followed;

Whereas the collapse of the power-sharing institutions in 2017 has created additional difficulties and is serving as a roadblock to continued progress;

Whereas despite the historic progress of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent

agreements, important issues remain unresolved in Northern Ireland, including securing justice for victims of state-sponsored violence and other violence and providing for the rights of all sections of the community;

Whereas the reintroduction of barriers, checkpoints, or personnel, also known as a “hard border”, between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland would further threaten economic cooperation between the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom as well as the successes of the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas the United States Congress served a prominent assisting role in the negotiation of Good Friday Agreement and has taken a leading role in striving for peace on the island of Ireland more broadly; and

Whereas Congress greatly values the close relationships the United States shares with both the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland and stands steadfastly committed to supporting the peaceful resolution of any and all political challenges in Northern Ireland: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the United Kingdom and the European Union to ensure that any exit from the European Union by the United Kingdom supports continued peace on the island of Ireland and the principles, objectives, and commitments of the Good Friday Agreement;

(2) urges a successful outcome to the dialogue between all parties in Northern Ireland to ensure that all of the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement operate again and that ongoing political challenges and debates can be overcome;

(3) expresses support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements;

(4) expresses opposition to the reintroduction of a hard border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland;

(5) supports the right of all the people on the island of Ireland to self-determine their future as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement; and

(6) will insist that any new or amended trade agreements and other bilateral agreements between the Government of the United States and the Government of the United Kingdom include conditions requiring obligations under the Good Friday Agreement to be met.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 585.

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

There was no objection.

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

I want to start by thanking my colleagues, Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. KING, for authoring this excellent bipartisan measure that reaffirms Congress' support for lasting peace in Northern Ireland. The Good Friday Agreement and the fulfillment of every obligation under it is the only way to ensure that

those times of violence and division never return.

That is why I am alarmed by the current situation with Brexit, which could reintroduce a hard border between the north and the Republic. This is a dangerous prospect not only for the peace process but for the economic stability of the island and for the rights of the border communities.

With this bipartisan resolution we send a clear signal to the United Kingdom and the European Union. It is a priority for Congress that any Brexit deal must protect the Good Friday Agreement and all of its components.

□ 1700

We must ensure that nothing compromises the peace, security, and economic prosperity across Ireland.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this measure, and I urge all Members to join me in supporting it.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
Washington, DC, December 2, 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. Res. 585, “Reaffirming Support for the Good Friday Agreement and other agreements to ensure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland,” 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. Res. 585.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, December 2, 2019.

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,  
Committee on Ways and Means,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 585, Reaffirming support for the Good Friday Agreement and other agreements to ensure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this resolution.

I acknowledge that provisions of this measure fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H. Res. 585 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.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 585, which calls for the protection of the Good Friday Agreement and any Brexit deal that may come to fruition. I congratulate the bill's sponsor, TOM SUOZZI from New York, for this important initiative.

The Good Friday Agreement brought resolution to the decades-long violent conflict known as The Troubles. The signing of the Good Friday Agreement 20 years ago was truly historic, extraordinarily difficult to achieve, a remarkable framework for peace, and the hope for the beginning of reconciliation.

In its most important provisions, the agreement launched a series of challenging protocols by which the leaders of the nationalist and unionist communities in Northern Ireland agreed to strive for better governance and a peaceful solution of differences. It was characterized by prisoner releases, new government structures, British demilitarization of the North, the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons, and systemic police reform.

In terms of realizing peace, consider this: In the 30 years between 1969 and 1998, approximately 3,500 people were killed in political violence, while in the 20 years since the Good Friday Agreement, fewer than 100 have lost their lives due to intersectorian violence—though there was also the ongoing phenomenon of intrasectorian killings attributable to internal disputes among paramilitary groups.

Mr. Speaker, there is a broad bipartisan consensus on peace for Northern Ireland, dating back to the integral role played by President Bill Clinton and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell in the negotiation of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

Congressman SUOZZI's resolution, introduced with PETER KING as the lead Republican—and I am proud, like Mr. SIREs, to be a cosponsor—reflects this bipartisan interest. I, myself, Mr. Speaker, have personally chaired 16 congressional hearings and markups of legislation on human rights issues in Northern Ireland, most of them with a special focus on police reform and the need to establish a public, independent judicial inquiry into state-sponsored collusion in the murder of human rights attorney Patrick Finucane and

others who were the victims of political assassinations on both sides of the divide.

Mr. Speaker, I also sponsored an amendment that resulted in suspending all U.S. support for and exchanges with the then-British police force in Northern Ireland, the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Vetting standards for RUC officers were implemented and then enforced. President Bush was then able to certify that human rights principles were part of police training going forward, both in the RUC and in its reformed successor, the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Thus, I, too, like many in this Chamber, have a strong personal interest in the subject of Congressman SUOZZI's resolution.

Also, I am extremely worried about the negative implications of a hard Brexit. This 1998 agreement has kept the peace on the island of Ireland for over two decades by maintaining a soft border between the two entities. A Brexit deal that results in a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland could very possibly instigate another outbreak of violence. The fact is that armed paramilitary groups still exist and could reengage in killing, should there be a sustained backsliding attributable to the failure to achieve an equitable Brexit resolution.

It is vital to the safety and security of Ireland that any potential Brexit deal effectively address the Irish backstop issue and maintain all components of the Good Friday Agreement. This resolution affirms this as the U.S. position on Brexit, and I commend its author. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI), the author of this resolution.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SIREs for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bipartisan H. Res. 585, which I introduced along with my Republican colleague PETER KING.

This resolution reaffirms the United States' support for the Good Friday Agreement and other agreements in order to ensure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

I want to start by thanking Chairman ENGEL for his support of this bipartisan resolution and for his decades-long commitment to bringing a lasting peace to the island of Ireland.

I also thank, again, my fellow Long Islander PETER KING, my lead Republican cosponsor of this resolution, who has been a staunch advocate for the Good Friday Agreement and the peace process for the length and breadth of his entire career in public service, over 30 years.

I thank all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and from the Congressional Friends of Ireland who cosponsored this resolution. Par-

ticularly, I thank my friend BILL KEATING, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment.

Mr. Speaker, the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 was a momentous achievement that marked the official end of The Troubles, a dark period in history that saw communities torn apart, thousands of people killed, and the island of Ireland literally divided by a hard border.

While the Good Friday Agreement has been largely responsible for the relative peace on the island of Ireland over the last two decades, recent events have created uncertainty and put the agreement at risk.

The collapse of the key power-sharing agreement in early 2017 has created a roadblock to continued progress on several important issues. Furthermore, the uncertainty created by Brexit has led to fears of instability and even the reintroduction of a hard border separating the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Next week, the people of the United Kingdom will go to the polls in a crucial election that will determine the outcome of Brexit. While it would be inappropriate for any American elected official to interfere in another country's electoral process, it is important that the United States makes our position clear on policies in which we have a vested interest.

This resolution reiterates the United States' full support for the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. It also urges the parties to continue their dialogues in the hope that the governing institutions created by the agreement can once again operate.

This resolution also makes it clear that as the United Kingdom continues to work through the Brexit process, all parties should ensure that the final outcome supports peace on the island of Ireland, as well as all the principles, objectives, and commitments of the Good Friday Agreement. In particular, this resolution expresses strong opposition to the reintroduction of a hard border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. A return to a hard border, as Congressman BOYLE has repeatedly pointed out, could do immense damage and must be avoided at all costs.

I am pleased that in Brexit negotiations so far, all parties seem to agree that a hard border is unacceptable, and I urge continued adherence to this position.

Finally, this resolution makes it clear that should the United States and the United Kingdom pursue a bilateral trade agreement in the aftermath of Brexit, that any such deal will be contingent on meeting the obligations of the Good Friday Agreement.

As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, which I would have jurisdiction over any such deal, I promise to ensure that this clause of this resolution is strictly enforced.

I know that my good friend Richie Neal, who has cosponsored this resolu-

tion and who serves not only as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee but also as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Friends of Ireland, feels exactly the same way.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to thank my good friend and constituent Marty Glennon for his years of activism in support of the peace process. His wisdom and support of this resolution as it made its way through the legislative process has been extremely valuable.

During these difficult times of often partisan and divided government, it is gratifying to see such overwhelming bipartisan support to ensure that Brexit and other political challenges do not threaten the Good Friday Agreement or the peace process.

When my great-grandfather, Jeremiah Holmes, first emigrated from the Emerald Isle in the late 1800s, leaving his home in Bweeng outside of Mallow in County Cork, little did he know that his son would go on to work for IBEW, putting lights on the Empire State Building. Little did he know that, one day, his great-grandson would be a Member of the House of Representatives and work to continue the United States' important role in preserving peace on the island of Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the passage of this important bipartisan legislation.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Mr. SUOZZI's resolution, again saying that it is in America's national interest to protect the Good Friday Agreement peace accords.

As was stated on the floor, the U.S. has equities in this agreement. The work of George Mitchell back in the 1990s was instrumental, according to all the parties involved, in terms of its success.

Since then, Congress has reaffirmed that involvement by appropriating funds for the Northern Ireland Trust Fund, which promotes reconciliation amongst the sectarian factions that unfortunately are still apart, to an unfortunate degree. Nonetheless, it has been a great success over the last 21 years.

As an undergraduate student studying in England in 1973, I visited Belfast and Enniskillen in those dark days of The Troubles, with 30,000 British soldiers patrolling the streets, bombings taking place, over 3,000 casualties.

Fast forward to today, I brought a trade mission from Connecticut over with an aerospace-focus. There is calm. There is a functioning government and system and rule of law that has transformed that island and, particularly, Northern Ireland's society. It is all about trying to protect that future with this resolution.

I would just end by saying this is in accordance with the people of Northern Ireland. When Brexit was voted on, the people of Northern Ireland voted almost 56 percent to remain in the European Union because they wanted to



make sure there was no risk of a hard border.

Again, the measure passed, including Great Britain's votes, but only by an even smaller margin of 51 percent. So this resolution is not just a sentimental expression by people here in the U.S. It is totally in accordance with what I think is the will and the wishes of the people of Northern Ireland.

I thank the sponsors on both sides of the aisle, in terms of making sure that this important diplomatic success for the 20th century, that the U.S. was an instrumental part of, will be protected.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank my friends, Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. KING, for offering this resolution, and particularly Mr. SUOZZI for his leadership on this issue.

Like many Members who have spoken, I am proud of my own Irish heritage. It is a heritage that continues to this day. My sister lives in Ireland with her husband, Daithi, and their children, Siofra, Paddy, Ciaran, and Fiach. Those four children are part of the first generation alive that have been able to live with the guarantee of some sort of peace on that island.

It is important that we recognize that, as much as many of us have this familial connection to the people of Ireland, this question is so much bigger than that. This is really a question as to whether or not we are going to support a negotiated peace, which is an achievement not just of the people of the U.K. and the island of Ireland but as an achievement of the American people as well because we are a guarantor of that agreement.

It even goes beyond that, however. What message does it send to the people of the world, especially in those places that continue to have longstanding conflicts, if in the name of a hasty decision to implement Brexit, we were to set aside this achievement that says to the people of the world, not just the people of that island, not just to the people of the U.K., not just to the people of the U.S., but to the people of the world that peace can be achieved through face-to-face negotiation? That is a powerful message that goes beyond the direct impact that its reversal would have on the people of Ireland.

Finally, as my friends have said, nobody in the U.K. or in the U.K. Government should expect that the United States would pursue and willingly sign any U.S.-U.K. trade agreement that does not respect the principles that the Good Friday Agreement implemented.

So, the question is: Are we going to deal with this now? Will we ensure, as the people of the world want, that we protect this important peace? I think we should. The people of the world think we should.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my friends join me in supporting this really important resolution.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE).

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey.

The Good Friday Agreement was just the start of the creation of peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland, not the end. Brokered by the United States, this agreement was one of our Nation's great foreign policy achievements of the 20th century.

This ongoing peace process requires our continued engagement, especially now as Brexit becomes a reality. We cannot and, let's be clear, will not stand by idly and watch the Good Friday Agreement weakened or destroyed.

I was proud to introduce a similar resolution back in January, and I am equally proud to cosponsor Mr. SUOZZI's bill, which reaffirms our bipartisan support in this Chamber for the Good Friday Agreement, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

□ 1715

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Once again, I thank Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. KING for introducing this good, bipartisan measure. The United Kingdom and European Union must safeguard Ireland's continued peace, safety, and prosperity as they work to secure a Brexit deal.

We must ensure Ireland continues toward a bright, strong future, never returning to the violence and the division of The Troubles. The Good Friday Agreement must be protected.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all the Members to support this important resolution, 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 Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 585.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### UYGHUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY ACT OF 2019

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 178) to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 178

*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 "Uighur Intervention and Global Humanitarian Unified Response Act of 2019" or the "UIGHUR Act of 2019".

#### SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to direct United States resources to address human rights violations and abuses, including gross violations of human rights, by the People's Republic of China's mass surveillance and internment of over 1,000,000 Uighurs and other predominantly Turkic Muslim ethnic minorities in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

#### SEC. 3. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

In this Act, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

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

#### SEC. 4. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Government of the People's Republic of China has a long history of repressing Turkic Muslims, particularly Uighurs, in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

(2) In May 2014, Chinese authorities launched their latest "Strike Hard against Violent Extremism" campaign, using wide-scale, internationally-linked threats of terrorism as a pretext to justify pervasive restrictions on and human rights violations of members of the ethnic minority communities of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. The August 2016 transfer of former Tibet Autonomous Region Party Secretary Chen Quanguo to become the Xinjiang Party Secretary prompted an acceleration in the crackdown across the region. Scholars, human rights organizations, journalists, and think tanks have provided ample evidence substantiating the establishment by Chinese authorities of "reeducation" camps. Since 2014, Chinese authorities have detained no less than 800,000 Uighurs, ethnic Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other ethnic minorities in these camps.

(3) Those detained in such facilities have described forced political indoctrination, torture, beatings, and food deprivation, as well as denial of religious, cultural, and linguistic freedoms, and confirmed that they were told by guards that the only way to secure release was to demonstrate sufficient political loyalty. Poor conditions and lack of medical treatment at such facilities appear to have contributed to the deaths of some detainees, including the elderly and infirm.

(4) Uighurs and ethnic Kazakhs, who have now obtained permanent residence or citizenship in other countries, attest to receiving threats and harassment from Chinese officials. At least five journalists for Radio Free Asia's Uighur service have publicly detailed abuses their family members in Xinjiang have endured in response to their work exposing abusive policies across the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

(5) In September 2018, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michele Bachelet noted in her first speech as High Commissioner the "deeply disturbing allegations of large-scale arbitrary detentions of Uighurs and other Muslim communities, in so-called re-education camps across Xinjiang".

(6) The Government of the People's Republic of China's actions against Turkic Muslims in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, whose population was approximately 13 million at the time of the last Chinese census in 2010, are in contravention of international human rights laws, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, both of which China has signed and ratified, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which China has signed.

#### SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should condemn abuses against Turkic Muslims by Chinese authorities and call on such authorities immediately—

(A) to close the “reeducation” camps;

(B) to lift all restrictions on and ensure respect for human rights; and

(C) to allow those inside China to reestablish contact with their loved ones, friends, and associates outside China;

(2) the Secretary of State should—

(A) fully implement the provisions of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act (Public Law 114-281); and

(B) should consider strategically employing sanctions and other tools under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.), including measures required by reason of the designation of the People's Republic of China as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under section 402(b)(1)(A)(i) of such Act that directly address particularly severe violations of religious freedom;

(3) the Secretary of State should work with United States allies and partners as well as through multilateral institutions to condemn the mass arbitrary detention of Uighurs in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region and coordinate closely with the international community on targeted sanctions and visa restrictions; and

(4) the journalists of the Uighur language service of Radio Free Asia should be commended for their reporting on the human rights and political situation in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region despite efforts by the Government of the People's Republic of China to silence or intimidate their reporting through the detention of family members and relatives in China, and the United States should expand the availability of and capacity for Uighur language programming on Radio Free Asia in the region.

#### SEC. 6. UPDATING STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Section 901(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-246; 104 Stat. 84) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (7), (8), and (9) as paragraphs (8), (9), and (10), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) United States policy toward the People's Republic of China should be explicitly linked with the situation in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, specifically as to whether—

“(A) the mass internment of ethnic Uighur and other Turkic Muslims in ‘political education’ camps has ended;

“(B) all political prisoners in the region are released;

“(C) the use of high-tech mass surveillance and predictive policing to discriminate against and violate the human rights of

members of specific ethnic groups is evident in other parts of China; and

“(D) the Government of the People's Republic of China has ended efforts aimed at cultural assimilation and particularly severe restrictions of religious practice in the region;”.

#### SEC. 7. APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS UNDER GLOBAL MAGNITSKY HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of senior officials of the Government of the People's Republic of China who the President determines are responsible for or who have knowingly engaged in serious human rights abuses against Turkic Muslims in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region and elsewhere in China. Such list shall include the following:

(1) Senior Chinese officials, such as Xinjiang Party Secretary Chen Quanguo, who are directly responsible for the ongoing repression in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

(2) Senior Chinese officials responsible for mass incarceration, political indoctrination, or reeducation efforts targeting Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities.

(b) FORM.—The list required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(c) SANCTIONS IMPOSED.—On the date on which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees the list described in subsection (a), and as appropriate thereafter, the President shall impose the sanctions described in section 1263(b) of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note) with respect to any foreign person that the President has identified on the list.

(d) EXCEPTION FOR UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT; ENFORCEMENT.—Subsections (e) and (f) of section 1263 of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act apply with respect to the imposition of sanctions under this section to the same extent as such subsections apply with respect to the imposition of sanctions under such section 1263.

(e) WAIVER FOR NATIONAL INTERESTS.—The President may waive the imposition of sanctions under subsection (c) if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national interests of the United States; and

(2) submits to the appropriate congressional committees notice of, and a justification for, the waiver.

(f) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

(g) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

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

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

#### SEC. 8. REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CHINA'S XINJIANG UIGHUR AUTONOMOUS REGION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies and civil society organizations, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and make available on the website of the Department of State a report on human rights abuses in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

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

(1) An assessment of the number of individuals detained in political “reeducation camps” in the region and conditions in the camps for detainees, including an assessment, to the extent practicable, of whether detainees endure torture, efforts at forced renunciation of their faith, or other mistreatment.

(2) An assessment of, to the extent practicable, the number of individuals in the region in highly-controlled forced labor camps.

(3) A description of the methods used by People's Republic of China authorities to “reeducate” Uighur detainees, including an identification of the Chinese agencies in charge of such reeducation.

(4) An assessment of the use and nature of forced labor in and related to the detention of Turkic Muslims in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, and a description of foreign companies and industries benefitting from such labor in the region.

(5) An assessment of the level of access to the region Chinese authorities grant to foreign diplomats and consular agents, independent journalists, and representatives of nongovernmental organizations.

(6) An assessment of the repressive surveillance, detection, and control methods used by Chinese authorities in the region.

(7) A description, as appropriate, of diplomatic efforts by United States allies and other nations to address the gross violations of universally recognized human rights in the region and to protect asylum seekers from the region.

#### SEC. 9. RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORT, REEXPORT, AND IN-COUNTRY TRANSFERS OF CERTAIN ITEMS THAT PROVIDE A CRITICAL CAPABILITY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO SUPPRESS INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY, FREEDOM, AND OTHER BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to protect the basic human rights of Uighurs and other ethnic minorities in the People's Republic of China.

(b) LIST OF COVERED ITEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and as appropriate thereafter, the President—

(A) shall identify those items that provide a critical capability to the Government of the People's Republic of China, or any person acting on behalf of such Government, to suppress individual privacy, freedom of movement, and other basic human rights, specifically through—

(i) surveillance, interception, and restriction of communications;

(ii) monitoring of individual location or movement or restricting individual movement;

(iii) monitoring or restricting access to and use of the internet;

(iv) monitoring or restricting use of social media;

(v) identification of individuals through facial recognition, voice recognition, or biometric indicators;

(vi) detention of individuals who are exercising basic human rights; and

(vii) forced labor in manufacturing; and

(B) shall, pursuant to the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.), include items identified pursuant to subparagraph (A) on the Commerce Control List in a category separate from other items, as appropriate, on the Commerce Control List.

(2) SUPPORT AND COOPERATION.—Upon request, the head of a Federal agency shall provide full support and cooperation to the President in carrying out this subsection.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the President shall consult with the relevant technical advisory committees of the Department of Commerce to ensure that the composition of items identified under paragraph (1)(A) and included on the Commerce Control List under paragraph (1)(B) does not unnecessarily restrict commerce between the United States and the People's Republic of China, consistent with the purposes of this section.

(c) SPECIAL LICENSE OR OTHER AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall, pursuant to the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.), require a license or other authorization for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer to or within the People's Republic of China of an item identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(A) and included on the Commerce Control List pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(B).

(2) PRESUMPTION OF DENIAL.—An application for a license or other authorization described in paragraph (1) shall be subject to a presumption of denial.

(3) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—The President shall provide for notice and public comment with respect to actions necessary to carry out this subsection.

(d) INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION AND MULTILATERAL CONTROLS.—It shall be the policy of the United States to seek to harmonize United States export control regulations with international export control regimes with respect to the items identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(A), including through the Wassenaar Arrangement and other bilateral and multilateral mechanisms involving countries that export such items.

(e) TERMINATION OF SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN OTHER PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—Section 902(b)(1) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-246; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “and China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region” after “Tibet”;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in subparagraph (E), by striking “or” after the semicolon and inserting “and”; and

(4) by adding the following new subparagraph:“(F) the ending of the mass internment of ethnic Uighurs and other Turkic Muslims in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, including the intrusive system of high-tech surveillance and policing in the region; or”.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMERCE CONTROL LIST.—The term “Commerce Control List” means the list set forth in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of the Export Administration Regulations under subchapter C of chapter VII of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) EXPORT, IN-COUNTRY TRANSFER, ITEM, AND REEXPORT.—The terms “export”, “in-country transfer”, “item”, and “reexport” have the meanings given such terms in section 1742 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gen-

tleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIREs. 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 S. 178.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs)?

There was no objection.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I 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 for his leadership and thank he and Mr. SMITH, two gentlemen from New Jersey, for being champions for human rights.

I also thank Mr. McCAUL and Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, the ranking member and the chair of the committee.

And I thank Mr. MALINOWSKI for being a champion for human rights even before he came to Congress.

My colleagues, next week marks 71 years since the nations of the world gathered in Paris to enshrine our global commitment to human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The opening words of that declaration read: “Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world.”

“Whereas, disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind.”

Today, the human dignity and human rights of the Uighur community are under threat from Beijing's barbarous actions, which are an outrage to the collective conscience of the world.

Across the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, the Uighur people and other Muslim minorities face brutal repression: a pervasive state of mass surveillance, including the arbitrary and nonconsensual collection of children's DNA; the mass incarceration of 1 to 3 million innocent people with beatings, solitary confinement, deprivation of food and medical treatment, forced sterilizations, and other forms of torture; incidents of mass shootings and extrajudicial killings; and the intimidation and suppression of journalists courageously exposing the truth.

Mihrigul Tursun, a former detainee, testified she faced treatment so brutal that “I thought I would rather die than go through this torture and begged them to kill me.”

Another former detainee, Tursunay Ziyawudun, testified, “We were all helpless and unable to defend ourselves. We all went through all kinds of mistreatment. The screaming, pleading, crying is still in my head.”

Today, with this bicameral and overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation, the

United States Congress is taking a critical step to counter Beijing's horrific human rights abuses against Uighurs.

I thank Chairman ENGEL, Representative BRAD SHERMAN, Representative SUOZZI, and Chairman MCGOVERN for their leadership on this important legislation.

We are sending a message to Beijing: America is watching, and we will not stay silent.

This legislation helps uncover the truth, requiring reports by the DNI, Director of National Intelligence; the State Department; and the FBI about the depths of the crisis and about China's campaign against journalists exposing the facts.

It creates accountability, ensuring transparency of Chinese and foreign companies involved in the camps.

And it engages the full firepower of American law and leadership, including by urging the application of Global Magnitsky and other related sanctions and the full implementation of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, named for our distinguished former colleague and human rights champion, Congressman Frank Wolf.

Sadly, Beijing's human rights abuses extend beyond the Uighurs, from the decades-long abuse faced by the Tibetan people; to Hong Kong's fight for democracy and rule of law; and to the jailing of journalists, human rights lawyers, Christians, and democracy advocates on the mainland.

In the Congress, Democrats and Republicans stand united with all people fighting for human rights in the face of China's abuses. Last month, we were proud to pass the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, which has now become law, and we are grateful that the President has signed that legislation.

If America does not speak out for human rights in China because of commercial issues, we lose all moral authority to speak out for human rights anywhere in the world.

In honor of the millions fighting for their dignity, safety, and rights in China and around the world, I urge a strong bipartisan vote for the Uighur Intervention and Global Humanitarian Unified Response Act.

I thank Mr. SMITH, Mr. SIREs, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SUOZZI, Chairman ELIOT ENGEL, and Mr. McCAUL for their leadership. And I acknowledge the leadership of Senator RUBIO in the United States Senate on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge an “aye” vote.

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

Mr. Speaker, first, I want to thank the Speaker for her very eloquent remarks and for her tenacity in promoting human rights and respect for the rule of law in all of China, including and especially with today's focus on Xinjiang, where, unfortunately, Xi

Jinping is conducting massive, massive crimes against humanity against the Muslim Uighurs. So I thank her for that leadership.

I thank Chairman ENGEL, Ranking Member MCCAUL, BRAD SHERMAN, and Ranking Member TED YOHO for their deep and abiding commitment to the suffering people of Xinjiang as well.

I would also like to express my special thanks to the 128 bipartisan cosponsors of my bill, the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019, H.R. 649, comprehensive human rights legislation that I introduced earlier this year with lead Democratic cosponsor TOM SUOZZI to address the massive crimes against humanity committed by the Chinese Government against the Uighurs.

The legislation would require the administration to categorize and report on the human rights abuses being committed by the Chinese Communist Party each and every day, take specific steps to sanction Chinese officials for these abuses, especially through the use of the Magnitsky Act, and stop, to the greatest extent possible, the Chinese Government's efforts to create a high-tech police and surveillance state.

With endorsement of our bill 12 months ago and cosponsorship by the Speaker herself, as well as endorsement by the Washington Post, which said, a full year ago, "This has become"—that is to say, the situation in Xinjiang—"one of the world's most urgent human rights crises. Congress should pass the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act." Today the Senate bill is before us, and I encourage my colleagues and the cosponsors of H.R. 649 to vote for it.

Mr. Speaker, at a congressional hearing that I cochaired last year, Mihrigul Tursun recounted her horrifying ordeal with torture, sexual abuse, and detention in one of China's mass internment camps in Xinjiang.

She broke down weeping, telling us that she pleaded with God to end her life. Her Chinese jailers restrained her to a table, increased the electrical currents coursing through her body, and mocked her belief in God. She was tortured simply for being an ethnic Uighur and a Muslim in China.

There are millions of stories like this waiting to be told about the crimes against humanity being committed each and every day by the Chinese Government against the Uighurs, the Kazakhs, and the Turkic Muslims.

Given that this year is the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, maybe we should not be surprised by the cruelty and brutality of the Chinese Communist Party. But the size and scale of what is happening in Xinjiang is audaciously repressive, even by China's low standards:

The mass internment of millions of people on a scale that has not been seen since the Holocaust; children ripped from the warm embrace of their families to be indoctrinated in communist ideology and forced to renounce

their religious culture and language; rape, sexual abuse, and forced abortions of women being held in internment camps; forced labor on a scale that allows Chinese companies to profit from modern-day slavery.

That atrocities such as these can exist in the 21st century is astounding and enormously sad.

We cannot be silent. We must demand an end to these barbaric practices and accountability from the Chinese Government. We must say "never again" to the cultural genocide and the atrocities suffered by the Uighurs and others in China.

Chinese authorities initially denied the existence of mass internment camps, Mr. Speaker, and even now portray them as vocational training centers. What a cruel joke. They employed lies, censorship, and economic coercion to stifle discussion of their crimes.

But documents obtained by The New York Times and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists have exposed the brutality behind Beijing's plans to radically and coercively transform the culture and religion of ethnic Uighurs, Kazakhs, and other Muslims in China.

The leaked internal papers show detailed plans to intern between 1 million and 3 million Uighurs in modern-day concentration camps, where they are subjected to severe human rights abuses and Orwellian indoctrination efforts for those "whose thinking has been infected."

At the same time, Beijing instituted plans to erase the influence of Islam in western China, bulldozing mosques and shrines, severely throttling all religious practice, and forcing camp detainees to renounce their faith.

The leaked documents also show that Xi Jinping himself has directed the crackdown, saying that the Communist Party must put "the organs of dictatorship" to work and show—his words—"absolutely no mercy" in dealing with the Uighurs and other Muslims.

In one speech exposed by the leaked documents, President Xi Jinping says, "The weapons of the people's democratic dictatorship must be wielded without any hesitation or wavering."

In 2017, he told thousands of police officers and troops standing at attention to prepare for "a smashing, obliterating offensive."

According to the documents, Communist Party officials who were reluctant to carry out Xi's draconian policies were investigated and expunged—and worse:

"Secret teams of investigators traveled across the region, identifying those who were not doing enough. In 2017, the party opened more than 12,000 investigations into party members in Xinjiang."

Xi Jinping has created, Mr. Speaker, one of the worst human rights tragedies on the face of the Earth. Xi Jinping and his government are directly responsible—directly respon-

sible—for these crimes against humanity.

Our hope is that a reckoning is coming, but only if the international community stands up to China. I would note with some sadness, notably absent are voices from many Muslim countries, and I have raised it myself with many leaders of Muslim countries.

□ 1730

They have not been as critical of China as they ought to be. They need to speak out and to do it boldly and very clearly.

I do want to commend the Trump administration for its actions over the past several years. They have issued strong statements and, according to the U.S. Commerce Department just last month, 28 government agencies and businesses were placed on the Entity List and barred.

The way the Secretary of Commerce put it: "The U.S. Government and Department of Commerce cannot and will not tolerate the brutal suppression of ethnic minorities within China," said Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. "This action will ensure that our technologies, fostered in an environment of individual liberty and free enterprise, are not used to repress defenseless minority populations."

These are important steps. This legislation, however, takes the next step. More must be done. Chinese officials, as I said earlier, need to be held accountable for crimes against humanity, including Global Magnitsky and international sanctions and U.N. investigations.

Those who tortured Mihrigul Tursun should know that justice is coming for them as well. And the Chinese Government companies profiting from forced labor need to be barred from selling their products made so horribly by forced labor from coming into this country.

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

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

Let me first thank the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for their work on this legislation.

I also want to acknowledge the work of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, led by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN). His expertise, and that of his staff, has made a significant contribution to the development of this legislation.

This bill addresses one of the most egregious violations of human rights in the world today. More than 1 million Uighurs and other Muslim ethnic minorities have been detained by the Chinese Government and sent to camps in Xinjiang, where they face torture, sexual abuse, brainwashing, and other abuses in an attempt to erase their culture and their religion.

The Chinese Government is engaging in these atrocities under the guise of

antiterrorism efforts, and the victims have been denied any due process. The severity of this disgrace was recently confirmed by a trove of leaked confidential Chinese documents that detail just how sinister these policies are.

Meeting with members of the Uighur American community is a sobering experience. They have stories about family members in China who can no longer be reached, friends who have gone missing, report after report of violence, abuse, and mistreatment.

The intention of the top Chinese Communist Party leadership through this campaign is clear: In the short-term, turn Xinjiang into a prison for ethnic and religious minorities, and, in the longer term, force these minorities to assimilate completely, erasing the evidence of their unique culture, history, and religion.

The Chinese Government has a long record of oppressing Tibetan Christians, the Falun Gong, and other ethnic religious minorities. But what makes these efforts different is the use of technology to erase the Uighur people and their way of life. In some cases, these technologies can be traced back to American companies and research institutions.

Unfortunately, we have yet to see an adequate response from the Trump administration. While the administration's decision to announce its visa restrictions and add abuse-enabling Chinese tech firms to the Entity List were good steps, they do not go far enough. There needs to be real consequences for those who have designed and built these internment camps.

With the bill we are considering today, the House of Representatives is making clear that there needs to be more serious repercussions. Specifically, this bill calls on the Secretary of State to designate those responsible for these abuses with Global Magnitsky sanctions, including the freezing of their assets. It would also require the American firms to do due diligence on where and how their technology is being used so that they do not unwittingly become part of the Chinese Government's campaign to violate the human rights of their own citizens.

This legislation is a necessary response to one of the most pressing human rights concerns in the world today. I am glad the House is considering it, and I encourage all Members to vote for its passage.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, December 3, 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 S. 178, the "Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019" that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration

on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on S. 178, 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, December 2, 2019.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: I am writing to you concerning S. 178, the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on S. 178 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on the Judiciary conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

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

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
Chairman.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the ranking member.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan UIGHUR Act.

I want to commend my colleagues, all three of them, from New Jersey—I think this is New Jersey Day on the floor—Mr. SMITH, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. MALINOWSKI.

For the last several years, the Communist dictatorship in Beijing has been unleashing a brutal crackdown on the Uighur and Turkic Muslims in western China.

It is believed that between 1 to 3 million ethnic minorities have been detained and sent to internment camps where they are indoctrinated with state propaganda and tortured. The goal of the Chinese Government is to strip these individuals of their religious and cultural identity.

Many people detained are never heard from again. Families have been

torn apart. Sons and daughters are left wondering if they will ever be reunited with their moms and dads.

Some of our most senior officials, including National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien, have described these detention centers as "concentration camps." Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has referred to China's repression as the "stain of the century."

The Chinese Government states that these camps are part of their efforts to combat violent extremism. They also say these detention centers are job training facilities. But what is happening is nothing less than a state-sponsored and systematic campaign designed to enforce a "cultural genocide."

As the beacon of hope and freedom to the rest of the world, the United States cannot stay silent. If we do, our silence will be remembered as our complicity; our inaction will become our appeasement.

We know that the Chinese Communist Party would love nothing more than for the rest of the world to mirror its authoritarianism. We cannot allow this to happen.

This legislation gives us the opportunity to take real action and help stop these evil crimes:

First, it provides that the United States policy towards China should be explicitly linked to the human rights abuses;

Second, it requires the application of the Global Magnitsky sanctions on Chinese officials responsible for repression against Uighur or Turkic Muslims;

Third, it mandates the State Department submit to Congress a report on human rights abuses in this western province of China; and

Fourth, it restricts the export of certain U.S. technology items to China that are used to suppress individual privacy, freedom of movement, and basic human rights.

This is a very important bill, and, again, I would like to thank our colleagues—and particularly BRAD SHERMAN, who introduced this along with Senator RUBIO—for all their efforts to get this done where we are today.

So let's come together as Republicans and Democrats to ensure that atrocities committed by the Communist dictatorship in Beijing will have consequences. Let's show the world that the United States will impose a cost on the Chinese Communist Party's leaders for their crimes now and in the future.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of S. 178, the UIGHUR Act of 2019.

This bill has the best of both worlds: It has a Senate bill number and House of Representatives content. The bill came over from the Senate, and then we unanimously adopted, in the Foreign Affairs Committee, my amendment in the nature of a substitute,

which put together three bills focused on the Uighur issue. It included the work of Senators MARCO RUBIO and ROBERT MENENDEZ found in S. 178; the work found in H.R. 649 of CHRIS SMITH and TOM SUOZZI of this House; and the legislation that I reintroduced with the ranking member of the Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation Subcommittee, TED YOHO, H.R. 1025.

So this bill represents putting together those three bills to deal with the detention of over 1 million Uighurs and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang and other Chinese repression of its Muslim minority population.

The Chinese Government has sought to erase the distinct Uighur Muslim culture and religious traditions through mass detentions, reeducation camps, and a coordinated campaign under the banner "Strike Hard Against Violent Extremism" launched in 2014.

Thanks to recently leaked Chinese Communist Party documents, we now know that the impetus for this campaign came from the highest levels of the Chinese Communist Party.

In April 2014, General Secretary Xi ordered the party officials to, and these are the words, show "absolutely no mercy" in using "organs of dictatorship," another quoted phrase, to suppress Muslim minorities. More than a million Uighurs were then imprisoned in camps.

In a country with the rule of law, you are incarcerated by the state because you have been convicted of a defined statutory offense. Why are 1 million people behind barbed wire in the Xinjiang province of China? The charge against them is "their thinking has been infected by unhealthy thoughts."

Where in the world would anyone be free if a million people can be incarcerated because the government has determined that their thoughts are unhealthy?

Along with reeducation camps, the Strike Hard campaign has also involved high-tech surveillance and monitoring of Uighurs, monitoring and suppressing Muslim religious practice, including funeral practices, and suppression of the Uighur language.

Beyond its borders, the party has tried to intimidate Chinese Muslim minorities who are living abroad. And in China, some individuals with permanent residency status in the United States have been prohibited from leaving the region. In Xinjiang, the party has forced Uighur families to have Han Chinese agents live in their homes.

The extent of this Chinese effort to, in effect, "sinofy" the Muslim population of western China is staggering. The legislation before us is an important start, but it is only a start in our efforts to counter Chinese repression of its Muslim minorities, and we will have hearings in the Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation Subcommittee to develop additional steps that America could take.

I want to highlight two parts of this legislation. First, the bill requires the

President to impose the Global Magnitsky sanctions against all Chinese officials who are responsible for the repression of the Uighurs. We are long past the point when this should have been done, and it should not be linked to ongoing negotiations on trade or any other issue.

Second, the bill requires the Commerce Department to update our export controls to ensure that the Commerce Control List, which covers dual-use items, is updated to create a special regime for China. Commerce will be required to identify items that assist in the monitoring, surveillance, mass detention, and forced labor we see going on in China today, and deny licenses for the export or reexport of those items to China.

U.S. technology should not be used to further one of the most egregious human rights abuses of our time. And in writing this legislation and the amendment in the nature of a substitute that came out of the Foreign Affairs Committee, we worked diligently to ensure that we avoid capturing too much and unduly hindering legitimate and beneficial commerce, including thorough discussions with the tech industry.

So I thank Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL, of course, our Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, who was here. I thank Senators RUBIO and MENENDEZ, CHRIS SMITH, and TOM SUOZZI. I thank JIM MCGOVERN for his work, and I thank my partner in running the Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation Subcommittee, Mr. YOHO.

□ 1745

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I just want to give my strong support for S. 178.

I look back over the years when we have seen this, and we have had these discussions in our Foreign Affairs Committee about the atrocities that are going on in the Xinjiang province.

Last year we talked about the concentration camps that we see going up, and then there were reports about the crematoriums that were going in. And we read advertisements to hire guards for the crematoriums. They must be physically fit, they must be able to defend themselves, and they need to know how to use a weapon. So they had armed crematoriums set up in this province.

My question is: Why do you need armed crematoriums if it is a crematorium to burn people? You know, the dead.

And I think the intent of what China is doing is self-evident. And America, as the leader of the free world, and all countries that believe in freedom and liberty, they must stand up against this injustice because this is going on around the world. And if you believe

the words of General Eisenhower at Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps after the end of World War II when he said: Never again. Never again will we allow this to happen. But it is happening right now. And it is happening in an area that we know in a country that is suppressing freedom around the world.

We see it in Hong Kong. We have seen what they have done with Tibet. They want to do it to any country or any population that is against the Communist Party, the Chinese Communist Party. And this is something, if we don't do this, this will go on. And this is where the world needs to wake up, and they need to say, any time we buy something made in China, we are empowering this country and Xi Jinping and the Communist Party complex to do the same thing over and over again.

It is time we make a strong stand and S. 178 is a great start to doing this. I look for strong support in the House. I look for it to be signed into law and that we send a strong signal from America, being the leaders in the free world, to the rest of the world to follow suit and send a strong signal back to China that this is not going to be tolerated. We will not put up with this.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the sponsors of this bill for doing what they are doing, because this is a message for the people around the world who don't know what is going on. It is this body that is kind of leading the charge on this, and I am proud to be associated with it, so thank you all.

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI).

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SIRE for yielding me this time.

I rise in strong support of the bipartisan Senate bill 178, which holds the Chinese Government accountable for their truly horrific treatment—let me say that again—truly horrific treatment of the Uighur Muslim minorities, including the mass internment of over 1 million people who are subjected to systemized brainwashing, sexual abuse, and forced labor in western China.

I want to start by thanking Chairman ENGEL and Subcommittee Chairman SHERMAN for bringing attention to this issue and supporting this legislation to penalize China for its egregious human rights violations against the Uighurs. I am proud to have worked with Representative CHRIS SMITH from New Jersey and Senator MARCO RUBIO from Florida to help write part of this truly bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Uighur families are prohibited from practicing their Muslim faith. They are often separated from their family members and prohibited from reading the Koran, making their daily prayers, and in some instances are forced to eat pork even during Ramadan, which, of course, violates their religion.

The so-called reeducation camps in China where Uighurs are forced to work in food, textile, or manufacturing



jobs in or near the mass internment camps are, of course, repugnant to our values and violate human rights.

The brutal religious-based persecution of the Uighurs in China is alarming, but it is not new. China has continued to repress anyone who does not conform to their system, including Tibetans, Christians, and, of course, the people of Hong Kong, as we have seen in recent events.

Since President Nixon went to China in 1971, most Americans have believed that with increased economic integration and exposure to our system of democracy in the west, the Chinese Government would some day adopt some of our fundamental values. This clearly has not happened.

Not only does the Chinese Government reject any real steps towards democracy, continue its unfair trade practices, and cheat by stealing our intellectual property, but it also continually violates human rights.

The United States must hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable for its repression of the Uighurs and active disregard for international law.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this important and, again, truly bipartisan legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, beyond what has been done to date, Chinese companies profiting from forced labor in Xinjiang must be prohibited from exporting goods to the United States and to other countries. The administration has, to its credit, blocked one Chinese company for forced labor manufacturing, but there are many other companies, particularly in the manufacturing of cotton and garments, that are profiting off the slavery of detained Uighurs. Many more companies need to be barred from entry into the U.S. market.

In addition to the crimes against humanity that Xi Jinping has imposed upon the people of Xinjiang, the United States also needs to address the high-tech authoritarianism of the future being auditioned in Xinjiang.

Beijing is using Xinjiang as a proving ground for an all-knowing police and surveillance state. The technology used to construct China's high-tech police state is being exported around the world to some countries in Africa, central Asia, and beyond. Every petty dictator and aspiring totalitarian can use this technology to crush democratic aspirations, human rights, religious freedom, and the rule of law.

Let me also say a word or two about Uighur Americans, like the great Rebiya Kadeer, who I have been friends with since 2006—I have had her at hearings. She is an unbelievable leader. Her entire family and extended family, dozens of people, have been rounded up and have been put into prison. Nury Turkel, Rushan Abbas, and Gulchehra

Hoja have had their families, as well, threatened and detained because they dared to speak up here in the United States.

So many Uighur Americans have experienced the agony of family detentions and disappearances, again, a cruelty laid at the feet of Xi Jinping. He not only goes after the individual, he goes after the whole family. And again, the women in prisons in China are sexually abused and tortured. The men are abused, as well.

For those watching us today, the message you hear should be clear. The United States wants to hold the Chinese Government and the Chinese companies accountable for crimes against humanity and the cruelty they inflict on your families and your loved ones. We will not be silent. Justice is coming. We are demanding accountability.

I also want to take a moment to thank the reporters of Radio Free Asia's Uyghur Service. Their families have been rounded up and put into prison, into concentration camps by Xi Jinping's dictatorship. This is beyond horrific, and we need to respond accordingly.

I also want to thank and note the contribution of Dr. Scott Flipse to the legislation before us today, and also the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act and, frankly, to the Hong Kong Democracy and Human Rights Act that was signed into law just a few days ago.

I also want to thank former CECC staff directors Paul Protic and Elyse Anderson and current staff members Jon Stivers, Peter Mattis, Megan Fluker, and Amy Reger for helping this Congress shine a bright light on the atrocities.

And, of course, our full and subcommittee staffers, as well, have done yeoman's work on this terrible issue.

We are united today. We need to be united with all Americans in saying, never again.

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

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

It has been more than 3 years since the Chinese authorities have accelerated and expanded their repressive campaign in Xinjiang. The global response to these abuses, up until now, has been insignificant, partly due to the successful campaign by Beijing to coerce silence from those who speak out.

Where there has been talk, there has sadly been little action. Today, we have an opportunity to turn the tide by sending a strong message of support to the Uighur people and accountability for those Chinese officials who have violated their own people's rights and religious freedom for years with impunity.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in sending a strong message to both the perpetrators and the victims alike with an overwhelming vote in support for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, before I yield, I would like to point out that there are three

Members of the New Jersey delegation here. Two of them are refugees from communism.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud the House of Representatives is considering S. 178, the "Uighur Intervention and Global Humanitarian Unified Response Act" or the "UIGHUR Act."

In the last year, Chinese authorities have expanded their network of mass internment camps, where it is now estimated that 1.8 million or more Uighurs and other Turkic Muslims have been involuntarily detained in approximately 1,400 extrajudicial internment facilities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR).

Detainees are subjected to torture, extended solitary confinement, and political indoctrination. Many scholars and human rights groups argue that these practices may amount to "crimes against humanity."

Over the last month, leaks of highly classified Chinese government documents uncovered operations manuals for the mass internment camps and exposed details about the mass detention and surveillance systems in Xinjiang. Among the findings in the Chinese government's own documents:

Reeducation centers are designed to "wash clean the brains" of those interned in them;

Those who show signs of resistance are subjected to "assault-style re-education" efforts;

Children of detainees are reportedly often placed in orphanages, welfare centers, and boarding schools;

Special security measures are mandated to ensure detainees cannot "escape," thereby refuting Chinese government assertions that detainees are there voluntarily; and

The establishment and expansion of the mass internment camps are part of a systematic policy directed by General Secretary Xi Jinping and carried out by XUAR Communist Party Secretary Chen Quanguo as well as other senior officials at the central and local levels.

Further, we also have become more aware of the widespread use of a government-subsidized and large-scale system of forced labor in both mass internment camps and in factories throughout the Xinjiang region.

Satellite imagery, personal testimonies, and official documents indicate that detainees in camps, and some who have been released, are forced to work in food production, textile, and other manufacturing jobs. Products reportedly produced with forced labor include:

Textiles, such as yarn, clothing, gloves, bedding, and carpet; Electronics, including cell phones and computers; Food products, shoes, tea, and handicrafts.

Current U.S. law prohibits the import of any product made with forced labor. Any U.S. or international company that produces or has a supply chain in Xinjiang may be complicit with forced labor and human rights violations. Customs and Border Protection rightly stopped the import of some goods from Xinjiang, but much more needs to be done to ensure that Americans are not purchasing products made with forced labor.

The UIGHUR Act is an essential update and strengthening of U.S. policy in response to gross human rights abuses in Xinjiang. The bill calls on the President to submit a list to

Brooks (AL)  
Buck  
Budd  
Burgess  
Carter (GA)

Collins (GA)	Harris	Mullin	Banks	Evans	Lee (NV)	Roybal-Allard	Spanberger	Veasey
Comer	Hern, Kevin	Murphy (NC)	Barr	Ferguson	Lesko	Ruiz	Spano	Vela
Conaway	Hice (GA)	Norman	Barragán	Pinkenauer	Levin (CA)	Ruppersberger	Speler	Velázquez
Crawford	Higgins (LA)	Palazzo	Bass	Fitzpatrick	Levin (MI)	Rush	Stanton	Visclosky
Davidson (OH)	Hudson	Palmer	Beatty	Fleischmann	Lewis	Rutherford	Staubert	Wagner
DesJarlais	Jordan	Pence	Bera	Fletcher	Lieu, Ted	Ryan	Stefanik	Walberg
Duncan	Joyce (PA)	Perry	Bergman	Fortenberry	Lipinski	Sánchez	Steil	Walden
Dunn	Kelly (MS)	Posey	Beyer	Foster	Loebach	Sarbanes	Steube	Walker
Ferguson	King (IA)	Rose, John W.	Bilirakis	Foxx (NC)	Lofgren	Scalise	Stevens	Walorski
Fleischmann	LaMalfa	Scott, Austin	Bishop (GA)	Frankel	Long	Scanlon	Stewart	Waltz
Fortenberry	Lesko	Smith (MO)	Bishop (NC)	Fudge	Loudermilk	Schakowsky	Stivers	Wasserman
Gaetz	Long	Steube	Bishop (UT)	Fulcher	Lowenthal	Schiff	Suozzi	Schultz
Gianforte	Loudermilk	Stewart	Blumenauer	Gaetz	Lowey	Schneider	Swalwell (CA)	Waters
Gibbs	Massie	Timmons	Blunt Rochester	Gallagher	Lucas	Schrader	Takano	Watkins
Gooden	Mast	Weber (TX)	Bonamici	Gallo	Luetkemeyer	Schrier	Taylor	Watson Coleman
Gosar	Meadows	Woodall	Bost	Garamendi	Luján	Schweikert	Thompson (CA)	Weber (TX)
Graves (GA)	Meuser	Yoho	Boyle, Brendan F.	Garcia (IL)	Luria	Scott (VA)	Thompson (MS)	Webster (FL)
Grothman	Miller	Zeldin	Garcia (TX)	Garcia (TX)	Lynch	Scott, Austin	Thompson (PA)	Welch
Guest	Mitchell		Gianforte	Gianforte	Malinowski	Scott, David	Thornberry	Wenstrup
			Gibbs	Gibbs	Maloney	Sensenbrenner	Timmons	Westerman
			Gohmert	Gohmert	Maloney, Sean	Sewell (AL)	Tipton	Wexton
			Golden	Golden	Marchant	Shalala	Titus	Wild
			Gomez	Gomez	Mast	Sherman	Tlaib	Williams
			Gonzalez (OH)	Gonzalez (OH)	Matsui	Sherrill	Tonko	Wilson (FL)
			Gonzalez (TX)	Gonzalez (TX)	McAdams	Shimkus	Torres (CA)	Wilson (SC)
			Gooden	Gooden	McBath	Simpson	Torres Small	Wittman
			Gosar	Gosar	McCarthy	Sires	(NM)	Woodall
			Gottheimer	Gottheimer	McCauley	Slotkin	Trahan	Wright
			Granger	Granger	McClintock	Smith (MO)	Trone	Yoho
			Graves (GA)	Graves (GA)	McCollum	Smith (NE)	Turner	Young
			Graves (LA)	Graves (LA)	McEachin	Smith (NJ)	Underwood	Zeldin
			Graves (MO)	Graves (MO)	Smucker	Smith (WA)	Upton	
			Green (TN)	Green (TN)	Soto	Van Drew	Vargas	
			Green, Al (TX)	Green, Al (TX)				
			Grothman	Grothman				
			Guest	Guest				
			Guthrie	Guthrie				
			Haaland	Haaland				
			Hagedorn	Hagedorn				
			Harder (CA)	Harder (CA)				
			Harris	Harris				
			Hartzer	Hartzer				
			Hastings	Hastings				
			Hayes	Hayes				
			Heck	Heck				
			Hern, Kevin	Hern, Kevin				
			Herrera Beutler	Herrera Beutler				
			Hice (GA)	Hice (GA)				
			Higgins (LA)	Higgins (LA)				
			Higgins (NY)	Higgins (NY)				
			Hill (AR)	Hill (AR)				
			Himes	Himes				
			Hollingsworth	Hollingsworth				
			Horn, Kendra S.	Horn, Kendra S.				
			Horsford	Horsford				
			Houlihan	Houlihan				
			Hoyer	Hoyer				
			Hudson	Hudson				
			Huffman	Huffman				
			Huizenga	Huizenga				
			Hurd (TX)	Hurd (TX)				
			Jackson Lee	Jackson Lee				
			Jayapal	Jayapal				
			Jeffries	Jeffries				
			Johnson (GA)	Johnson (GA)				
			Johnson (LA)	Johnson (LA)				
			Johnson (OH)	Johnson (OH)				
			Johnson (SD)	Johnson (SD)				
			Johnson (TX)	Johnson (TX)				
			Jordan	Jordan				
			Joyce (OH)	Joyce (OH)				
			Joyce (PA)	Joyce (PA)				
			Kaptur	Kaptur				
			Katko	Katko				
			Keller	Keller				
			Kelly (MS)	Kelly (MS)				
			Kelly (PA)	Kelly (PA)				
			Khanna	Khanna				
			Kildee	Kildee				
			Kilmer	Kilmer				
			Kim	Kim				
			Kind	Kind				
			King (IA)	King (IA)				
			King (NY)	King (NY)				
			Kinziger	Kinziger				
			Kirkpatrick	Kirkpatrick				
			Krishnamoorthi	Krishnamoorthi				
			Kuster (NH)	Kuster (NH)				
			Kustoff (TN)	Kustoff (TN)				
			LaHood	LaHood				
			LaMalfa	LaMalfa				
			Lamborn	Lamborn				
			Langevin	Langevin				
			Larsen (WA)	Larsen (WA)				
			Larson (CT)	Larson (CT)				
			Latta	Latta				
			Lawrence	Lawrence				
			Lawson (FL)	Lawson (FL)				
			Lee (CA)	Lee (CA)				

## NOT VOTING—20

Buchanan	Holding	McGovern
Byrne	Hunter	Moore
Carter (TX)	Keating	Moulton
Cunningham	Kennedy	Rooney (FL)
Flores	Lamb	Serrano
Gabbard	Lamborn	Yarmuth
Griffith	Marshall	

□ 1900

Messrs. COLLINS of Georgia, AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, MEADOWS, DUNN, BROOKS of Alabama, GROTHMAN, MITCHELL, CARTER of Georgia, SMITH of Missouri, FLEISCHMANN, BISHOP of North Carolina, GOODEN, PERRY, ALLEN, BISHOP of Utah, MEUSER, TIMMONS, LONG, ADERHOLT, PALMER, and BILIRAKIS changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mrs. DEMINGS, Messrs. BALDERSON and JOHNSON of Louisiana changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### UYGHUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 178) to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China, 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 Jersey (Mr. SRES) 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 407, nays 1, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 644]

YEAS—407

Abraham	Allred	Axne
Adams	Amash	Babin
Aderholt	Amodei	Bacon
Aguilar	Armstrong	Baird
Allen	Arrington	Balderson

Brindisi	Gibbs	Maloney,
Brooks (AL)	Gohmert	Carolyn B.
Brooks (IN)	Golden	Maloney, Sean
Brown (MD)	Gomez	Marchant
Brownley (CA)	Gonzalez (OH)	Mast
Buck	Gonzalez (TX)	Matsui
Bucshon	Gooden	McAdams
Budd	Gosar	McBath
Burchett	Gottheimer	McCarthy
Burgess	Granger	McCaul
Bustos	Graves (GA)	McClintock
Butterfield	Graves (LA)	McCollum
Calvert	Graves (MO)	McEachin
Carbajal	Green (TN)	McHenry
Cárdenas	Green, Al (TX)	McKinley
Carson (IN)	Grothman	McNerney
Carter (GA)	Guest	Meadows
Cartwright	Guthrie	Meeks
Case	Haaland	Meng
Casten (IL)	Hagedorn	Meuser
Castor (FL)	Harder (CA)	Miller
Castro (TX)	Harris	Mitchell
Chabot	Hartzler	Moolenaar
Cheney	Hastings	Mooney (WV)
Chu, Judy	Hayes	Morelle
Cicilline	Heck	Mucarsel-Powell
Cisneros	Hern, Kevin	Mullin
Clark (MA)	Herrera Beutler	Murphy (FL)
Clarke (NY)	Hice (CA)	Murphy (NC)
Clay	Higgins (LA)	Nadler
Cleaver	Higgins (NY)	Napolitano
Cline	Hill (AR)	Neal
Cloud	Himes	Neguse
Clyburn	Hollingsworth	Newhouse
Cohen	Horn, Kendra S.	Norcross
Cole	Horsford	Norman
Collins (GA)	Houlahan	Nunes
Comer	Hoyer	O'Halleran
Conaway	Hudson	Ocasio-Cortez
Connolly	Huffman	Olson
Cook	Huizenga	Omar
Cooper	Hurd (TX)	Palazzo
Correa	Jackson Lee	Pallone
Costa	Jayapal	Palmer
Courtney	Jeffries	Panetta
Cox (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Pappas
Craig	Johnson (LA)	Pascarell
Crawford	Johnson (OH)	Payne
Crenshaw	Johnson (SD)	Pelosi
Crist	Johnson (TX)	Pence
Crow	Jordan	Perlmutter
Cuellar	Joyce (OH)	Perry
Davids (KS)	Joyce (PA)	Peters
Davidson (OH)	Kaptur	Peterson
Davis (CA)	Katko	Phillips
Davis, Danny K.	Keller	Pingree
Davis, Rodney	Kelly (MS)	Pocan
Dean	Kelly (PA)	Porter
DeFazio	Khanna	Posey
DeGette	Kildee	Pressley
DeLauro	Kilmer	Price (NC)
DelBene	Kim	Quigley
Delgado	Kind	Raskin
Demings	King (IA)	Ratcliffe
DeSaulnier	King (NY)	Reed
DesJarlais	Kinzinger	Reschenthaler
Deutch	Kirkpatrick	Rice (NY)
Diaz-Balart	Krishnamoorthi	Rice (SC)
Dingell	Kuster (NH)	Richmond
Doggett	Kustoff (TN)	Riggleman
Doyle, Michael F.	LaHood	Roby
Duncan	LaMalfa	Rodgers (WA)
Dunn	Lamborn	Roe, David P.
Emmer	Langevin	Rogers (AL)
Engel	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (KY)
Escobar	Larson (CT)	Rose (NY)
Eshoo	Latta	Rose, John W.
Espallat	Lawrence	Rouda
Estes	Lawson (FL)	Rouzer
	Lee (CA)	Roy

## NAYS—1

Massie  
NOT VOTING—23

Biggs	Griffith	Marshall
Buchanan	Grijalva	McGovern
Byrne	Holding	Moore
Carter (TX)	Hunter	Moulton
Cunningham	Keating	Rooney (FL)
Curtis	Kelly (IL)	Serrano
Flores	Kennedy	Yarmuth
Gabbard	Lamb	

## 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.

□ 1911

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.

### EXEMPTING CERTAIN INTERESTS IN MUTUAL FUNDS, UNIT INVESTMENT TRUSTS, EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS, AND RETIREMENT PLANS FROM CONFLICT OF INTEREST LIMITATIONS

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5277) to amend section 442 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt certain interests in mutual funds, unit investment trusts, employee benefit plans, and retirement plans from conflict of interest limitations for the Government Publishing Office, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas). Is there objection to

the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5277

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

**SECTION 1. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 442 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

**“§ 442. Government Publishing Office**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the terms ‘diversified’, ‘employee benefit plan’, ‘holdings’, ‘mutual fund’, and ‘unit investment trust’ have the meanings given those terms under section 2640.102 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto; and

“(2) the term ‘printing-related interest’ means an interest, direct or indirect, in—

“(A) the publication of any newspaper or periodical;

“(B) any printing, binding, engraving, or lithographing of any kind; or

“(C) any contract for furnishing paper or other material connected with the public printing, binding, lithographing, or engraving.

“(b) OFFENSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Director of the Government Publishing Office, Deputy Director of the Government Publishing Office, nor any of their assistants as determined by the Director of the Government Publishing Office shall not, during his or her continuance in office, have any printing-related interest.

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR MUTUAL FUNDS, UNIT INVESTMENT TRUSTS, EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS, AND RETIREMENT PLANS.—It shall not be a violation of paragraph (1) for an individual who is described in such paragraph to have an interest in a diversified mutual fund, diversified unit investment trust, employee benefit plan, investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan under subchapter III of chapter 84 of title 5, or pension plan established or maintained by a State government or any political subdivision of a State government for its employees that has 1 or more holdings that are printing-related interests if the fund, trust, or plan does not exhibit a practice of concentrating in printing-related interests.

“(3) AUTHORITY OF SUPERVISING ETHICS OFFICE.—The supervising ethics office for the Government Publishing Office under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App) shall have the authority to issue rules and promulgate regulations governing the implementation of this subsection.

“(c) PENALTY.—Whoever violates subsection (b)(1) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 23 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 442 and inserting the following:

“442. Government Publishing Office.”.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1915

**HONORING THE VANGUARD  
THEATER COMPANY**

(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 a small group of artists with big dreams, the Vanguard Theater Company.

The company began in Maplewood, New Jersey, 4 years ago with one goal: It wanted to increase diversity in theater acting, directing, and training. The company is based on a dream of diversity, reciprocity, education, awareness, and mentorship, with a strong emphasis on mentorship.

Vanguard has run several programs and camps to connect young artists with skilled performers. Recently, it received a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. The grant will fund acting lessons for 40 students. Then these new actors will put on shows for hospital patients, senior citizens, and children across the area.

I am proud of the Vanguard for encouraging youth of color to pursue their dreams in theater, and I wish them all the best.

**MEDICARE ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS  
PATIENT-CENTERED  
CARE**

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5262, the Medicare Orthotics and Prosthetics Patient-Centered Care Act, a bill I am happy to cosponsor with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON of California.

After being seriously injured, the last thing any individual should be worried about is further hardships like financial stress or fraud. I have seen these challenges firsthand, having served many years as a therapist and a licensed nursing home administrator.

I am proud to cosponsor this bipartisan bill to help mitigate these burdens in the O&P sector and ensure these individuals have access to quality, affordable orthotics and prosthetics.

The Orthotics and Prosthetics Patient-Centered Care Act aims to:

Ensure truly off-the-shelf orthotics are eligible for competitive bidding;

Prohibit the practice of drop shipping prostheses and custom orthoses to Medicare beneficiaries;

Create requirements that better distinguish orthotists and prosthetists from suppliers; and

Standardize the definition of orthotics and prosthetics.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5262 to ensure quality orthotic and prosthetic care for Medicare patients and better protect these individuals from fraud.

**LOWER DRUG COSTS NOW**

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3, the Lower Drug Costs Now Act.

Too many hardworking families and seniors in Illinois can't afford the rising costs of prescription drugs. We must rein in these outrageous prices. That is why I am proud to cosponsor this bill.

When I walk the supermarket aisles and I talk with folks back home, who also write me notes and send them to my office, the stories about the high cost of drugs are absolutely shocking. Let me share a couple of them with you.

In Stronghurst, one woman's medication spiked from \$23 to \$98, more than a 300 percent increase, for no apparent reason.

In Andalusia, another person's insulin jumped from \$365 to \$538 every single month, more than \$2,100 increase over the year.

And several counties away, in Pekin, Illinois, a senior saw his insulin skyrocket from \$333 to \$830 per month, a 250 percent increase—again, no explanation.

We must do more to make prescription drug prices more affordable and lift this unfair burden on families. This bill would do just that. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

**RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
BLOUNT COUNTY SHERIFF  
JAMES BERRONG**

(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 to recognize our Blount County Sheriff, James Berrong, who is celebrating his 30th year in office.

Since 1989, Sheriff Berrong and his deputies have served the community by maintaining safe neighborhoods, providing outstanding emergency service, and busting lawbreakers.

Sheriff Berrong successfully advocated better pay for his deputies and has prioritized hiring and retaining an excellent deputy force. Under his leadership, Blount County continues to be a safe place to live and raise a family.

Sheriff Berrong and his deputies remain focused on guaranteeing safety at religious institutions and schools, increasing the Sheriff's Office's presence when necessary.

Additionally, he ensures that sex offenders and human traffickers are held accountable. Sheriff Berrong has effectively led the crackdown on these dirtbags, and the Blount County Sheriff's Office has gained a reputation as one of the best law enforcement agencies, if not in the State of Tennessee, in the entire United States of America, for dealing with sex-related crimes.

It is my honor to recognize Sheriff Berrong for his outstanding career as Blount County Sheriff. I know I speak for many in east Tennessee when I

thank him for his continued service to our community.

#### SUPPORTING HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to celebrate and recognize the importance of educational opportunities at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, creating opportunities for thousands of young men and women, many of them first-time college attendees. I am delighted to have Texas Southern University in my congressional district and, as well, to have Prairie View A&M in the near area.

I was very instrumental in getting Hurricane Harvey relief dollars and financial aid relief for students at the campus of Texas Southern University in the amount of \$13 million and to be able to help digitize the projects for former U.S. Members of Congress Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland.

As well, I remember working with Prairie View A&M when they helped establish a very grand criminal justice center that is educating many young people.

But I am really here to support the FUTURE Act, Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education, supported by the House and passed out of the House on September 17, 2019.

Unfortunately, this bill is held up in the Senate. This House bill is much better. We support the House bill and would ask the Senator from Tennessee to do what he should do, which I believe he has done: to make sure that bill goes out, and goes out as the House bill.

This is a bill to focus on STEM and to create opportunities for our young people. I support HBCUs and opportunities for those young people.

#### CONGRATULATING ROBERT C. ZIMMERMAN, JR., 2019 ROTARY CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR, SUNBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert C. Zimmerman, Jr., on being named the 2019 Person of the Year by the Rotary Club of Sunbury, Pennsylvania. This recognition is well-deserved for someone who has exemplified the attributes of public servant leadership in our community for over 50 years.

Bob began his service to our community by serving our country in the United States Marine Corps, then later in the U.S. Army Reserve. His service also includes active work in community organizations like the United

Way, the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Sunbury Area Community Foundation.

For the last 43 years, Robert has been working in his family business, Zimmerman Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, RAM, where he continued Zimmerman's long tradition of treating customers like family.

On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, I again congratulate Robert C. Zimmerman, Jr., on being named Person of the Year by the Rotary Club of Sunbury, Pennsylvania.

#### CONGRESSIONAL UKRAINE CAUCUS MEETINGS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, bipartisan support for the U.S.-Ukraine longstanding strategic partnership remains resolute.

Ukraine is the nation on the scrimmage line for liberty in Europe. And as I speak, Ukraine's armed services are protecting Europe's eastern flank from Russian aggression. Its people have made their commitment to democracy clear in its most recent elections, and over 14,000 Ukrainians have now died fighting Russia's illegal invasion.

Tomorrow, the Congressional Ukraine Caucus will join the Atlantic Council in hosting a half-day bipartisan, bicameral conference, entitled, "U.S. Strategic Interests in Ukraine." It will be held tomorrow at 11:30 in the Visitor Center Meeting Room North. I encourage my colleagues to come and spend a few minutes with us.

I am also pleased to host a roundtable with extraordinarily brave, award-winning Ukrainian journalist Myroslava Gongadze tomorrow at 10 o'clock in the morning in Rayburn 2362B.

Following the brutal murder of her husband, Myroslava tirelessly pursued justice on his behalf in the European Court of Human Rights and now serves as the Voice of America's chief for Ukrainian service.

Madam Speaker, I kindly invite all my colleagues to attend these important sessions.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF GERALD BRENCE

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Gerald Brence, the athletic director for the Plano Independent School District, for 39 years of dedicated service to the students and athletes in Plano, Texas.

Before earning the title of athletic director in 2007, Gerald Brence served as the head coach of the Plano Senior High School football team from 1992 to 2007. During his tenure, the Plano Sen-

ior Wildcats secured a State championship title in 1994 and made five trips to the State quarterfinals. One of the most winning coaches in Plano Senior High's history, Coach Brence has earned the respect and admiration of those around him.

Under his steadfast leadership as athletic director, Plano ISD earned State championships in seven different sports, including golf, tennis, baseball, boys basketball, boys soccer, girls soccer, and girls basketball.

Our community is proud of Director Brence's leadership within Plano ISD, and we are grateful for the countless lives he has inspired throughout his career. Now, upon his retirement, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Director Gerald Brence for his dedication to Plano ISD.

#### SUPPORT UKRAINE AND COUNTER THE RUSSIAN BEAR

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, earlier tonight, the Democrat leadership of this House put to the floor a resolution, H. Res. 546, to state that Russia should not be allowed to officially rejoin the G7. That resolution calls out the President's desire to reengage with Russia in the G7 in an attempt to put Republican Members in the House in a false debate between supporting the President and supporting Ukraine's sovereignty.

Madam Speaker, there is no debate, at least not in the Republican Conference. As we all have voted before:

Russia must restore Ukraine's borders;

The United States must continue to provide military aid to Ukraine to withstand Russian aggression;

The United States must continue to assist our European allies in resisting Russian influence; and

The United States must continue to sanction the irresponsible regime of Vladimir Putin.

In all these policies, President Trump has actually gone further than President Obama: sanctions have increased; military aid has been elevated to include lethal weapons.

I strongly support the President's policies to continue to support Ukraine and counter the Russian bear.

Madam Speaker, NATO—where the President is over, today, working in London and remarked that NATO has become stronger—did not become a strong alliance by having the House of Representatives constantly undercut the Commander in Chief.

□ 1930

#### RECOGNIZING HOLLY VEGA

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Holly Vega, a resident of my district, who was recently named the 2019 Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year.

Military spouses are unsung heroes that are responsible for securing the homestead and supporting our servicemembers. And for Holly's husband, Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Javier Vega, she is a gift to their family and to their community.

Holly has been recognized for her generosity, her passion, and her heart for philanthropy, and for empowering other military spouses through community service opportunities and volunteerism. Her own selfless service has extended to the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Military Hearts Matter, and the Girl Scouts.

I am so grateful for the thousands of spouses like Holly whose sacrifices and stresses are sometimes overshadowed, but whose contributions to our national defense and our communities are priceless.

I thank you, Holly, for your passion and your drive to give to those in need. You indeed are a gift to many, and I salute you.

#### IN SUPPORT OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to be here this evening to address a very important topic. I rise to advocate, along with my colleagues who have come, for the 300,000 students that attend our Nation's historically Black colleges and universities, known as HBCUs.

As Congress looks to agree on a funding agreement for fiscal year 2020, we must keep in mind our Nation's 102 HBCUs that specialize in providing opportunity for low-income, first-generation African American students.

When I entered Congress, one of my first tasks when I got here was to launch the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus to bring greater attention to the issues that affect HBCUs and their students. I did so because more than anything I know the importance of HBCUs, not only in the African American community, but for our economy as a whole.

For more than 150 years, HBCUs have paved a way where there is no way for America's most talented Black minds. Despite discrimination and neglect, HBCUs have continued to pull above their weight. We know the facts and the figures, but it never hurts to repeat them.

HBCUs produce 27 percent of all African American STEM graduates; 40 percent of all African American engineers; 50 percent of all African American law-

yers; 50 percent of all African American public school teachers; and 80 percent of all African American judges; despite only educating 10 percent of all African American college students.

In my home State of North Carolina, we have 10 HBCUs currently operating and educating over 33,000 students: Bennett College; Elizabeth City State University; Fayetteville State University; Johnson C. Smith University—in my congressional district; Livingstone College; the North Carolina A&T State University, which is my alma mater and the largest public HBCU that produces African American engineers and the largest public HBCU in the Nation; along with North Carolina Central University; Saint Augustine's University; Shaw University; and last but not least, Winston-Salem State University.

They make a total of \$1.7 billion of economic impact in the State, supporting over 15,000 jobs and guaranteeing for their graduates \$20.7 billion in lifetime earnings.

They are more than a worthy investment for this body and for our State legislatures back home. And over the last 50 years, Congress has taken strides to correct for the historic lack of engagement and investment in these schools that contribute so much.

When enacted in 1965, the Higher Education Act represented the Federal Government's first recognition of the important mission that HBCUs serve. The HEA of 1965 first authorized Title III Institutional Aid, which is the key program that supports academic quality, institutional management, and financial stability at HBCUs.

Through multiple reauthorizations, Congress has sought to strengthen and to supplement this law by providing low-interest loans for schools to make infrastructure improvements. And, yes, by authorizing mandatory funding to help HBCUs prepare students for STEM careers, a mission that is sorely needed in a workforce that screams for diversity and inclusion.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, we will hear from this body's most tireless advocates for HBCUs and our students, many of whom are members of the HBCU Caucus, which now includes almost 100 Members of the House and Senate, and many of whom are alums of our Nation's HBCUs, and many of my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus, because we know firsthand what these schools mean to an aspiring student of color looking at education as a ticket to the middle class.

Madam Speaker, I stand tonight as a living testament to the necessity and to the importance of HBCUs. My mother, who raised me, was not an educated woman. She wasn't able to obtain a high school education and certainly not to attend an HBCU or any CU for that matter. But she understood how important education would be in my life.

My mom did domestic work. She cleaned other folks' houses for many years so I wouldn't have to do that.

But like those visionaries who founded these schools after surviving the horrors of slavery, my mother dreamed of a better future for me as her daughter. And when I could not fully recognize the potential in myself, it was an HBCU in North Carolina, North Carolina A&T State University, that saw something in me and made a committed investment towards my success.

A&T gave a poor, Black girl from the ghetto of Newark, New Jersey, an opportunity, because that school believed in opportunity and the fundamental importance of education that W.E.B. Du Bois spoke about. When he said, "Of all of the civil rights for which the world has struggled and fought for 500 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental."

That HBCU took me from where they found me and got me to where I needed to be. They shaped and molded me into what they knew I could become, just as all of our schools have for millions of Americans since the founding of the first HBCU, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania in 1836.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ADAMS. Madam 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 subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman ADAMS. Let me just commend her as our leader of the HBCU Caucus up here. She does a marvelous job, and it is a pleasure to work with her. And I know all the people of North Carolina are very proud of the leadership that she is providing.

Madam Speaker, this is a particular honor for me, because I stand here as a premier example of why our historically Black colleges and universities are so important.

When I graduated from high school, my mother and father had no money. I got a job washing dishes in a Daytona Beach hotel, and the people of Daytona Beach, Florida, got together and raised \$350, and they said, "Here, go to the college of your choice." And thank God there was a Florida A&M University. And you know what, Madam Speaker? Florida A&M was on the trimester system. And guess what it cost for one trimester? \$350.

God is wonderful. And God has blessed this Nation because we have a Florida A&M, a Tuskegee, a North Carolina A&T, a Fort Valley, a Tennessee State. All of these great institutions to get a way out of no way for folks just like me.

That is why this is important. I wouldn't be in Congress today if it weren't for Florida A&M University,



because that is why I wanted to tell how I got here. And I wouldn't have been able to meet my loving partner and wife, Alfredia, had it not been for Florida A&M University.

So what I am saying is: our historically Black universities have provided the foundation for the Black family structure. That is where you meet your wife. And I will tell you what, we took a survey one time, and those individuals that met their wives at college last a long time. And that is what is so important, in addition to the great education that we have.

And I just want to say, also while I am here, of the great achievement that we Members of the Congressional Black Caucus achieved, a historical event, \$80 million in scholarships for the 19 African American land-grant colleges and universities, a bipartisan historic effort. And you know what, Madam Speaker, it is in the farm bill now. Five years from now it will come back. And we have laid the foundation to make it a permanent appropriation. That is our goal. This floor is crowded with African Americans who have helped make this dream a reality.

I am very grateful for all that our colleges have done. And I just want to say thank God for our historically Black colleges and universities. And thank Ms. ADAMS.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank gentleman from Georgia.

And he is absolutely right, HBCUs take you where they find you and mold and shape you.

I had the privilege to serve on the faculty and to serve as an administrator at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina, for 40 years. So the thousands of students that I had an opportunity to impact certainly have made a lasting impact on me.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), our very capable whip.

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chair of the HBCU Caucus for yielding to me this evening.

Madam Speaker, we usually approach almost everything in this body by looking at the economic impact that it may have on the budget, on our economy, and sometimes on just a small community.

So let's take a look at the economic impact that HBCUs have on our Nation's economy: \$15 billion annually goes into the national economy as a result of the more than 100 HBCUs that exist in the country. These colleges provide pathways of opportunity for millions of Americans, many of whom are first-generation college students.

So investing in HBCUs is something that could be very important for our Nation. And that is why I am a little bit concerned tonight that the FUTURE Act, a piece of legislation that passed this House unanimously, is now sitting in the Senate. We made some attempt when we passed this current continuing resolution to attach that act to the continuing resolution, but

for some reason, the Senate, in its wisdom, has decided not to attach that deal to the continuing resolution.

□ 1945

This continuing resolution will expire on December 20. I have no idea what we will do after that to fund the budget. Will there be another continuing resolution? Will we do an omnibus? Will we do a series of minibuses?

Whatever the vehicle may be, I call upon the Senate tonight to attach the FUTURE Act to whatever the next vehicle may be because HBCU's funding of \$255 million under title III is wrapped into that act. If it is not enacted, we will see many of these colleges and universities lose their funding.

Irrespective of what the economic impact might be, I want to spend a few minutes talking about the personal, human impact of HBCUs.

Our illustrious chair of the task force, as mentioned, graduated from North Carolina A&T. She graduated two times, as a student and as a professor.

I often tell the story of someone most people in this country either knew or knew about, Ronald McNair.

Ron McNair was from the little town of Lake City, South Carolina, in my congressional district. I just happen to have a congressional district that contains seven HBCUs.

Ron and I were pretty good friends, and as he was about to go up in his final, fatal flight, he stopped by my office. We talked that day because he was talking with the people at the University of South Carolina, who were hopeful that when this flight was over, he would be joining their faculty. Well, we all know that it was a fatal flight.

Ron said something to me on that day that I talk about very often. He said to me: Every time I go someplace to speak or am in attendance, people always talk about my Ph.D. in physics from MIT, but that is not what made the difference in my life.

He said to me that when he left Lake City, South Carolina, and Carver High School, he went to North Carolina A&T. It was on that campus that those professors who had similar backgrounds and experiences that he had, who understood what it was to come from a little rural community, took the time to nurture him and to prepare him for his journey through life.

I told the story to the current president of South Carolina State University, from which I am a graduate. He said to me that he knew Ron McNair up at MIT, where he graduated. He said to me that of all the students on that campus, Ron McNair was better prepared for the journey at MIT than anybody else. That is because these HBCUs take the time not just to explore what may be in the textbooks, but they look at what may be in the life experiences of these students who come there.

I think about those students growing up on the Sea Islands of Florida, Geor-

gia, South Carolina, North Carolina, in what we call Gullah Geechee country, who come to colleges and universities not knowing a whole lot about what we call common English, but they know the Gullah Geechee language. They are very smart students who know what to do with calculus and math, and sometimes, they may have problems making a subject and verb agree because of their experiences. They go to these colleges and universities where the teachers, professors, and other students have a similar background.

I know so well because that day that Scott just mentioned, I met my spouse of 58 years on that campus. She was a Gullah woman, but she went on to get a master's degree in library science.

When she passed away a couple of months ago, no one in the State of South Carolina ever got the send-off that she got. Why? Because of the contributions she made.

Come January or February, I believe, whatever the date may be, they are naming the Honors College at South Carolina State University in her honor. Why? Because she demonstrated in her life pursuits that she was worthy of such recognition.

Through our family foundation, she left an endowment at her alma mater of \$1.7 million, that for a little Gullah woman who went to an HBCU that took her from where she was and made her what she could be.

That story is repeated time and time again all over this country.

Madam Speaker, I want to say to my friends in the other body, the FUTURE Act is all about the future of people whose experiences may be different from theirs but whose intelligence may even surpass theirs. Let's do what we can to make sure that this country continues to benefit from their life experiences. They are willing to give back if only given the opportunity.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for that not only inspiring but moving speech.

I would say, Madam Speaker, that I had the privilege of meeting Mr. CLYBURN's wife. Certainly, all of those tributes are really due to her. We are not only proud of the work that she did but of the life that she led.

Madam Speaker, I say to my colleagues who talked about getting married, I got married at North Carolina A&T to my first spouse. It didn't last all but 6 or so years, at least not that one. But you do have an opportunity to not only interact but to meet folks for a lifetime, and that is really, really important.

I want to mention as well that of all the universities, HBCUs are about 3 percent, yet we educate 10 percent of all students of African American descent. That means that we do a lot with a little. We don't get the kind of equitable funding that we have needed, but clearly, we have continued to press on. These are wonderful examples we have been hearing tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the chair of the Committee on Education and Labor, a gentleman who has worked hard to make education valuable and important also.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I thank the Congressional Black Caucus and Representative ADAMS in particular for dedicating this time to discuss an issue affecting so many communities across the country, and particularly Representative ADAMS for her leadership in congressional support for historically Black colleges and universities.

Since their conception, HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions have played a vital role in expanding access to higher education for low-income students and students of color.

Many present leaders, like physicians, dentists, lawyers, judges, and other professionals, and many elected officials, would not be where they are today but for the opportunity provided by HBCUs, especially the two in the Third District of Virginia, Hampton University and Norfolk State University.

That is why earlier this year, the House unanimously passed the FUTURE Act, a proposal to preserve funding for these institutions that expired on September 30. The FUTURE Act is fully paid for, and it would provide an immediate 2-year extension of funding, averting a financial crisis that could eventually result in lost jobs, program cuts, and reduced financial support for students.

A month later, the Committee on Education and Labor advanced the College Affordability Act, a comprehensive overhaul of the Higher Education Act that would increase access and affordability to higher education and specifically would increase and permanently reauthorize mandatory funding for historically Black colleges and other minority-serving institutions.

HBCUs and minority-serving institutions collectively serve more than one-quarter of all undergraduate students each year. That is more than 6 million students, including many from our Nation's most underserved communities.

It is important that we pass legislation extending the funding for these colleges and universities so that they can continue to fulfill their mission.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for not only his comments but for his labor and his support for these very fine institutions.

Madam Speaker, I do want to acknowledge the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, KAREN BASS, who had to leave. She left her comments and asked me to read them, so I am going to do that.

She begins by talking about the Special Order hour tonight and the support that we need to give to our historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions. Congress,

she says, must provide mandatory funding for these institutions.

Fighting for historically Black colleges and universities is one of the Congressional Black Caucus' highest priorities because HBCUs are critical contributors to the strength of the Black community and our country.

Many members of our caucus, the CBC, have attended great HBCUs, such as American Baptist College, Central State University, Clark Atlanta, Fisk University, Florida A&M, Howard University, Jackson State University, Morehouse College, North Carolina A&T, North Carolina Central, Prairie View A&M University, South Carolina State, Texas Southern University, Tougaloo College, Tuskegee University, Virginia State University, Virginia Union University, and Wiley College, among others.

In the 115th Congress, the CBC launched a tour of HBCUs called CBC on the Yard. The goal of the tour was to listen, to involve and mobilize students to effect change in their communities, and to get their thoughts on the direction of the country and the issues that impact their lives. The CBC hosted events at Morehouse College, Xavier University, Bowie State University, and Howard University.

According to the Thurgood Marshall Foundation, HBCUs account for 22 percent of the current bachelor's degrees granted to African Americans. Moreover, among African Americans, 13 percent of CEOs, 40 percent of engineers, 40 percent of healthcare professionals, 50 percent of teachers, 50 percent of non-HBCU professors, 50 percent of lawyers, 80 percent of judges, and 90 percent with bachelor's degrees in STEM subjects graduated from HBCUs.

The economic impact of HBCUs, as the gentlewoman says, is equally impressive. A report by UNCF called "HBCUs Make America Strong" said the positive economic impact of historically Black colleges and universities show that HBCUs generate \$14.8 billion in economic impact annually.

HBCUs are vital to the students who attend them and to the entire country, which makes use of the valuable skills that these graduates bring to the private and public sectors. Our Nation must continue to invest in HBCUs and minority-serving institutions.

□ 2000

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, let me, first of all, congratulate Ms. ADAMS on the tremendous leadership that she has been providing to those of us who are concerned about Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as well as education in general. I certainly thank the gentlewoman for being able to share this moment as we talk about the importance of these very viable, valuable institutions.

I represent a congressional district that has some of the most outstanding

educational institutions in the world, without a doubt. We don't have an HBCU in my district, but I was fortunate, as were so many members of my family, on my 16th birthday to enroll in Arkansas AM&N College with no money—as a matter of fact, on credit. I had \$20 when I got there in my shirt pocket.

We had a president at the time, Dr. Lawrence Arnette Davis, that all of us just simply called "Prexy," kind of saying that he was a father surrogate and a father figure for every one of us who hit that campus.

My parents were sharecroppers. We lived in rural Arkansas, a very important State because it is the only State in the Bible Noah looked over his ark and saw.

But we were able to have Arkansas AM&N College. Four of my sisters, myself, two of my brothers, three of my nephews, three of my nieces, and an assortment of first cousins all went to UAPB. Even today, in the community where I live, large numbers of students want to go there, and they do.

They go because there is something unique about these institutions. They have the capacity to provide individual attention, in many instances, where larger universities may not have the same. They have the understanding to know that they are individuals who come from environments where they may need a little extra attention and a little extra help, and they provide it.

These are inspirational settings where individuals go and learn their profession, develop their abilities, and know that, when they leave, they leave with the inspiration.

And so, again, commendations. So I end by just thinking of some of the words of our anthem. The person who wrote it said:

State college, we greet thee with love and devotion;  
Our hearts and our treasures we bring to thy shrine.  
With arms that are strong from all harm, we defend thee;  
Thy name shall we cherish, dear mother of mine.

We cherish our Historically Black Colleges and Universities and urge that they receive the funding that they need.

Madam Speaker, God bless Representative ADAMS for leading the charge.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. DAVIS very much for his eloquent presentation. As I think about many of the songs that we sing at our schools, they have a certain relevance, strength, and meaning for the students that we serve.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), who has been out on this battlefield for a very long time. I am so happy to share this hour with her and all of my colleagues.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I thank her for her tireless leadership on this issue and so

many issues, and also for forming the bipartisan caucus as it relates to our HBCUs; because this bipartisan caucus, once she got here, she hit the ground running, and it has never been the same. I am a proud member of the caucus, and I just want to thank her for her tremendous leadership.

Also, I thank our chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, for her leadership in helping to put together this Special Order tonight.

It is really an honor to be here tonight to support our Nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and, of course, I am in full support of the FUTURE Act.

Madam Speaker, Malcolm X once declared: "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."

For over 150 years, Historically Black Colleges have provided these passports for students. One of the largest populations of students at HBCUs come from my home State of California. In fact, it may be the largest number of students at HBCUs are from California, including my grandson, Jonah, whom you know.

Black students in California would never have the opportunity to go to college if it were not for HBCUs. So, for them and for their families, I am deeply grateful.

HBCUs have always offered African American young men and women a quality, affordable education at times when access to institutions of higher learning was limited or completely closed off to African Americans.

With over 101 HBCUs across the Nation and 9 percent of all African American college students attending HBCUs, they are more important than ever in providing students a superior education.

And, yes, it is the manifestation of the fact that Black lives do matter. They do matter.

Now, as a member of the funding committee, the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee, I know just how important HBCU funding is. That is why we fought each and every year to increase HBCU funding, this year by \$93 million above fiscal year '19 levels and the President's request.

Let me say, also, that I did not have the honor of attending an HBCU, but I come from a family with deep roots at HBCUs. My grandfather and two aunts graduated from then Huston-Tillotson College in Austin, Texas.

I just have to tell you, my 99-year-old aunt, Aunt Lois, whom I spent Thanksgiving with, spent her whole time talking to me about her education at her HBCU, at Huston-Tillotson College. She wants more young people to receive the stellar education that she received, and she is 99 years old. She is an unbelievable woman.

HBCUs provided her that educational foundation for her life. She did an amazing job working and setting up businesses. She attributes that to everything she learned at HBCUs.

Also, my mother attended Prairie View A&M University and also Southern University.

I have been the beneficiary of the values and the academic foundation provided to me through my family's attendance and involvement at these great institutions.

Two of my nieces, Michelle and Nicole, graduated from Prairie View. They are amazing young Black women making their mark in the world.

HBCUs have a rich history to look back on and a vibrant future ahead, so I am proud tonight to join my colleagues in supporting HBCUs.

I thank Congresswoman ADAMS for her commitment and her leadership to the education of our young African American students because she truly is securing the future, not only for our students and their families, but for our country and for the world.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for not only her contributions, but the contributions of her family.

I am a proud two-time graduate. My daughter is a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, as well, and my grandson decided he wanted to be a Bison, so he is at Howard this year as a freshman. I am just delighted that he has joined the HBCU family.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership on this subject. Since coming to Congress, she has been one of the foremost advocates for education, specifically HBCUs. Prior to her arriving, it has always been an issue that has been very important, but she has really raised awareness and highlighted and been consistent in her leadership in this area.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the FUTURE Act in minority-serving institutions. I thank Representative ADAMS once again for anchoring tonight's discussion of this very important subject.

Minority-serving colleges and universities—not to be mistaken as HBCUs—serve a critical role in our society. I, in New Jersey, do not have an HBCU, but we have many minority-serving institutions, and several in my district. These are students who find more support with teachers and professors who come from their culture.

Studies have shown that they get better grades in classes with teachers of the same culture and race. This starts even before the students enter college.

Minority students in the same race classes have fewer behavioral problems, regardless of income level or family structure. They are far more likely to end up doing well and coming along on the collegiate level at HBCUs. They are more likely to be held to a higher academic standard and pushed harder to excel in these schools. They perform better in reading, mathematics, and other core courses.

That is where MSIs become vital to their continued success. Low-income, low-performing students' upward mobility skyrockets on these campuses.

Take Bloomfield College, for example. And let me commend its new president, Marcheta P. Evans, for her vision for Bloomfield College.

Bloomfield is a minority-serving institution of almost 1,700 students located in my 10th District, in Bloomfield, New Jersey. Of these students, 70 percent are low-income or first-generation college students; 95 percent get financial aid; and 75 percent are eligible for Pell grants. They come from families and communities that do not have many advantages. One Bloomfield college student was even homeless and struggled for meals before entering college.

But the college steps in and addresses more than their academic needs. Instead, they come out of MSIs and become engineers. They become nurses, teachers, and professors. Bloomfield College even graduates simulation designers for video games and medical technicians.

Like most MSIs, Bloomfield takes low-income students and turns them into middle- to high-income graduates, and they do it at rates that far exceed other universities. In other words, they solve several social problems at once.

HBCUs are criticized in this country for their necessity, but the creation of HBCUs comes out of the inability for the larger population to accept minority students at colleges that were already in place.

□ 2015

So where do they have to go?

So it is disingenuous to criticize HBCUs for remedying a problem of equality that still exists in this Nation. They keep today's low-income students on a path to success. They help close the wealth gap between Whites and non-Whites, and they provide hope and a future to a segment of America that needs it so much.

So, in closing, Madam Speaker, we will continue to advocate for these institutions because, although I did not go to an HBCU, so many of my distinguished colleagues—the whip, Ms. ADAMS, and so many others—were educated at HBCUs. We see their talent and their brilliance every day on these floors of the House of Representatives.

So we need HBCUs to continue to strive and be strong and continue to do the service that they have done for this country for decades.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey—where I grew up—for not only his service there, but for his contributions tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LAWSON).

Mr. LAWSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak for HBCUs. I would like to thank my colleague, Ms. ADAMS, for all her input and how she has worked extremely hard to put HBCUs at the forefront.

I grew up in a rural area in the country where we were let out of high school early so that we could work in the tobacco fields in Gadsden County. I had no idea what college was really like until Florida A&M gave me the opportunity to attend college there.

For 132 years Florida A&M has been educating a large number of baccalaureate degree-holders in this country, as well as engineers, pharmacists, and you just name it, especially in the school of business where we had one of the greatest leaders in this country of all time to head up that school that really contributed to corporate America.

Without HBCUs, I know that I wouldn't be here. A boy walking barefooted in the countryside had the opportunity to represent HBCUs, not only in the State legislature but now in Congress. They have made a major impact on this country and on economics that many of my colleagues have talked about today.

When you think about it, where would this country be without that impact?

On September 30 of this year, the funding was not authorized. But that \$255 million that the House unanimously passed is now sitting in the Senate. It is imperative that we encourage our Senators to approve this because many of these schools would not be able to function without that funding. I happen to represent not only Florida A&M University but Edward Waters College where it is critically needed for these schools to survive.

Over the past 30 or 40 years, the issue also comes up, Madam Speaker, about where HBCUs are going. Many of today's HBCUs have taken minorities and international students from all over the country, more so than some of the majority institutions, and they have done well. In the area of STEM and technology, in science, we need more and more people in STEM around the country.

Where can they come from?

They come from HBCUs.

When you look at the number of Ph.D. candidates and the number one to get Ph.D.s in this country, where do they come from?

They come from HBCUs.

I am really proud of the fact that HBCUs, especially Florida A&M University, molded me into the leader that I am today. It made me appreciate hard work. I had the opportunity to have professors that really cared about me and a goal. So for some 30-some years I have been a part of this leadership.

I applaud Congresswoman ADAMS for all of her hard work and for bringing it to the forefront. We stand here tonight to send a message out there that we are a part of America. We are part of the American Dream, and we urge our colleagues to support it.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida.

Madam Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 10 minutes remaining.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON).

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I am honored to take part in this Special Order hour tonight in which we honor the Nation's HBCUs and highlight our support for the FUTURE Act.

My district, Pennsylvania's fifth, is home to the oldest HBCU in the United States, Cheyney University. Founded in 1837, Cheyney is also a charter member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Cheyney is a historical, cultural, and academic beacon in our community, where it has long provided academic and professional opportunities for students in Pennsylvania and beyond. The university boasts tens of thousands of loyal and accomplished alumni who share their diverse talents with the Nation.

Unfortunately, in recent years, Cheyney has faced financial instability, and 3 years ago nearly lost its accreditation. But last week there was good news. Based on strong leadership from Cheyney's new president, Aaron Walton, increased community and alumni engagement and strong enrollment numbers, Cheyney learned that its accreditation had been renewed.

Moving forward, Cheyney is increasing academic offerings and developing innovative public-private partnerships that will help students to graduate and be ready to compete in the 21st century.

I am extremely proud to represent Cheyney and to testify to the importance of HBCUs across the United States.

Lastly, I am also proud to be a new member of the Congressional HBCU Caucus led by my colleague, a fierce supporter of these institutions, Representative ALMA ADAMS.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania. I know Cheyney very well. The gentlewoman is right. It was the first university, and I want to congratulate Cheyney on that accomplishment.

When we talk about that, it should not be funding that separates our students in a way that they are not able to get the education that they need. We have had since 1873 18 HBCUs that have closed. All of us who have gotten together tonight and continue to work this area don't want to see another school close, especially because of money.

When you look back at those who have had difficulty, it hasn't been because the academics weren't in order. There are strong academic programs at these colleges and universities, and we want to continue that tradition. We want not only these schools to survive but to thrive. That is really important, and that is where we need to go.

Having said that, I want to read a couple of letters because they are very important. They are from two of my colleagues from the CBC.

The first is from EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON who has been very involved with HBCUs well before I got here, and I want to just thank her for her leadership as well.

She writes, Madam Speaker:

Historically Black colleges and universities, HBCUs, have played an important role in our Nation's history. These places of higher education have given opportunities to millions of young people to get a quality post-secondary education. Many of these students are the first in their family to attend college.

I am proud to say that one of these institutions, Paul Quinn College, is located within my district.

Currently, the top priority for HBCUs is to ensure that they have the resources needed to prepare students for a competitive, globalized workforce. The FUTURE Act, which passed in this Chamber some time ago, does exactly that. The bill reauthorizes critical funding for all minority-serving institutions for the next 2 years.

Sadly, like most of the legislation that has passed the House of Representatives this Congress, the Senate refuses to do their job and vote on this noncontroversial bipartisan bill.

The College Affordability Act, which was introduced in October, would go beyond what the FUTURE Act does and provide HBCUs more flexibility, so that they can strengthen their endowments, academic quality, and institutional management.

The College Affordability Act also provides States with incentives to lower the cost for students to obtain a quality college education by raising the maximum amount for Pell grants and simplifying the student loan repayment program.

These two bills are great examples of what we should strive for to guarantee the best outcome for students attending HBCUs and other MSIs.

Madam Speaker, we need to make sure our higher education system serves all the students that hope to receive a degree. Historically Black colleges and universities, along with other minority-serving institutions, play a vital role for African Americans and other minority students. We need to continue passing legislation that provides true educational opportunities for those who desire to learn and who are unable to afford it.

Madam Speaker, one of my colleagues from Ohio, Representative MARCIA FUDGE, who is a former CBC chair, states the following:

Madam Speaker, more than one-quarter of all undergraduate students in the United States attend historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions. These schools play a critical role in unlocking higher education opportunities for millions of degree seekers, including students of color and low-income students of which many are the first in their family to attend college.

To protect these essential institutions from the threat of closure and financial despair, we must continue to provide them with the resources they need to prepare students for the modern economy.

Title III, part F of the Higher Education Act authorizes important mandatory funding for historically Black colleges and universities, Tribal colleges and universities, and minority-serving institutions to educate and prepare students for professions in the sciences, technology, engineering, and math, or STEM, fields.

Unfortunately, these critical sources of funding expired on September 30, and this lapse jeopardizes the viability of these institutions, as well as the STEM readiness of the

students they serve. At a time when diverse representation is low in the STEM economy, Congress must immediately restore mandatory funding to prevent permanent and irreversible damage to STEM programs at these historical institutions that give students from underserved communities an opportunity to rise above their circumstances.

On September 17, 2019, the House passed the FUTURE Act, an extension of the \$255 million in essential mandatory funding for HBCUs and MSIs. Despite receiving unanimous support in the House, the bill has yet to be considered by the Senate, and it was not included in the continuing resolution that passed in November.

So as Congress considers spending bills for next year, we must restore this vital resource of funding that expands opportunities for underrepresented students. It is past time to uphold our promise to support these historic institutions and the students they serve.

Madam Speaker, I want to at this point close with these comments.

First of all, I thank all of my colleagues for their comments tonight, those who have stood up tonight for our Nation's 102 HBCUs, and MSIs.

□ 2030

We are at a critical crossroads tonight. We are in the midst of negotiating a government spending agreement that can confer over \$500 million to all HBCUs.

For too long, the schools have dedicated themselves to the futures of low-income, first-generation students of color, like me, who have been neglected by their government. Over the last 50 years, this body has made strides to correct that lack of investment and engagement, but none of those strides came easy. They were achieved in moments when many still questioned the purpose of having schools dedicated to that mission.

I have heard the question asked over and over: Why do we need HBCUs? I will say that my response is: What in the world—and I use another word—would we do without our HBCUs?

When we think about it, as has been stated by several of my colleagues, our schools were achieved in moments when many still questioned the purpose, when Federal and State investments in higher education are still consistently under attack.

Our HBCUs, in particular, still suffer from impacts of historical discrimination and underinvestment, low endowments, outdated infrastructure, a lack of opportunities for growth compared to their PWI counterparts.

The House of Representatives approved \$375 million for title III, part B, the Strengthening HBCUs program last summer, the first time this program was appropriated at the authorization limit. It approved \$40 million of loan authority for the HBCU Capital Financing Program. It also passed the FUTURE Act, which authorizes \$85 million of mandatory funding for HBCUs.

We illustrated our support for HBCUs, and now we need to guarantee that it is in the negotiations with the

Senate. We want to make sure, as I said before, that our schools not only survive but that they thrive. When we fight for these programs, we show our belief in the futures of low-income, first-generation students of color.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that I had a mother who stood up for me, in spite of the fact that we didn't have the funds. There was an HBCU in North Carolina that allowed me to come and made that investment in me. I was able to complete my bachelor's and master's degrees there at North Carolina A&T, and then, I was able to go on to receive my Ph.D. from The Ohio State University only because of the North Carolina A&T.

Madam Speaker, let's not give up the fight now. We are going to continue to do it. I thank all of my colleagues, again, for being here tonight.

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

SUPPORTING HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs) AND SUPPORT OF FOSTERING UNDERGRADUATE TALENT BY UNLOCKING RESOURCES FOR EDUCATION (FUTURE) ACT

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues to underscore the need for Congress to support continued funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). I was honored to support the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act when the House passed this legislation unanimously in September of this year. The FUTURE Act would provide \$255 million for Minority-Serving Institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs), and Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs). Unfortunately, despite the unanimous bipartisan support for this bill here in the House, my colleagues in the Senate have blocked this legislation from consideration. This is unacceptable. HBCUs, and all MSIs, deserve our continued support and should not be treated as a political football.

Since 1837, HBCUs have trained generations of African American students and scholars. The economic benefits of HBCUs extend beyond the students they educate. They're equally important to the local and regional economies served by these institutions. Today, there are nearly 300,000 future scientists, teachers, entrepreneurs and researchers preparing for their professional endeavors at more than 100 HBCUs throughout the country. HBCUs account for 17 percent of all bachelor's degrees earned by African Americans and 24 percent of the degrees earned by African Americans in the STEM fields. HBCUs have an inspiring past and a dynamic present in their unique role of raising up new academic leaders against the legacy of Jim Crow and decades of persistent and systemic racism. Annually, HBCUs support 134,000 jobs and provide \$14.8 billion in economic output.

The amazing work done at these schools has also been supported by investments through the Department of Defense, which has helped HBCUs contribute some of the most cutting-edge defense and national security re-

search in the country. To advance these efforts, I introduced an appropriations amendment in the House that would increase the funding level to HBCUs by \$4 million above current levels. My amendment, which passed the House on June 19, 2019, the 154th anniversary of Juneteenth, will increase the Department of Defense's investments in the physical sciences, mathematics and engineering programs at HBCUs and the national security benefits they provide.

As my House colleagues and I continue to urge the Senate to pass the FUTURE Act and my amendment to increase HBCU funding, I will continue to champion our nation's investments in HBCUs as a critical part of enriching our culture and economy. When HBCUs succeed, America succeeds.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) have played an important role in our nation's history. These places of higher education have given opportunities to millions of young people to get a quality postsecondary education. Many of these students are the first in their family to attend college. I am proud to say that one of these institutions, Paul Quinn College, is located within my district.

Currently, the top priority for HBCU's is to ensure they have the resources needed to prepare students for a competitive, globalized workforce. The FUTURE Act, which passed in this chamber some time ago, does exactly that. The bill reauthorizes critical funding for all Minority Serving Institutions (MSI's) for the next two years. Sadly, like most of the legislation that has passed the House of Representatives this Congress, the Senate refuses to do their job and vote on this noncontroversial bipartisan bill.

The College Affordability Act, which was introduced in October, would go beyond what the FUTURE Act does and provides HBCU's more flexibility so that they can strengthen their endowments, academic quality, and institutional management. The College Affordability Act also provides states with incentives to lower the cost for students to obtain a quality college education by raising the maximum amount for Pell Grants and simplifying the student loan repayment program. These two bills are great examples of what we should strive for to guarantee the best outcome for students attending HBCU's and other MSI's.

Madam Speaker, We need to make sure our higher education system serves all the students that hope to receive a degree. Historically Black Colleges and Universities along with other Minority Serving institutions play a vital role for African Americans and other minority students. We need to continue passing legislation that provides true educational opportunities for those who desire to learn and are unable to afford it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to celebrate and recognize the importance of educational opportunities that HBCU institutions create for thousands of young men and women from all walks of life.

I am a member of the Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus because it promotes and protects the interest of HBCUs by: creating a national dialogue, educating Members of Congress and their staffs about the issues impacting HBCUs, drafting meaningful bipartisan legislation to address the needs of HBCUs, and supporting students and graduates of HBCUs by increasing access and career opportunities.

One important solution must be access to affordable 7 quality education for every person in this nation.

I am proud to count Texas Southern University as a constituent, a great HBCU—located in my home city of Houston.

I routinely partner with Texas Southern University to promote education opportunities and collaborate on community projects routinely.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, I led the initiative to get financial aid relief for the students and campus of Texas Southern University in the amount of \$13 plus million dollars.

I continue to keep the university community informed about major issues impacting citizens of my city of Houston, Texas.

Issues like Health Care, Economic Development, Education, and Social Security are of great importance to TSU academic programs.

I initiated the digitization projects for former U.S. Members of Congress Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland who both have permanent archives at Texas Southern University.

I also assisted with the establishment of several scholarship Endowments at Texas Southern University.

I helped create a partnership with Comcast at TSU's School of Communication, which offers scholarships, internships and in-kind marketing.

I helped establish the Center for Transportation, Training and Research in TSU's College of Science, Engineering, and Technology.

On September 17, 2019, the House passed House H.R. 2486, the Fostering Undergraduate Talent Using Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act, which I cosponsored and supported.

Title III, Part F of the Higher Education Act (HEA) provides funding to HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs, and MSIs to improve their self-sufficiency and strengthen their ability to serve low-income students, particularly in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) professions.

These funds advance these institutions' academic quality and fiscal stability.

Unfortunately, funding for these institutions, as authorized by the HEA expired on September 30, 2019.

It is crucial that these funds do not lapse.

H.R. 2486, the FUTURE Act, ensures that this will not happen.

Under the FUTURE Act, HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs, and MSIs will continue to receive \$255 million for the next two years.

Without this funding, these institutions will suffer, particularly smaller institutions that will have to lay off staff and faculty and possibly face imminent danger of closure.

Additionally, H.R. 2486 is completely paid for by eliminating Account Maintenance Fees, a proposal supported by Democrats, Republicans and the White House.

It is time that the Senate takes up this important bill and pass it so that HBCUs can continue to do the important work of educating the next generation.

HBCUs are more than just places of higher learning that are part of the nation's economy by contributing 15 billion dollars to the national economy annually.

HBCUs provide pathways of opportunity for millions of Americans, many of whom are first generation college students.

This underscores the need for the government to engage with HBCUs and other MSIs,

and ensure these schools have the resources they need—after a legacy of discrimination and neglect.

The Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act reauthorizes crucial mandatory funding for HBCUs and all Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) for the next two fiscal years; \$255 million a year, in total.

Sustaining these funds is critical to supporting HBCUs and the students they serve.

The FUTURE Act is intended to prepare HBCU students for careers in STEM professions—at a time when diverse representation is low in the STEM economy.

Additionally, without this funding, small schools with small endowments will have to lay off staff and faculty in order to stay afloat; other schools will face imminent danger of closure.

This bill represents the number one priority of all HBCUs in the country.

This bill passed the House by a unanimous vote on September 17, 2019 but is being held up by the Senate due to the objections of Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER of Tennessee, the Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee.

Senator ALEXANDER has claimed he has a bill that will permanently reauthorize FUTURE Act funds.

He did not offer his bill until FUTURE passed the House of Representatives.

The Senate has failed to come to an agreement on comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA).

In contrast, the House Education and Labor Committee has advanced the College Affordability Act, which will incentivize states to lower the cost of college tuition, strengthen federal financial aid programs, and simplify income-based repayment plans for student loan holders.

The HEA contains all the federal programs that provide a pathway for low-income, first generation students into college.

Senator ALEXANDER's bill in total is a micro-version of HEA reauthorization that does very little to reduce the cost of college or address rising student loan debt.

For example, Senator ALEXANDER's bill would raise the maximum Pell Grant award by \$20—and not index the award to inflation.

Currently, the maximum Pell Grant award is \$6,195.

The average tuition at a public college is approximately \$15,000.

The purchasing power of the Pell Grant has decreased by 70 percent since 1979.

Senator ALEXANDER has packed his bill with a lot of other priorities because he's attempting to leverage the fate of 4 million students of color to create a legacy for himself.

Senator ALEXANDER has also said he does not like the way the FUTURE Act is paid for.

The bill is paid for with the elimination of Account Maintenance Fees paid to Guaranty Agencies; an offset that is supported by Democrats and Republicans in Congress, as well as the White House.

Given the significantly pared back services provided by guaranty agencies, and their ability to generate significant fee income through debt collection activities, this funding is no longer needed.

Guaranty Agencies generate around \$4 billion in annual revenue.

They can fulfill their mission without these funds.

Finally, Senator ALEXANDER and the Department of Education has claimed they have funds to continue awarding grants through the end of Fiscal Year 2020.

But that's only true because the Department has failed to award all Fiscal Year 2019 funding.

In any case, institutions of higher learning need to budget at least a year in advance—without certainty, staff layoffs and a paring back of services will accelerate.

On September 14, 1927, the Houston Public School Board agreed to fund the development of two junior colleges: one for whites and one for African-Americans.

On September 14, 1927, the Houston Public School Board provided \$2,800 in seed capital to form a Junior College for African American students.

The initial enrollment for the first summer was 300 students.

On June 1, 1951, the name of the school was changed from Texas State University for Negroes to Texas Southern University after students petitioned the state legislature to remove the phrase “for Negroes.”

When the university opened its doors in September 1947, it had 2,300 students, two schools, one division and one college—the Law School, the Pharmacy School, the Vocational Division, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

In 1973, the 63rd Legislature designated Texas Southern University as a “special purpose” institution for urban programming, which added four more academic units: the College of Education, the School of Public Affairs, the School of Communications and the Weekend College.

Today, Texas Southern University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs in the following academic colleges and schools: the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences; the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; the College of Science and Technology; the College of Education; the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs; the School of Communication; the Thurgood Marshall School of Law; the Jesse H. Jones School of Business; the Thomas Freeman Honors College; and the College of Continuing Education and the Graduate School.

Currently, Texas Southern University is staffed by approximately 1,000 faculty members and support personnel.

HBCU's have come a long way to be where they are today.

The most significant milestone for HBCU's was the 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. The Board of Education*.

Howard University School of Law graduates successfully argued against the constitutionality of “separate but equal,” opening the door for greater access to resources for institutions dedicated to education was a critical step forward.

However, it was not until the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that the federal government had the capacity and focus to enforce desegregation.

On the 50th Anniversary of Rev. Martin Luther King's “I have a Dream” speech given at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial were we able to understand the long road to freedom.

In that speech Dr. King spoke of a world where race would mean much less than the content of a person's character.



Martin Luther King said, “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”

HBCUs do not just educate—they build character.

The Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus will create and explore legislation that will increase support for HBCUs, such as the Higher Education Act, America COMPETES, and Appropriations.

The Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus will also work to connect HBCUs to funding opportunities that ensure schools have the resources needed to educate and prepare students for the global workforce.

My focus in joining with my colleagues this evening for this special order is to support and continue my work with Texas Southern University and other HBCUs by: finding growth opportunities for HBCU students and graduates; working with private industry to connect students to jobs, internships, and scholarships; and opening up doors to HBCU students interested in coming to Capitol Hill.

Each Congressional Black Caucus member works to expose HBCU students to global experiences to learn about other cultures.

My office worked to assist students in my district in going on a trip to China—for many it was their first travel outside of the state of Texas.

That one experience transformed their lives—by expanding their horizon from being local to global.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GRIFFITH (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of family matters.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 887. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 877 East 1200 South in Orem, Utah, as the “Jerry C. Washburn Post Office Building”.

H.R. 1252. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6531 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the “Marilyn Monroe Post Office”.

H.R. 1253. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13507 Van Nuys Boulevard in Pacoima, California, as the “Ritchie Valens Post Office Building”.

H.R. 1526. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Israel Road Southeast in Tumwater, Washington, as the “Eva G. Hewitt Post Office”.

H.R. 1844. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, as the “Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building”.

H.R. 1972. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 West Kent Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the “Jeannette Rankin Post Office Building”.

H.R. 2151. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 7722 South Main Street in Pine Plains, New York, as the “Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent Post Office”.

H.R. 2325. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the “65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building”.

H.R. 2334. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Odessa, Texas, as the “Wilson and Young Medal of Honor VA Clinic”.

H.R. 2451. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, as the “Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office”.

H.R. 3144. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8520 Michigan Avenue in Whittier, California, as the “Jose Ramos Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3314. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 McCulloch Boulevard North in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, as the “Lake Havasu City Combat Veterans Memorial Post Office Building”.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 565, the AMIGOS Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 4018, to provide that the amount of time that an elderly offender must serve before being eligible for placement in home detention is to be reduced by the amount of good time credits earned by the prisoner, and for other purposes, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 4018

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—											
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2020–2024	2020–2029
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact .....	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	6	17

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 4803, the Citizenship for Children of Military Members and Civil Servants Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3127. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Swine Health Protection Act; Amendments to Garbage Feeding Regulations

[Docket No.: APHIS-2018-0067] (RIN: 0579-AE50) received November 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 Agriculture.

3128. A letter from the Program Specialist, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Other Real Estate Owned and Technical Amendments [Docket ID: OCC-2019-0004] (RIN: 1557-AE50) received Novem-

ber 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3129. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests in, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds (RIN: 3064-AE67) received November 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121,

Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3130. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priority — Final Priority for Discretionary Grant Programs [Docket ID: ED-2019-OPEPD-0019] (RIN: 1875-AA12) received November 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

3131. A letter from the Division Director, Division of Policy, Legislation, and Regulation, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procurement Roles and Responsibilities for Job Corps Contracts (RIN: 1205-AB96) received November 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 Education and Labor.

3132. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Agency's interim final rule — Medicaid Program; Covered Outpatient Drug; Further Delay of Inclusion of Territories in Definitions of States and United States [CMS-2345-IFC3] (RIN: 0938-AT09) received November 22, 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.

3133. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a legislative proposal, To provide for utility incentives that the Department of Homeland Security may receive, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3134. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Increasing Recycling: Adding Aerosol Cans to the Universal Waste Regulations [EPA-HQ-OLEM-2017-0463; FRL-10002-49-OLEM] (RIN: 2050-AG92) received November 22, 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.

3135. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Ohio; Redesignation of the Ohio Portion of the Steubenville Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area [EPA-R05-OAR-2019-0394; FRL-10002-56-Region 5] received November 22, 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.

3136. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — North Dakota: Codification and Incorporation by Reference of Approved State Underground Storage Tank Program [EPA-R08-UST-2018-0728; FRL-10000-51-Region 8] received November 22, 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.

3137. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; Regional Haze Five Year Progress Report [EPA-R01-OAR-2019-0348; FRL-10002-42-Region 1] received November 22, 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.

3138. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval;

Vermont; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 2008 and 2015 Ozone Standards [EPA-R01-OAR-2019-0221; FRL-10002-16-Region 1] received November 22, 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.

3139. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clothianidin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0771; FRL-10000-64] received November 22, 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.

3140. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Cyflumetofen; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0636; FRL-9996-61] received November 22, 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.

3141. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Labeling: Calorie Labeling of Articles of Food Sold From Certain Vending Machines; Front of Package Type Size [Docket No.: FDA-2011-F-0171] (RIN: 0910-AH83) received November 22, 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.

3142. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Department's final rule — Miscellaneous Corrections [NRC-2019-0128] (RIN: 3150-AK34) received November 22, 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.

3143. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress, covering the six-month period ending September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3144. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting the Service's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress, for the period April 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019, pursuant to Public Law 95-452 and Public Law 100-504; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3145. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-up, covering the six-month period ending September 30, 2019, pursuant to the Inspector General Act, as amended, Sec. 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3146. A letter from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2109 which includes consolidated financial statements, federal financial statements (as supplementary schedules) and auditor's report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3147. A letter from the Chairman, and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Board's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress covering the period of April 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3148. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's Small Entity Compliance Guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2020-02 [Docket No.: FAR-2019-0001, Sequence No. 7] received November 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3149. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Reporting of Non-conforming Items to the Government-Industry Data Exchange Program [FAC: 2020-02, FAR Case 2013-002; Docket No.: FAR-2013-0002, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AM58) received November 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3150. A letter from the Chairman, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Office of the Inspector General Semiannual Report to the Congress, for the period April 1, 2019 — September 30, 2019, pursuant to Public Law 95-425, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3151. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's notification of quota transfer — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From NC to RI and VA [RTID: 0648-XX020] received November 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3152. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's modification of fishing seasons — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Recreational and Commercial Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #6 Through #27 [Docket No.: 180702602-9400-01] (RIN: 0648-XW007) received November 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3153. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2019-2020 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No.: 180625576-8999-02] (RIN: 0648-BJ36) received November 22, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3154. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Licensing, Registration, Financial Responsibility Requirements, and General Duties for Ocean Transportation Intermediaries [Docket No.: 18-11] (RIN: 3072-AC73) received November 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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

3155. A letter from the Administrators, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the 23rd edition of the biennial "Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges and Transit: Conditions and Performance" Report to Congress, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 167(h); Public Law 112-141, Sec. 1115(a) (as amended by Public Law 114-

94, Sec. 1116(a)); (129 Stat. 1353); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3156. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Estate and Gift Taxes; Difference in the Basic Exclusion Amount [TC 9884] (RIN: 1545-BO72) received November 26, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3157. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Guidance to Qualified States Requesting Allocations of Unused Low-Income Housing Credit Carryovers (Rev. Proc.: 2019-45) received November 26, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4739. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to protect U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, other personnel, and canines against potential synthetic opioid exposure, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-318, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4761. A bill to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, and other personnel have adequate synthetic opioid detection equipment, that the Department of Homeland Security has a process to update synthetic opioid detection capability, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-319, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PERLMUTTER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 739. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2534) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit certain securities trading and related communications by those who possess material, nonpublic information, and relating to consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 77) directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic that have not been authorized by Congress (Rept. 116-320). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2185. A bill to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to allow the District of Columbia to receive Federal funding under such Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-321). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4739 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4761 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 Ms. LOFGREN (for herself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 5277. A bill to amend section 442 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt certain interests in mutual funds, unit investment trusts, employee benefit plans, and retirement plans from conflict of interest limitations for the Government Publishing Office; to the Committee on the Judiciary. considered and passed.

By Mr. BERGMAN (for himself and Miss Rice of New York):

H.R. 5278. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period under which an election must be made for entitlement to educational assistance under the All-Volunteer Educational Assistance Program of Department of Veterans Affairs, to phase out the use of such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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. PALLONE:

H.R. 5279. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve cosmetic safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma (for herself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 5280. A bill to establish the Native American Outreach Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 5281. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to improve transparency and prevent the use of abusive spread pricing and related practices in the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CISNEROS (for himself, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GALLEGOS, and Mr. CROW):

H.R. 5282. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to parole into the United States certain relatives of current and former members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5283. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve direct certification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mr. KIM, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 5284. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize State approving agencies to carry out outreach activities; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 5285. A bill to provide competitive grants for training court reporters and closed captioners to meet requirements for realtime writers under the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY:

H.R. 5286. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a grant program that will support efforts at the State level to establish anti-bullying task forces to study, address, and re-

duce bullying in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 5287. A bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to prohibit debt collectors from collecting on certain Federal student loan debt when the borrower would not be required to make payments under an income-driven repayment plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Education and Labor, 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. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5288. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 to direct the Secretary of the Army to develop a plan to address water resource problems in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. HICE of Georgia, and Mr. ESTES):

H.R. 5289. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove short-barreled rifles from the definition of firearms for purposes of the National Firearms Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5290. A bill to provide that, for purposes of certain Federal privacy laws, agencies of the District of Columbia are treated as Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, 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. VAN DREW (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. HORSFORD):

H.R. 5291. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to set forth a method of determining annual updates to premium tax credit eligibility and maximum out-of-pocket limits; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself and Mr. BROWN of Maryland):

H.R. 5292. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a policy with respect to family seating on air transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WALKER (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POSEY, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia):

H.R. 5293. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow above-the-line deductions for charitable contributions for individuals not itemizing deductions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H. Res. 736. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit Members from voting "present" on any question on which a record vote is taken; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. STANTON, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, and Mr. LUJÁN):

H. Res. 737. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the efforts of the Federal Government to address the public health and environmental crisis on the Navajo Nation caused by abandoned uranium mines; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. COSTA, Ms. WILD, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CICILLINE):

H. Res. 738. A resolution recognizing the goals and ideals of International Day of Persons with Disabilities; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. FOSTER (for himself, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RYAN, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama):

H. Res. 740. A resolution expressing support for the designation of December 3, 2019, as the "National Day of 3D Printing"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 5277.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 5278.

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. PALLONE:

H.R. 5279.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

By Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma:

H.R. 5280.

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

U.S.C.A. Const. Art. I § 8, cl. 3

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 5281.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CISNEROS:

H.R. 5282.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5283.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power \*\*\* To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5284.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power to make laws that are necessary and proper to carry out its enumerated powers.

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 5285.

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

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

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY:

H.R. 5286.

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

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

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 5287.

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

Article 1, Section 8: 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. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 5288.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian tribes) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. MARSHALL:

H.R. 5289.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5290.

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

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 5291.

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

Article I Section 8

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 5292.

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

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I

By Mr. WALKER:

H.R. 5293.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 3: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 20: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BOST, and Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 141: Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 218: Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 307: Mr. COOPER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 336: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 372: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 463: Mr. KIM.

H.R. 517: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 565: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 649: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 662: Mr. BALDERSON and Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 712: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 716: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 727: Mrs. HAYES and Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 784: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 852: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 873: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 877: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 884: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 912: Mr. DELGADO, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. CROW, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 924: Ms. HAALAND, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. CASE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 934: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 935: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 1011: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1043: Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 1049: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 1073: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1109: Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 1161: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1166: Mr. STEEL.

H.R. 1228: Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 1254: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1345: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1374: Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 1379: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 1407: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KEATING, Ms. ADAMS, and Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 1450: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 1572: Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 1588: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1597: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. BRINDISI, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, and Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 1601: Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 1609: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.

H.R. 1646: Mr. CRIST, Mr. TRONE, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 1679: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 1695: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1700: Mr. BUCK and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 1730: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania and Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

H.R. 1753: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 1754: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1766: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 1767: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 1814: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 1824: Mr. KIM.

H.R. 1869: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CROW, and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1873: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 1898: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 1948: Mrs. TRAHAN and Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1975: Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. WALKER, Mr. KIM, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, and Mr. CASE.

- H.R. 2000: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 2015: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 2096: Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 2117: Mrs. DINGELL.  
H.R. 2148: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 2161: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.  
H.R. 2168: Mr. MCADAMS, Ms. HAALAND, and Mr. ARMSTRONG.  
H.R. 2179: Mr. MEADOWS.  
H.R. 2187: Mrs. LURIA.  
H.R. 2199: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. ROUDA.  
H.R. 2201: Mr. MOULTON and Mrs. WALORSKI.  
H.R. 2207: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.  
H.R. 2208: Mr. SUOZZI.  
H.R. 2215: Mr. ROUDA.  
H.R. 2222: Ms. STEVENS.  
H.R. 2250: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. ROUDA.  
H.R. 2256: Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 2258: Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
H.R. 2293: Mr. MEUSER and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.  
H.R. 2315: Mr. GALLEGGO.  
H.R. 2339: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.  
H.R. 2377: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 2382: Mr. COOPER, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.  
H.R. 2404: Ms. JAYAPAL.  
H.R. 2412: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. BOST.  
H.R. 2416: Mr. ROUDA, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 2441: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.  
H.R. 2457: Ms. DEAN and Mr. KIM.  
H.R. 2466: Mrs. HAYES.  
H.R. 2498: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 2577: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 2594: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.  
H.R. 2603: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.  
H.R. 2616: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 2633: Mr. CUELLAR.  
H.R. 2645: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.  
H.R. 2651: Ms. HAALAND and Mr. MALINOWSKI.  
H.R. 2655: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. WRIGHT, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. WOMACK, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. BACON, Mr. COURTNEY, and Ms. ESCOBAR.  
H.R. 2674: Mr. TED LIEU of California.  
H.R. 2693: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CRIST, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. BONAMICI.  
H.R. 2739: Mr. PASCRELL.  
H.R. 2767: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 2771: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.  
H.R. 2862: Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.  
H.R. 2863: Mr. NADLER and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 2878: Mr. WITTMAN.  
H.R. 2895: Mr. BRINDISI.  
H.R. 2912: Mr. LUJÁN.  
H.R. 2986: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. SUOZZI.  
H.R. 2993: Mr. KELLER.  
H.R. 3000: Mr. BOST.  
H.R. 3036: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.  
H.R. 3073: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 3077: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CASE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. WALKER, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.  
H.R. 3094: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. COOPER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. NADLER.  
H.R. 3107: Mr. OLSON, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, and Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 3131: Mr. POCAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. KING of New York.  
H.R. 3133: Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 3165: Mr. O'HALLERAN.  
H.R. 3166: Mr. RASKIN and Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 3180: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. TRONE.  
H.R. 3211: Mr. PAYNE.  
H.R. 3266: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. PERLMUTTER.  
H.R. 3268: Mr. LAMB.  
H.R. 3274: Mr. MITCHELL.  
H.R. 3316: Mr. DELGADO, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.  
H.R. 3350: Mr. LUJÁN and Mr. BERA.  
H.R. 3414: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. EVANS.  
H.R. 3460: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 3467: Mr. RUIZ.  
H.R. 3473: Mr. KILMER and Ms. DEGETTE.  
H.R. 3495: Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.  
H.R. 3509: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. GOMEZ.  
H.R. 3565: Mr. KINZINGER.  
H.R. 3584: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.  
H.R. 3591: Mrs. HAYES.  
H.R. 3623: Ms. DEGETTE.  
H.R. 3654: Mr. LONG.  
H.R. 3657: Mr. COOK and Ms. SLOTKIN.  
H.R. 3693: Mr. CARDENAS.  
H.R. 3789: Mr. KHANNA.  
H.R. 3794: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. ROUDA.  
H.R. 3798: Ms. HAALAND.  
H.R. 3880: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
H.R. 4056: Mr. WELCH, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 4069: Mr. MEADOWS.  
H.R. 4078: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.  
H.R. 4098: Mr. LONG.  
H.R. 4107: Mr. PANETTA.  
H.R. 4118: Ms. SCANLON.  
H.R. 4144: Mr. CORREA.  
H.R. 4148: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. HASTINGS.  
H.R. 4165: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 4183: Mr. MASSIE.  
H.R. 4189: Ms. SHERRILL and Mr. MEADOWS.  
H.R. 4194: Mrs. LOWEY.  
H.R. 4229: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. GOLDEN.  
H.R. 4230: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania and Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 4279: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. WILD, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 4307: Mr. STANTON.  
H.R. 4348: Ms. STEVENS.  
H.R. 4399: Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BOST, and Mr. BURGESS.  
H.R. 4423: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.  
H.R. 4429: Mr. MALINOWSKI and Ms. PIN-GREE.  
H.R. 4468: Mr. COLE and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.  
H.R. 4487: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. WELCH.  
H.R. 4492: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 4508: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. CICILLINE.  
H.R. 4526: Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 4589: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. SWALWELL of California.  
H.R. 4636: Mr. KEATING and Mr. FORTEN-BERRY.  
H.R. 4639: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 4640: Ms. KAPTUR.  
H.R. 4674: Mr. KIM.  
H.R. 4679: Mr. COOPER.  
H.R. 4681: Mr. BOST.  
H.R. 4694: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.  
H.R. 4701: Ms. SCANLON.  
H.R. 4716: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 4764: Mr. WELCH and Mr. BROWN of Maryland.  
H.R. 4773: Mr. HAGEDORN.  
H.R. 4794: Mr. ZELDIN.  
H.R. 4803: Mr. STIVERS, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. TAYLOR.  
H.R. 4821: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. SCHRADER.  
H.R. 4828: Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.  
H.R. 4836: Mr. GRJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. SUOZZI.  
H.R. 4864: Mr. COSTA and Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 4881: Mr. THORNBERRY and Mr. ARMSTRONG.  
H.R. 4884: Mr. SIRES.  
H.R. 4890: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
H.R. 4901: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.  
H.R. 4934: Mr. POSEY.  
H.R. 4965: Mr. PERLMUTTER.  
H.R. 4980: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 4986: Mr. POCAN and Mr. CONNOLLY.  
H.R. 5017: Ms. LEE of California and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
H.R. 5036: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 5038: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. SUOZZI.  
H.R. 5042: Mrs. DEMINGS.  
H.R. 5048: Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 5068: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 5117: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.  
H.R. 5138: Ms. WILD.  
H.R. 5175: Mr. MITCHELL.  
H.R. 5176: Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 5193: Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. FINKENAUER.  
H.R. 5199: Mr. MCKINLEY.  
H.R. 5221: Mr. ROUDA.  
H.R. 5227: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
H.R. 5230: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. HASTINGS.  
H.R. 5251: Mr. PANETTA.  
H.R. 5265: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 5267: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. SIRES.  
H.R. 5271: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.  
H.J. Res. 36: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.  
H.J. Res. 76: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. HAALAND.  
H. Con. Res. 76: Mr. CORREA.  
H. Res. 54: Ms. PLASKETT.  
H. Res. 189: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.  
H. Res. 399: Mr. SWALWELL of California.  
H. Res. 452: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.  
H. Res. 517: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.  
H. Res. 527: Mr. RUSH, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. COX of California, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. MATSUI, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
H. Res. 531: Ms. NORTON.  
H. Res. 538: Mr. POCAN.  
H. Res. 585: Mr. COHEN.  
H. Res. 618: Mrs. WALORSKI.  
H. Res. 641: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H. Res. 678: Mr. OLSON.  
H. Res. 687: Mr. CASE.  
H. Res. 701: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H. Res. 705: Mr. LYNCH.  
H. Res. 718: Mr. CUELLAR.  
H. Res. 722: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. CISNEROS.  
H. Res. 730: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. SCHRADER.

#### CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional remarks,

limited tax benefits, or limited tariff  
benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Rep-  
resentative MCHENRY, or a designee, to H.R.  
2534, the Insider Trading Prohibition Act

does not contain any congressional ear-  
marks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff  
benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.





United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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No. 192

## 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.

Our Father, be with us not only in great moments of experience but also during mundane and common tasks. Through the power of Your Spirit, may our Senators mount up with wings like eagles, running without weariness and walking without fainting. Give them the wisdom to be patient with others, ever lenient to their faults and ever prompt to appreciate their virtues.

Lord, rule in the hearts of our lawmakers, keeping them from sin and sustaining their loved ones in all of their tomorrows. Surround us all with the shield of Your mercy, as You provide us with a future, hope, and blessings too numerous to be stored.

We pray in Your sovereign 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.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I would like to address the Senate for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

### IRAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. I hope a lot of Americans have been able to watch on

television what is going on over in Iran right now. I hope Americans have an opportunity to listen to some Americans of Iranian descent who are commenting on what is going on over there because, recently, thousands of Iranians have taken to the streets protesting their country's corrupt regime. Frustrated by a lack of opportunity and frustrated by constant political oppression, these largely young and non-violent protesters have stood up to say: Enough is enough.

In response to these protesters, we see the regime engaging in a brutal crackdown, and that crackdown is on a scale not seen since the 1979 revolution, killing hundreds of civilians within the last few days.

The United States is not an enemy of the Iranian people. In fact, Americans of all backgrounds can't help but sympathize with these brave protesters seeking a more prosperous, more responsible Iran and having the Iran Government give that sort of an environment. We need to tell the Iranian leaders the world is watching.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week, House Democrats are continuing their 3-year-long quest to impeach the President and are continuing

to obstruct urgent bipartisan legislation. This has been the Democrats' strategy for months now—obsess over impeachment and obstruct everything else.

Take the USMCA, which would create 176,000 new American jobs. Speaker PELOSI has been stalling it for months, constantly saying she is optimistic or getting close or almost there. For months, it has been this broken record. I understand, this very week, while the Speaker of the House has apparently flown to Madrid to discuss climate change, she keeps offering the same empty rhetoric that is no different than what she was saying 10 months ago. American workers have waited and waited and waited. House Democrats keep stalling.

Consider the appropriations process. Even after signing a bipartisan agreement to forgo poison pills, Democrats ignored it and thrust other policy disagreements back into the appropriations process. They voted twice to filibuster funding for our Armed Forces. Well, last week, Chairman SHELBY and Chairwoman LOWEY reached an important agreement to address allocations at the subcommittee level. This was an essential step. It will take a lot of work and cooperation to move the appropriations process forward in the short time ahead of us. Our Democratic colleagues will finally need to rediscover that our men and women in uniform are more important than their partisan fights.

Speaking of our Armed Forces, let's talk about the NDAA. Congress has passed an annual defense authorization bill every year since 1961. Every year, after some jousting and jostling, the Congress has put aside all of our extraneous disagreements to fulfill one of our most basic responsibilities and reauthorize our Armed Forces, but remember the Democrats' new playbook: Obsess over impeachment, obstruct everything else, including, apparently, even our troops and national security.

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



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Imagine being so far left that even the routine annual bill to reauthorize the U.S. military is some controversial thing you have to be goaded into supporting. House Democrats abandoned longstanding traditions of compromise and larded up the NDAA with partisan policy riders. For what appears to be the first time ever in either Chamber, they passed an NDAA on a pure party-line vote—the first purely partisan NDAA in 58 years. In the Senate, by contrast, Chairman INHOFE and Ranking Member REED collaborated on a bill that passed the Senate 86 to 8. We certainly did our part to stick with an annual tradition.

Now my colleague, the Democratic leader, is moving the goalpost and enabling Speaker PELOSI's reckless strategy. Longstanding bipartisan precedent says that in order for any subject outside the Armed Services Committees' jurisdiction to travel in the final NDAA, the chairmen and ranking members of the actual committee of jurisdiction need to give bipartisan sign-off. This basic test protects the Senate; it protects our committees; and it protects the NDAA from being held hostage for specific partisan ends. Every year, dozens, if not hundreds, of provisions meet that bar. Those that don't end up on the cutting room floor.

Thus far, in the Senate, Chairman INHOFE and Ranking Member REED have worked hard to respect those norms, but this year, the Speaker of the House and my colleague the Democratic leader want to scrap this precedent, undermine the committees, and demand special treatment for partisan priorities that have no business being crammed into this essential legislation for our Armed Forces.

We are talking about a new taxpayer-funded benefit for all Federal employees and sweeping changes to U.S. foreign policy. This is what they are trying to shoehorn into the NDAA. It is not good-faith policymaking, not when these demands pour in at the eleventh hour over must-pass legislation for our servicemembers. It is just political theater that is taking precedence over our Armed Forces. So, right on cue, I am sure we will hear made-for-TV histrionics about all of the new provisions the Speaker and the Democratic leader want to shove into this bill—bypassing hearings, markups, and negotiations between chairmen and ranking members.

We will probably keep hearing the dishonest myth that the Republicans are soft on Russia—never mind that a few years ago, President Obama was mocking the Republicans for being too tough on Russia; never mind that this administration has aggressively pursued sanctions, expelled Russian operatives, provided lethal defensive weapons to Georgia and Ukraine, taken major steps to protect our elections, and more. It is just more bluster and histrionics to distract from the core fact that is crystal clear to the entire country: There is no legislation, no

matter how crucial, that the Democrats will not obstruct in order to pick fights with this President.

The very bills the Democrats are resisting are essential for our national defense strategy—for our needed investments in cutting-edge weapons, in the European Defense Initiative, in modernizing our nuclear force. They are all critical for competing with, deterring, and defending against Russia and China. If the Democrats divide Congress over nondefense issues and kill these bills, they will have played right into our adversaries' hands. If we jettison the longstanding bipartisan process for negotiating the NDAA, they will have made this basic national security requirement far more difficult in the future.

Our Democratic colleagues must understand that national security comes before "the resistance." The country cannot afford this new tactic of obsessing over impeachment and obstructing everything else. I hope this changes soon.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ISAKSON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on a totally different matter, the Senate has set aside today to honor our distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from Georgia, JOHNNY ISAKSON.

It has been about 3 months since JOHNNY announced he would retire at the end of December. Since then, I think we have all been taking stock of everything our dear friend has accomplished and everything he means to so many people. I have long said, if the Senate were to hold a secret ballot popularity contest, JOHNNY ISAKSON would win in a bipartisan landslide—quite possibly in a unanimous vote.

He commands bipartisan respect and affection to a degree that is truly remarkable. Yet, if you think about it, it makes sense for a man whose personal mantra goes like this: "There are only two kinds of people: friends and future friends." For most people, that might be a noble aspiration but unrealistic. For JOHNNY ISAKSON, it is a statement of fact. Nobody is an enemy, and nobody is a stranger—just a friend and future friend. That is it. With a motto like that, it is no wonder that JOHNNY's first career was a successful stint in real estate—a field in which relationships are everything.

It strikes me there could be two ways you could thrive in a business in which friendships and connections matter so much. You could be either good at faking a smile, at feigning interest in others, or you could genuinely love meeting everybody and learning how you might be able to help people. That second kind of person is exactly who Ed and Julie Isakson brought up in Atlanta, GA—warm, honest, forthright, incredibly kind. No wonder JOHNNY's neighbors jumped at the chance to hire him to be their State representative, then their State Senator, then their

Congressman, and then their U.S. Senator. So his retirement this month will cap a 45-year career in public service, packed with one significant accomplishment after another.

First and foremost in JOHNNY's long legacy is his work for our Nation's veterans. He spent 6 years in the Georgia Air National Guard as a young man, and he has spent the half century since then as one of his fellow veterans' best friends at any level of government.

Under JOHNNY's chairmanship, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has passed literally scores of bills: more accountability at the VA, more education benefits, better community care programs, better procedures for when veterans appeal determinations, an updated GI bill with no more expiration date, and, of course, JOHNNY's landmark bill—the VA MISSION Act. It is now law. It provides many of the most significant reforms in the history of the VA by taking power away from bureaucrats and giving it back to the veterans and their doctors.

Yet, somehow, in the midst of compiling this singular record for our Nation's veterans, JOHNNY racked up countless more legislative successes that impact literally every American—from securing pension protections to reforming education policy, from regional infrastructure projects like the Savannah Harbor Expansion to combating hunger worldwide. One look at the list of laws bearing JOHNNY's fingerprints and you would be forgiven for thinking he never met a problem he could not solve.

But alas, every Senator sometimes encounters requests from back home on which he cannot deliver. Sometimes you have constituents on both sides of an issue. Sometimes a request might conflict with your principles. Whatever the reason, everybody in office eventually disappoints somebody. Yet JOHNNY's staff marvels at the fact that even when Georgians come up here to meet with him and, unfortunately, go away disappointed, they still walk out of the meetings, beaming with praise for their Senator: "Can you believe JOHNNY? He is the greatest guy ever. What a Senator"—and these are the people he just said no to.

The same traits explain why JOHNNY is just as popular under this dome as he is back home, and I don't just mean with his fellow Members. JOHNNY ISAKSON is practically an honorary member of every other Member's staff and an honorary elevator operator and an honorary Capitol Police Officer and an honorary member of Chaplain Black's team and on and on. He knows and values absolutely everybody.

I can't count how many times I would hear a peal of laughter from out in my staff bullpen and realize that JOHNNY ISAKSON had dropped by, not to see me but to chat with my team, to ask after their families, and to maybe check up on a couple of Georgia's priorities while he was there.

There is one classic story that really distills this man's character. Most people who have hung around JOHNNY and his team long enough know the famous tale of the "gin and tonic in the laundry room."

Here is the deal: Back in 2006, JOHNNY was still a new Senator. We were tackling some thorny pension issues, and thousands of Georgians stood to be affected if things didn't get hammered out. So this freshman Senator dove in. He went toe to toe with big players like Ted Kennedy and Bill Young over in the House. He didn't get a seat on the conference committee, but he basically appointed himself an honorary member. JOHNNY worked it like crazy. He sleuthed out where they would be meeting, and he spoke to everyone. Because it is JOHNNY we are talking about, we know how this ends: He delivered for Georgia.

Afterward, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution wanted to hear how this freshman Senator had pulled off this victory. Among other things, the reporter asked how JOHNNY had celebrated. Did he clear out the champagne at some beltway steakhouse?

Here is what he said:

Isakson said that after the vote, he went straight back to his Capitol Hill area apartment and celebrated—by doing his laundry. He did not want to leave dirty clothes behind for a month.

He said further: "So as I was putting coins in the machine, I had a gin and tonic in the laundry room."

This anecdote is almost the perfect encapsulation of JOHNNY ISAKSON. It starts with tenacity and a can-do spirit, propelled forward by charisma, smarts, and stubborn patience. It ends with a win for Georgians and one celebratory cocktail while being wrist-deep in laundry detergent.

Yet there is one other story, I think, that reflects this remarkable leader even more perfectly. It starts with one name—Kate Puzey.

In 2009, JOHNNY was reading his local paper and found an obituary for a young lady from northern Georgia who had been in Africa with the Peace Corps. She was just 24. JOHNNY didn't know Kate and didn't know her family, but he felt called to attend her funeral. He sat quietly in the very back and listened to her friends, her family, ministers, and Peace Corps colleagues.

Unassumingly, he invited the family to stay in touch if there was anything he could ever do. Only later, did they relate what wasn't in the obituary. Kate had been murdered in the dark of night after sounding the alarm on child abuse in her village in the African country of Benin.

JOHNNY ISAKSON was on the case from that day forward. Not only was he a fixture on the Foreign Relations Committee, but he was actually the ranking member on the Africa Subcommittee. So he put a framed photo of Kate on his desk and leapt into action. Senator ISAKSON flew to Benin to personally lean on its President. He

met with Peace Corps officials. He built a legislative coalition for reforms to better protect volunteers.

As I said earlier, because this is JOHNNY ISAKSON we are talking about, we know how the story ends—with results. He helped Kate's parents pursue justice, and just a couple of years after JOHNNY sat down in that pew, the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act was law.

Now, that is JOHNNY ISAKSON in one story. He starts out trying to do good for his neighbors and winds up literally changing the world.

Of course, changing the world can be grueling work. We all know JOHNNY's health has made his tireless service more and more challenging in recent months. As much as the other 99 of us hate to hear it, he has decided it is time to find new ways to serve that don't involve twice weekly air travel or winding trips through the Capitol Complex.

But we know our friend is not riding off into the sunset or kicking up his heels. I know he is bound and determined to keep putting his expertise and institutional knowledge to work on behalf of Georgians who need him. I have no doubt that he will keep on advocating for Georgians with a pen and a phone, more friends across the country than anyone can count up, and maybe a few of his eight grandchildren by his side. It sounds like a pretty enviable work arrangement, and no doubt JOHNNY has earned it. He has earned the right to a little less late night voting and a little more time with his lovely wife Dianne.

So on behalf of all of his colleagues, I will tell JOHNNY to go ahead and relax just a little and maybe find something to drink, but, this time around, he should enjoy it on the front porch with Dianne and leave the laundry until later.

We are savoring our last few weeks alongside our good friend here in the Senate. We are so lucky to have called him our colleague.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Eric Ross Komitee, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I appreciate the opportunity to be on the floor today to speak about something of significance, certainly to Kansas but to the country.

We await House action on USMCA—the trade agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico. It is a trade agreement that is attempting to replace NAFTA and an agreement that is of significance, as I say, to the folks back home in my State.

For the last 2 years, I have engaged in a campaign to try to elevate the importance and to make sure my colleagues, the administration, and people here in Congress understand how important exports and trade are to the United States' economy.

In Kansas, we are an export State. What we produce, what we manufacture, and what we grow in the fields of our State in many, many instances end up someplace else outside the United States.

I have spoken on the Senate floor before. I have met with the President. I have talked to his Cabinet officials. I wrote an open letter to U.S. agricultural groups, encouraging them to fully engage in support for USMCA approval. I have had speaking engagements in places across the country, trying to rally farmers and ranchers and manufacturers and others to fight to preserve our trading relationship with Canada and Mexico.

On Saturday, at home in Kansas, I was with the Kansas Farm Bureau at a townhall. It kicked off their 101st annual meeting to discuss issues facing Kansas agriculture. The topic of trade and its importance to the products that we grow was the most important and most discussed topic at that townhall meeting.

USMCA was signed over a year ago. It is time for the House to pass this important agreement, and, in order for the House to pass it, the Speaker needs to bring it up for a vote.

Canada and Mexico are Kansas's No. 1 and No. 2 export markets. They account for over one-third of exports from our State. Since 2013, unfortunately, farm income at home has fallen by 50 percent. So net farm income in Kansas is down half in the last 6 years.

Many producers are struggling. They have struggled to hang on to their operations, and when farmers aren't doing well, it means that the communities they live in and support aren't doing well. The question is often this: What business will we lose when farmers are not having financial success? What young men and women who grew up on a farm or grew up in that small town will, perhaps, even reluctantly,

find a job someplace else because the economy is not helpful to them as they start their careers?

USMCA will continue to provide duty-free market access to farm commodities, while also expanding trade opportunities for dairy producers and leveling the playing field for the wheat we export to Canada.

USMCA is important to manufacturers as well. USMCA will protect the integrated North American supply chain that is critical to manufacturers in our State.

Wichita is known as the air capital of the world due to aerospace and aviation manufacturing. Kansas is also home to automobile, farm equipment, and other manufacturers.

Twenty-five percent of Kansas manufacturers—mostly, small to medium-size businesses—export to Canada and Mexico.

Nearly 25 years after its enactment, NAFTA was due to be modernized and to reflect changes in today's economy. USMCA will strengthen the rules on intellectual property rights and address digital trade issues. This modernized agreement will serve as a template for future trade negotiations, putting the United States in the driver's seat for setting global trade rules and norms.

Kansas, as I said, is an export State. If we are not exporting, the ability to earn a living, to save a family farm, and to keep our small manufacturers across the communities that dot our State disappears. The ability to earn a living in Kansas depends upon selling food and manufactured goods around the world.

We must continue the fight for more trade, not less. Again, I ask the House of Representatives to quickly consider and please do not let this calendar year come to an end without the NAFTA replacement in place.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### IMPEACHMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, as the House of Representatives continues to hold hearings as part of the impeachment inquiry into President Trump, it is incumbent on all of us here in the Senate to review the evidence, keep an open mind, and avoid prejudging the case. If impeachment articles are served to the Senate, Senators must act as judges and jurors, take an oath to do impartial justice, and see to it that the Senate conducts a fair trial.

So I have been hugely disappointed in the partisan conduct of some of my colleagues on the Republican side, who, in their rush to defend the President, have attacked career public servants and former members of the armed services because they didn't like their testimony, and then they spread baseless conspiracy theories and use their powers of a congressional office to play defense for the President.

The Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee, for example, has

attempted to send the State Department on a wild fishing expedition for documents to support an already debunked rightwing conspiracy theory.

Meanwhile, the State Department is blocking or delaying the production of documents related to several legitimate and ongoing investigations, many of which were requested months ago.

I would expect that Senator GRAHAM's request, outlandish as it is, would go at the back of the line. It would be another total debasement to the process if Secretary Pompeo were to further politicize the production of documents to Congress and say it is OK to release the documents that Senator GRAHAM wants but not the ones that the House committee wanted. Privilege is privilege. I don't believe it applies in each case, but it is privilege. You can't do it to one and not the other.

Also, it is appalling that, in recent days, certain Members on the other side of the aisle have repeated the lie invented by Vladimir Putin's intelligence services that Ukraine was somehow involved in 2016 election interference.

I have a simple message for my Republican colleagues: Stop spreading Putin's propaganda.

By spreading the false and unsupported narrative that Ukraine, not just Putin, was responsible for interfering in the 2016 elections, Republicans are endangering our democracy and empowering Vladimir Putin at the same time. Even wondering aloud about the debunked Ukrainian interference theory helps Putin muddy the waters and deflect the blame away from his country, which our intelligence services have all agreed—I think it is 17 of them—that he interfered in the election. He is trying to create a diversion, and our Republican colleagues are going along.

Republicans need to stop putting the wind into the sails of Putin's propaganda. More than that, Republicans need to forcefully and unequivocally refute the lie that Ukraine had anything to do with election interference in 2016.

#### ELECTION SECURITY AND DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Madam President, on election security and the NDAA, earlier this year, FBI Director Wray, Trump's appointee to run the FBI, said: "The Russians are absolutely intent on trying to interfere with our elections." That is what Mr. Wray said in response to a question from the senior Senator from South Carolina. Director Wray went on to say: "My view is, until they stop, they haven't been deterred enough." As a reminder to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Director Wray is a Republican and Trump appointee.

It is the testimony of Director Wray and other national security leaders over the past 3 years that has reinforced our commitment on the Democratic side to secure passage of legislation that includes tough, mandatory, and deterrent sanctions against Putin

and against any foreign adversary who would seek to interfere with our elections.

This wasn't a figment of our imagination; this came from our own intelligence and security agencies, that Russia interfered and that they are going to keep interfering until we stop them. So it is not a radical idea; it is a bipartisan idea. It is a part of bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators VAN HOLLEN and MENENDEZ and supported by Senators RUBIO and GRAHAM. This legislation needs to be included in the Defense authorization bill. Defending our democracy is at the core of our Nation's defense. But at the moment, it is being blocked by Republican Leader MCCONNELL and several Republican committee chairs.

I am sure Leader MCCONNELL and his colleagues, rather than explain their opposition, will do what they usually do: point their fingers at Democrats and say "They are holding up the Defense bill; we are not." That is a time-honored Republican tradition, to deflect blame, and it just doesn't hold water.

Just this morning, we heard the Republican leader claim that Democrats are not supporting the defense programs needed to counter Russia. This is laughable coming from the other side when it is Leader MCCONNELL who has fought so often to prevent funding to protect us from Russian interference. It is my Republican counterparts who green-lit the President's treating the Defense Department as a personal piggy bank, including raiding funds from the European Deterrence Initiative—a program designed to counter Russia—to build the President's wall.

Democrats are ready to roll up their sleeves and work with our Republican colleagues to clear any substantive objections they might have to election interference sanctions legislation, as well as any other issue they might have with the Defense authorization bill, but we need to get serious soon about including these provisions. The annual Defense bill might be our last chance to pass significant reforms to secure our elections.

So, Leader MCCONNELL, are you for securing our elections against Russia or not? Because if you are for it, we can move this Defense bill forward much more quickly.

What is holding it up, in good part, is Leader MCCONNELL's opposition to spending the funds necessary and the legislation and sanctions necessary to stop Russia from interfering.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ISAKSON

Madam President, on a bittersweet note, JOHNNY ISAKSON—what a fine man. Today, Members of this Chamber will hold a bipartisan lunch to say goodbye to one of our most beloved colleagues, JOHNNY ISAKSON of Georgia, who is retiring before the end of the year.

Over the last few months, there have been numerous tributes to JOHNNY on

the Senate floor. He has been called “a real friend,” “a mentor,” “more than a colleague,” “humble and tenacious,” “they don’t come any better”—and that is just by Democrats. That is one of the reasons I suggested to Leader MCCONNELL that we have a lunch for JOHNNY ISAKSON, which we are having this afternoon.

Just as there is good reason to praise JOHNNY ISAKSON in the ways Democrats did, there is good reason that during his chairmanship, ISAKSON’s committee passed so many bipartisan bills—57, to be exact—to help veterans. It is because he treated everyone—Democrat, Republican, Independent, newly elected or committee chair—with respect. JOHNNY never let the cynicism of our political times dim his faith in our ability to get something done.

JOHNNY ISAKSON didn’t have the loud-est voice in the room, but it was often the most influential. That is because he built years’ worth of trust. You never doubted his word. He was an honest broker. So whenever a chasm seemed to separate the parties on a certain issue, ISAKSON was often the one spanning the divide. I know that from experience, over and over again. As an example, when families in New York struggled to recover from disasters, like Sandy, only to find that flood insurance rates were crushing them with enormous debt, it was Senator ISAKSON, whose State has suffered its fair share of disasters, who worked with my office to find a solution.

We made enormous progress working together to strengthen media shield laws, protecting fearless and independent journalism at a time when we needed to stand up for a free and open press.

In this most recent important appropriations process, we worked together to help the widows and children impacted by 9/11 gain access to a special terror victims’ funding. I want to thank him personally for that, and more broadly, I want to thank him for the example he set for many other Senators.

There are many fine adjectives that will be used to describe Senator ISAKSON, and all of them will be well-deserved, but one word used to describe Senator ISAKSON is not often found in the Halls of Congress: “kind.” JOHNNY ISAKSON is one of the kindest, most thoughtful Senators I have known in my time here. He is a true statesman. That is why I know that independent of any party or politics, everyone here will miss JOHNNY.

I will have more to say about our friend at the bipartisan lunch this afternoon, but for now, I would like to note for the record Senator ISAKSON’s many years of faithful service to his beloved State of Georgia and his country. We wish him and Dianne the very best as he enters the next chapter of his life.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arkansas.

CHINA

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, the New York Times has recently obtained a secret trove of documents from the highest ranks of the Chinese Communist Party. Those documents reveal some chilling, terrifying details about Beijing’s campaign to stamp out all dissent and religious diversity in Xinjiang Province in the north, where the party has concentrated more than 1 million Uighurs, Kazakhs, and other minorities in reeducation camps.

These documents bring to mind George Orwell’s famous novel “1984,” not as the cautionary tale as he meant it, but as an instruction manual for the totalitarian government in Beijing. This reign of terror began in 2014, after a string of terror attacks in Xinjiang Province. But instead of bringing those terrorists to justice, the Chinese Communist Party used the attacks as an opportunity to eradicate all dissent—all wrong-think, if you will—from a province with 25 million residents. It would be as if you tried to turn the State of Texas into a concentration camp.

These secret documents reveal a stunning order from General Secretary Xi Jinping. He said, “We must be as harsh as them and show them absolutely no mercy.” So to beat these terrorists, Beijing chose to adopt the tactics of terror. Every Uighur and dissenter in the province is suffering as a result.

Secretary Xi tapped one of the most notorious enforcers to execute this mission, a man named Chen, who climbed the ranks of the Communist Party first by crushing dissent and religious diversity in the southwestern Chinese province of Tibet. The techniques that they perfected in Tibet, the Chinese Communist party took to Xinjiang. They have turned the province into a garrison state with ruthless and pitiless competence. Chen’s order to the police? “Round up everyone who should be rounded up.”

Uighurs, young and old, were loaded on into buses and taken to concentration camps with thick concrete walls and razor-sharp barbed wire. The police informed anxious relatives that these were schools and that their loved ones were being “reeducated.” And, no, they were not free to leave the school, nor would there be any recess or field trips.

A secret manual obtained by Western journalists reveals that these facilities operate more like maximum security prisons than like schools. The manual’s very first section deals with preventing escapes through the use of guard posts, patrols, internal separation, video surveillance, and double locks on dor-

mitory and hallway doors. The manual even advocates the use of “secret forces” to infiltrate the detainee population to prevent them from joining forces or planning an escape.

Beijing now holds—let me say it again—more than 1 million people in these reeducation camps, supposedly for reasons of national security, but the truth is a lot more chilling. The Chinese Communists, like all totalitarians, are paranoid about their own survival—and rightly so—as a conspiracy of greedy, power-mad princelings with no democratic legitimacy whatsoever.

Like all totalitarian rulers, the Chinese Communist Party is also a very jealous master. Every attachment, every conviction, every loyalty—whether to one’s family, one’s culture, even one’s creator—must be sacrificed on the altar of the Party. According to the Chinese Communist Party, everything must bow before it, and every tongue must profess the slogans of Xi and Mao. That means the Uighurs and also Hongkongers, Tibetans, Taiwanese, and others.

The paranoid Communist Party will not limit itself to one province or one people, nor will it ultimately limit itself to its own land. It will extend its tyrannical reach to every corner that it views as its own, creeping ever outward until it demands the deference of all the world, until it “deals with” the rebellious billions who have not yet learned to love the Chinese Big Brother.

The Chinese Communist Party is running concentration camps today, but make no mistake, its appetite for expansion is far greater, its methods of control applicable to anyone anywhere. The Free World must confront this threat in plain view and act now to avert such a dark and chilling future.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Illinois.

FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, a few years ago, a woman who works in my office in Chicago—who actually cleans up the office in the evenings—was so excited when she learned that her daughter had been accepted to college. It was a dream come true for a woman who had immigrated to the United States, taken some of the hardest, most menial manual jobs in the hopes that her daughter, one day, would have a better life.

She sat down with my chief of staff in Chicago to tell her about the details, and immediately, we knew there was much more to the story. Her daughter had been accepted not just to another

college or university; she had been accepted to a for-profit college in the Chicagoland area. The for-profit colleges and universities are notorious. The numbers tell the story, two separate numbers: 9 percent of all postsecondary students go attend for-profit colleges and universities—University of Phoenix, DeVry, very well-known names—9 percent of students go to those schools, but 33 percent of all of the federal student loan defaults are students from for-profit colleges and universities.

Why? Why is this one category of higher education so notorious for students starting and ending up deeply in debt to the point where they cannot pay it back? Well, the reasons are simple and very obvious. They overcharge the students, and they undereducate them. They make promises that are wild and cannot be kept. They give them courses of doubtful value and do not tell them that any credits that they have earned at these for-profit schools cannot be transferred to city colleges, community colleges, or universities.

So the students are stuck. At some point, some will quit piling on the debt and just basically walk away. All the promises and all the jobs and careers that were supposed to come from this are never going to materialize. It is a classic fraud, and sadly, our government is part of that fraud. You see, we recognize the accreditation of those schools. We tell that cleaning lady and her family that these are good schools and universities. The Federal Government does that and offers Federal loans to these students to go to these schools.

Is it any wonder that the students and their families think they are doing the right thing for their future? The Federal Government gave a stamp of approval. Well, what happens when those schools reach the end of the line? What happens when those same for-profit colleges and universities go bankrupt? The students are in a terrible position, deeply in debt with courses that are meaningless, with their lives compromised, and nowhere to turn.

We decided long ago to create an opportunity for these students to get out of this dilemma—one that we share in by accrediting these schools—something called the “borrower defense,” which allows these students, if they were defrauded, to discharge their federal student loans and get on with their lives.

Today, hundreds of thousands of students—who were defrauded by their for-profit colleges—are desperately waiting for Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to discharge their Federal student loans under a provision in Federal law known as borrower defense. Congress created the borrower defense provision to ensure students’ lives are not ruined by their schools’ misconduct and deception.

In 2014, for-profit Corinthian Colleges collapsed. It left more than 70,000 stu-

dents nationwide with worthless credits they could not transfer and mounds of student debt. The students had been lured into those Corinthian schools with false promises, inflated placement rates and income projections. We know that for a fact. We have the data to show they were lying to the students about what graduation from Corinthian could mean in their lives.

Over the last 5 or 6 years, nearly every other major for-profit college, nearly every one of these have faced Federal or State lawsuits and investigations for predatory practices similar to Corinthian Colleges. The result has been hundreds of thousands of defrauded students across America who are seeking discharges to which we say they are entitled under Federal law.

Secretary Betsy DeVos has allowed more than 200,000 borrower defense applications to pile up at the Department, nearly 11,000 from my own State of Illinois. But listen to this, Secretary DeVos has not approved a single claim for more than a year, 200,000 applications stacking up at the Department of Education, not one approved.

So who are some of these borrowers that are languishing? What is their story? Let me tell you about two of them.

One is Jessica from Tucson, AZ. Jessica attended the Art Institute of Tucson from 2009 to 2012. It was owned by the failed for-profit Education Management Corporation, EDMC. Heartbreakingly, Jessica says: “I have experienced unbelievable amounts of stress and depression due to this situation. I have been placed on anti-depressants and anti-anxiety medication over the years and been through therapy . . . I have self-harmed and contemplated suicide, because I feel so trapped and unable to recover or move forward. I have a general feeling of worthlessness, because I feel like my potential has been squandered.”

She went to the Art Institute of Tucson, and her experience has led her to this desperate situation. She tried to harm herself. Instead of a bright future, she is left with a mountain of debt and nothing to show for it but deep financial and psychological pain. She says, “Every aspect of her life has been affected.”

And so, is Secretary Betsy DeVos trying to help Jessica? No. Secretary DeVos is making it worse. Jessica submitted her borrower defense application almost 4 years ago in 2016. She has waited for this period of time to hear anything from the Department of Education. What is their excuse? I mean, if someone writes a letter to my office and does not get a reply and they come back to me and say, Are you going to answer this, DURBIN, we send a reply. We try to do it promptly with everybody.

How can Secretary DeVos be holding these things up for years, while the students see the mountain of debt growing? As she waits, Jessica’s loans are in forbearance, where they con-

tinue to gather interest, meaning that the total amount owed continues to grow. She is just 1 of 4,518 borrowers from Arizona who are stuck waiting for Secretary DeVos to use the authority that Congress gave her to discharge fraudulent loans.

I also want to tell you about Jonathan from Colorado—3,600 defrauded borrowers are waiting for relief. Jonathan from Westminster, CO, attended DeVry University—sadly a Chicago-based for-profit school—studying to be an electronics engineer.

He is a father and a husband who was trying to provide more for his family, so he took out student loans that sounded like an investment. He currently owes almost \$100,000 in outstanding Federal student loans from attending DeVry, twice what he was told his education would cost.

Of his debt, Jonathan says, “My credit has been destroyed. I couldn’t repay these loans in two lifetimes, even if my degree had any value to employers.” Sadly, it doesn’t. Employers don’t even recognize his degree.

Jonathan says:

My student loans are the millstone around my family. The debt I owe has made my kids not want to attend college at all. They see no value in it; their own father has an engineering degree but he can’t get hired anywhere because his school was a scam.

Those are the words of Jonathan from Colorado.

So not only has this fraudulent school taken away his future by burdening him with a worthless degree and piles of debt; in many ways, it affects his children’s future.

Jonathan applied for a borrower defense discharge in 2017, nearly 3 years ago. He has been waiting to hear from Secretary Betsy DeVos. Secretary DeVos’s failure to provide him with relief, he says, “has caused [him] to lose faith that the government will actually protect students like [him].”

Secretary DeVos has cruelly ignored defrauded borrowers like Jessica and Jonathan, but what is more is that she is trying to make it almost impossible for future borrowers like them to secure the relief that Congress intended by rewriting the rules.

In August, Secretary DeVos released a new version of the borrower defense rule that places unreasonable burdens on borrowers to attain relief. The result is that the Department estimates the DeVos rule will deny nearly \$11 billion in relief to borrowers compared to the current rule.

In September, I introduced a resolution in the Senate to overturn the DeVos borrower defense rule. Forty-two of my colleagues have joined me in cosponsoring it. I plan to bring the resolution to a vote on the Senate floor where it only needs a simple majority to pass. At that time, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will have a choice: Will they stand with Secretary DeVos’s actions—or, I should say, lack of actions for 3 or 4 years—will they deny help to defrauded students, or will



they stand with young people like Jessica and Jonathan, trying to get their lives back together and trying to get Congress to implement the one law it passed that could help them? It is a choice that seems pretty easy for most American people when they hear this scenario described to them.

A recent opinion piece in the *Anchor-age Daily News* criticized Secretary DeVos for siding with “for-profit colleges that have defrauded students” and “illegally [denying] student loan debt relief to thousands of students.” Even in Alaska, hundreds of borrowers are waiting for borrower defense discharges.

Nationally, Americans agree that these defrauded borrowers deserve relief. In a 2016 New America poll, 78 percent of Americans said that students should have their Federal student loan debt discharged if their school deceived them. That is pretty basic, isn’t it? If you were cheated, you ought to be taken care of.

When you break the numbers down by party, 87 percent of Democrats and 71 percent of Republicans—vast majorities—supported relief for these students. So when it comes time to vote on my resolution to overturn the DeVos borrower defense rule denying relief to defrauded borrowers, I hope my colleagues will stand with students and the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### ABORTION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, my hope is that each of us in this Chamber and their families enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving time, being grateful for all of the blessings that we in this country have.

I know I certainly had a wonderful week. I had the opportunity to spend some time across the great State of Tennessee and to talk with Tennesseans about what was on their minds.

I will tell you this. In my opinion and experience, as diverse as Tennesseans are, there is one thing in common that I heard repeatedly, and that is that they are through with trying to guess where politicians in Washington, DC, stand on issues. This is something I think all of us need to hear and probably don’t want to hear, but our fellow Americans, and certainly Tennesseans, have no idea what their elected representatives believe. Instead, all they see up here is this endless cycle of political in-fighting and failed legislation. They consistently say: We want you to focus on things that are important to us. We want you to focus on things that are important to the country. I will tell you that it is no wonder that our country’s discourse is plagued by what is a marked cynicism for even our most earnest efforts.

As I thought about this during the week and the visits that I had across the State, I thought: You need look no further for an example of where they

see this fighting as being unnecessary than an issue that has become a magnet for derision, and that is the issue of protecting life—more specifically, the use of taxpayer dollars to fund the abortion procedures.

In poll after poll, after poll, a majority of Americans have indicated that they oppose public funding of abortion. The numbers on this are not even close.

As early as this summer, self-identified Democrats’ support for taxpayer-funded abortion struggled to even break out of single digits. The data is clear, and it is convincing. The American taxpayer does not want their tax dollar being used to fund abortion procedures.

So how is it, then, that my friends in the minority insist upon loopholes and work-arounds that make taxpayers complicit in the slaughter of the unborn?

Their cause has been frustrated, of course, by President Trump’s aggressively pro-life agenda. Last year, he proposed the “protect life rule,” which cut taxpayer funding under the title X program for any facility that performs abortions or that refers their clients to those facilities that perform abortions.

This rule closely mirrored my Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act. That was the first bill I filed when I came to the Senate. It is something that is very important to me.

But this year, this body’s liberal faction once again seized an opportunity to undercut the pro-life agenda via a legislative trick known around this Chamber and Capitol Hill as a poison pill. You see, they found a way to hold hostage millions of dollars attached to the fiscal year 2020 State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill. That was done via an amendment that funnels family planning dollars to domestic organizations that support abortions overseas.

Do you see what they are doing?

It is an amendment that funnels family planning dollars to domestic—U.S.—organizations, but those organizations are supporting abortions overseas. It also uses Obama-era gender policies to define sex—a clear red herring to get people arguing about gender identity so they will ignore the Democratic Party’s leftward swing on the issue of abortion.

You could chalk all this up to politics, were it not for the existence of the bipartisan budget agreement that both parties agreed to ahead of our work on appropriations. That agreement included a ban on poison pill riders like the Shaheen amendment, as well as assurances that any poison pills would be swiftly removed. We thought we had taken care of that issue with the bipartisan budget agreement, but oh, no, here we go.

Yet in order to “empower women overseas” Democrats have indicated that they are willing to throw away \$847 million for maternal and child health, \$100 million for global health

security programs, \$150 million for nutrition assistance, and \$6.2 billion for global HIV and AIDS assistance. They are doing this, throwing all that money away, so they can make a political point.

This is an interesting development coming from the party that once deployed their support for abortion in only the most extraordinary circumstances. The party of “safe, legal, and rare”—their terminology—has become the party that hedges their bets with infanticide and prioritizes convenience over human life.

Just across the river in Virginia, Ralph Northam and his cohorts were allowed to set a new reprehensible standard for what left-leaning America is willing to condone in the name of soulless politicking.

Tennesseans told me they want to see their representatives speaking up. They want to see women speaking up on behalf of life, families, and the unborn. They see clearly that if protecting life is the hallmark of the conservative movement, then, destroying life is the hallmark of a more liberal approach. They want us to draw a line in the sand and declare once and for all that loopholes and legislative tricks will no longer be tolerated because, for them, abortion is not up for casual discussion. They see how clearly and how easily the left trifles with the lives of children, and they are repulsed by it. What they want us to do is to focus on getting things done that are important to them. And, yes, to Tennesseans, being able to say the right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness is something that has a deep meaning.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

(Mr. CRUZ assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. CRAMER assumed the Chair.)

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator

from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 86, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 369 Ex.]

#### YEAS—86

Alexander	Fischer	Peters
Baldwin	Gardner	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Reed
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blumenthal	Hassan	Roberts
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hirono	Rosen
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Schatz
Capito	Isakson	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Carper	Jones	Shaheen
Casey	Kaine	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sinema
Collins	King	Smith
Coons	Lankford	Stabenow
Cornyn	Leahy	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Lee	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	McSally	Toomey
Cruz	Menendez	Udall
Daines	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Wicker
Enzi	Murphy	Wyden
Ernst	Paul	Young
Feinstein	Perdue	

#### NAYS—4

Cantwell	Markey
Heinrich	Murray

#### NOT VOTING—10

Bennet	Klobuchar	Warren
Booker	Rounds	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Sanders	
Harris	Scott (SC)	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John L. Sinatra, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of John L. Sinatra, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 76, nays 16, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 370 Ex.]

#### YEAS—76

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

#### NAYS—16

Blumenthal	Hirono	Smith
Brown	Markey	Udall
Cantwell	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Wyden
Durbin	Murray	
Heinrich	Schatz	

#### NOT VOTING—8

Booker	Klobuchar	Warren
Gillibrand	Rounds	Whitehouse
Harris	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 76, the nays are 16.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John L. Sinatra, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the

cloture vote on Executive Calendar No. 353, the time following the recess until 4:30 p.m. be reserved for tributes to retiring Senator ISAKSON; further that the time from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. be equally divided between the leaders or their designees on the nomination, and that at 5 p.m., the Senate vote on cloture on the following nominations in the order listed: Executive Calendar Nos. 478, 381, 459, and 460; that if cloture is invoked, the confirmation votes on Executive Calendar Nos. 353, 478, 381, 459, and 460 occur at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4.

I further ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Duncan nomination be waived and that the cloture votes on Executive Calendar Nos. 479, 489, and 386 occur at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 4, and that if cloture is invoked, the confirmation votes occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader on Thursday, December 5.

I further ask unanimous consent that, with respect to all the votes ordered in this agreement, if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator FEINSTEIN be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled recess.

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

The Senator from California.

#### NOMINATION OF SARAH E. PITLYK

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to the nomination of Sarah Pitlyk to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. Ms. Pitlyk's record is extremely troubling and raises a number of questions about her ability to be a fair and impartial judge.

Ms. Pitlyk was deemed by the American Bar Association to be Not Qualified, one of only 3 percent of people reviewed by the Bar over the past 3 years. This is the first that I have had occasion to review in total. A district court judge, as you well know, must hit the ground running. Ms. Pitlyk's lack of practical knowledge and experience would significantly disadvantage the litigants appearing before her.

I also want to acknowledge the highly unusual nature of a "Not Qualified" rating by the Bar; 97 percent of President Trump's nominees have been rated at least "Qualified" by the American Bar Association. This means that Ms. Pitlyk falls in the small minority—just 3 percent—of candidates deemed not qualified by the American Bar Association. This shows how rare that rating is. The ABA has been reviewing the qualifications, as you already know, of judicial nominees since 1989. They know what they are doing, and those of us on the committee take their evaluations very seriously.

Next, I want to discuss Ms. Pitlyk's record opposing women's reproductive rights and limiting access to healthcare. Ms. Pitlyk defended a State law banning abortion at 6 weeks, she opposed the Affordable Care Act's coverage for contraception, and she defended President Trump's Title X gag rule.

The Trump administration's Title X gag rule prohibits referrals for abortion care and imposes onerous requirements on abortion clinics, among other things. The rule effectively pushed Planned Parenthood out of the Title X program, curtailing access to healthcare for millions of low-income women and families.

Ms. Pitlyk has also filed multiple legal briefs that contain misinformation. Last year, she argued without any credible evidence that "racism plays a profound role in the delivery of abortion services."

In another case, Ms. Pitlyk claimed—again without evidence—that in-vitro fertilization leads to "higher rates of birth defects, genetic disorders, and other anomalies."

I think it is disqualifying for any judicial nominee to make unfounded and unsupported claims, especially in a court of law.

Ms. Pitlyk has also made statements in her personal capacity opposing access to healthcare. Just last year, she called the Supreme Court's decision upholding the Affordable Care Act "unprincipled." Earlier this year, she said that the Supreme Court's reproductive healthcare cases have "gross defects."

These statements and Ms. Pitlyk's legal work raise serious concerns about her ability to apply the Supreme Court's important precedents fairly and impartially. I am deeply troubled by her record, her lack of experience, and I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing her nomination.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an article from *Politico* and a letter from the American Bar Association dated September 24, 2019, be printed in the *RECORD*.

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

[From the *POLITICO*, Nov. 19, 2019]

SUSAN COLLINS TO OPPOSE TRUMP JUDICIAL  
NOMINEE

(By Marianne Levine)

Sen. Susan Collins will oppose Sarah Pitlyk, President Donald Trump's nominee to become a federal judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

In a statement to *POLITICO*, the Maine Republican voiced concern about Pitlyk's lack of trial experience, as well as her stance on abortion given previous comments on gestational surrogacy and past legal work.

"Her lack of trial experience would make it difficult for her to transition to a district court judgeship," Collins said.

She also cited Pitlyk's comments in a brief she co-wrote in 2017 as a lawyer for the Thomas More Society, an anti-abortion law firm. The brief stated surrogacy leads to the "diminished respect for motherhood and the unique mother-child bond; exploitation of

women; commodification of gestation and of children themselves; and weakening of appropriate social mores against eugenic abortion."

Collins said Pitlyk is entitled to her personal views on abortion, but she questioned "given her pattern of strident advocacy, whether she could put aside her personal views on these matters."

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved Pitlyk's nomination along party lines in October, and a floor vote is likely in the coming weeks.

While Collins supported Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation to the Supreme Court, she has voted against several Trump judicial nominees this year.

In addition to Pitlyk, Collins opposed Steven Menashi's nomination to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Chad Readler's nomination to the 6th Circuit, Howard Nielson for the District of Utah, Matthew Kacsmaryk for the Northern District of Texas and Jeffrey Brown for the Southern District of Texas.

All of those judges were confirmed by the GOP-controlled Senate.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, STANDING  
COMMITTEE ON THE FEDERAL  
JUDICIARY,

*Columbia, SC, September 24, 2019.*

Re Nomination of Sarah E. Pitlyk to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Hon. LINDSEY GRAHAM,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,*  
*U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,*  
*U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAHAM AND RANKING MEMBER FEINSTEIN: The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has received a full report on Sarah E. Pitlyk and a supplemental report by a second reviewer. The Committee has unanimously determined that Ms. Pitlyk is "Not Qualified" for the position of federal district judge. I write to offer a brief explanation of this rating. Our rating is based on the Standing Committee's criteria as set forth in the Background. The Standing Committee believes that Ms. Pitlyk does not have the requisite trial or litigation experience or its equivalent. I would like to point out that based on its peer review, the Standing Committee's rating does not rest on questions about Ms. Pitlyk's temperament or integrity.

The Background that provides guidance to our evaluation process explains that a nominee to the federal bench ordinarily should have a minimum of 12 years' experience in the practice of law. This 12-year experience guideline is neither a hard-and-fast rule nor an automatic disqualifier. The Standing Committee's criteria provide that a nominee's limited experience may be offset by the breadth and depth of the nominee's experience over the course of his or her career. Nominees with fewer than 12 years at the bar (as is the case with Ms. Pitlyk, both due to the calendar and periods of inactive status), but with substantial trial or courtroom experience and/or compensating accomplishments in the field of law, can and have been found qualified by our Committee. However, Ms. Pitlyk's experience to date has a very substantial gap, namely the absence of any trial or even real litigation experience. Ms. Pitlyk has never tried a case as lead or co-counsel, whether civil or criminal. She has never examined a witness. Though Ms. Pitlyk has argued one case in a court of appeals, she has not taken a deposition. She has not argued any motion in a state or federal trial court. She has never picked a jury.

She has never participated at any stage of a criminal matter.

The Standing Committee believes that a nominee should be professionally competent to manage and resolve the many diverse matters facing a federal judge on a daily basis. The accumulation of experience and legal knowledge that is acquired by a practicing lawyer both inside and outside of the courtroom prepares a lawyer over time to handle a broad spectrum of legal issues in a wide variety of subject matters and to manage a courtroom over which he or she will preside as a judge. The judicial system, the public, the trial bar, and the nominee are not well served by appointing to the bench a lawyer who, despite great intelligence, high character, and experience researching and writing briefs, lacks adequate trial court or equivalent experience.

While we respect the clerkship for which the nominee served after graduation from law school, her legal practice to date does not compensate for the short time the nominee has actually practiced law and her lack of litigation, trial, and courtroom experience. It is the Standing Committee's judgment that Ms. Pitlyk does not meet the minimum professional competence standard necessary to perform the responsibilities required by the high office of a federal district court judge.

Thank you for the opportunity to explain our rating to you.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM C. HUBBARD.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, 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 12:56 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate.

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

## FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, it is an honor to be here today on what is not my last day, but everybody is acting like it.

A few months ago, I had to announce that after much consideration, to be able to continue to serve the people of Georgia as best I could in any way possible and also to keep true to the commitments I made in every race I have ever won, that when I knew I couldn't do the job, I was going to quit and let somebody do it who wouldn't be hampered. I am not hampered yet—I am pretty tough—but it is getting close. So in August, I decided to tell my wife about it, and we decided to go ahead and retire at the end of December, which I have announced and said I was going to do. The Governor of Georgia is making an appointment to take my place.

A few days from now, you might look into the history books somewhere—current history—and they might have an Isakson in the glossary, but I doubt it. You may never see this name again.

I have been here for 15 years and loved every minute of it. This is the most enjoyable thing I have ever done in my life, to be a part of the U.S. Senate. It is not because I like being a Senator but because I like to be with the people who are in the Senate.

Politicians get a bad rap in this day and time—a real bad rap. A lot of things are said about them by people they are aware don't matter, like those in some of the media and other places, but others will take potshots at people who are politicians and who serve the people in their communities. I never do that—not because I am one but because I know, because I am one, what you have to do. It is a tough job, and if it is not done right, then it is not done and it doesn't get done the way it should for the people there. So I am making sure that when I leave, the last thing I do is to leave the people of Georgia in good hands, given that I am the senior Senator from Georgia who is retiring.

Unfortunately, at lunch today, the Members gave me a luncheon and stole all of my material. Don't let this paper fool you—I threw it all away coming in here. They have stolen all of my good jokes, took over all of the things I was going to say, so I am going to make this very brief, but in the end, very brief is good.

My dad told me one time—he said: “Son, your words have more power by how few you use than how many you use.” I always remembered that. I think speeches are really important. I make short speeches. I get to the point, and I get out. I am going to give you some reasons that works.

(The Vice President assumed the Chair.)

When I knew I was going to be outshined by the other Members of the Senate at this luncheon today, I decided that I would do the best I could to honor MITCH MCCONNELL, who is the greatest leader I have ever worked for in my 45 years of public life, and people like the Vice President of the United States, who I am so proud is in the Chair. I can tell my grandkids—who are all here, by the way—I hope you remember that time you were there with MIKE PENCE, the Vice President of the United States—you could be President by then, Mr. Vice President—to hear a speech I made.

Everybody, thank you for being here. I am not going to call out names because I would miss somebody, except TESTER. You can't miss TESTER. But everybody else, I would miss. I don't want to miss anybody because every one of you is important to me—the people who help us in the lunchroom, the people who help us in stores, the people who help us get in and out of the cars, the people who help us on bad days, snowy days, icy days, and every-

thing else—just everybody who helps us. It takes a lot of people to run the Senate, and only one person to mess it up.

I want to talk about one subject today and one subject alone, and it is going to be short.

There is something missing in this place. I am given credit sometimes for being a bipartisan person. In fact, sometimes newspaper people write that I am known for being bipartisan or being a softy. Some of them say worse than that, but I am not going to address that. I am a bipartisan person. I never saw people get things done by not agreeing with each other. You have to come to an agreement. I made a living selling houses. You can't ever solve a problem if you have two people and they will not agree to a price and agree to a time to move. You have to find common ground. It is the same thing with the law. You can't pass a law—you can't solve a problem, period, end of sentence. If you are one of those people who say “It is my way or the highway,” then we are all in real trouble.

I want to talk about being bipartisan and what bipartisanship really is. I don't think most of you really know what bipartisanship is. I shouldn't say that to an educated group of people like this who have been down a lot of tough trails like I have. Being bipartisan doesn't mean a Democrat and Republican talk to each other every once in a while; it means this: Two people come together who probably have differences—probably have a lot of differences—but they find a way to get to the end of the trail, where there is the possibility of a solution, and then they do the things they have to do to get to that solution. America today is built on people who found a way to get to that end of the solution, no question about it.

I hate to ask this question, but I came in the back door. Is JOHN LEWIS here yet? Where is JOHN?

JOHN, you are getting shorter.

JOHN LEWIS is one of the finest people I have ever known and a great friend of mine. I was invited to speak to the Senate a couple of days ago, and I recognized JOHN, who was there. He introduced me and said some things that meant more to people than anything anybody has ever said to me, so I said: I want you to come to my last speech because I want to say a few things about you. Because, in essence, really, JOHN—to a much greater extent than me—and I together represent how things can really change if people want them to change and are willing to do the things that let them change.

JOHN was born in the 1940s. I was born in the 1940s. JOHN lived in Alabama. I lived in Georgia for a while. JOHN got his good senses together, and he came to—Shelby was there, so he came to Alabama. He is a good guy. JOHN came there, and JOHN lived in a shotgun house. That is where there is a hole in the back, a hole in the front, and if you throw something, you don't

hit anything. JOHN was a great civil rights leader in his youth. He was the president of SNCC, the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee. JOHN walked the streets of Atlanta, GA, where I lived. I was part of the people whom Earl Warren—there were all these signs around Georgia. I thought he was running for office. They said “Impeach Earl Warren.” I never got that figured out until I got a little older. Anyway, Earl Warren had been a part of the Brown v. Board of Education decision. The schools' separate but equal doctrine had been thrown out, and the schools were going to be integrated. Across society, the only way to prove that you were getting it done was by the numbers. So they figured how much of a percentage of how many Black people would constitute a good number to say you were desegregated and vice versa, solving the problem with statistics.

I was on some of those first buses that rode to Atlanta, GA, taking Black students to White schools, and I had some good friends who were Black. That is another thing southerners are blamed for—we always say: We have some really good friends who were Black. I have some really good friends who are Black. I still have them, and one of them is JOHN LEWIS.

JOHN LEWIS is one of my real heroes in life because I watched what he went through to help us see the light in the South, in my part of the South, Georgia. He was a hero. He was a hero to me.

When I got to Congress, one of the things I am most proud of is that JOHN introduced me to be sworn in. The Speaker of the House swore me in, and I was down at the podium. Let me tell you what happened that morning. The clerk said: We will now have Mr. ISAKSON from Georgia, who won a special election yesterday in Atlanta, GA, and has been declared the winner by the secretary of state. We would like to ask Mr. LEWIS to escort him to the front. We will give him 1 minute to make his acceptance speech, and we will go back to business.

I said, 1 minute? I have been practicing all these years, and I am only going to get only 1 minute? I can't do anything in 1 minute.

But I wasn't going to argue with the guy on my first day at work. So I went to the back of the room with JOHN. JOHN walked down the aisle on the House side. I was not paying a lot of attention. I figured the best thing to do was to follow JOHN, so I followed JOHN. When JOHN got through introducing me, I followed him to the well, and I said thank you to everybody and named three or four people who had helped me get there and then said: Well, I am going to work, and I am honored to be here.

What they didn't tell me was, if you were in the House on that particular day, the mike for people who were Republicans was on the left, and the Republicans spoke from the right. This

dummy followed JOHN, who was smart and went to the right, where he was supposed to go. I went to the left, where I wasn't supposed to go. I noticed these eyeballs in the front row just going around and around. And some guy stepped behind me after I gave my 1-minute speech and said: "So you are going to start this fast demonstrating what a liberal guy you are?" It was one of those voices that came over the back of my shoulder, just kind of like something hanging over my head. I turned around and looked, and this other guy—his name was Tom Latham—came up to me and said "Don't pay any attention to that," and then he went on about his business.

I asked somebody later that day: What did that guy mean by that?

He said: Well, the problem is, you got labeled when you got elected.

I said: What do you mean?

He said: Well, you got elected in a Republican district, but you said nice things about Democrats.

I said: Is that wrong to do?

He said: Well, we were trying to get some way to get Boehner not to appoint you to any committee. We heard you helped write No Child Left Behind.

That was how I started out in the House of Representatives. I was a Republican in a majority Democratic House who was unwanted because I was not—in fact, Newt lost—some of you know this; I see a few faces over there—Newt lost that race by seven votes in the House. Seven Members said: We will not vote for Newt as Speaker. Tom knows this. Newt couldn't get reelected as Speaker, so he resigned.

I didn't know he was going to do that. I was going to speak at the national realtors' conference in Disneyland at a convention. I got to the hotel that afternoon, and there were 72 phone messages for me.

A guy came up and said: Boy, I hope nobody died at your house.

That is a great way to arrive at a hotel.

I said: Why is that?

He said: You have 72 messages.

I said: Well, let me see them.

The first 71 were from my wife. I called her, and she said: Have you heard?

I said: Heard what?

She said: Newt quit.

I said: Quit what?

He quit as Speaker, and he quit as Member of the House, and everybody is calling on you to run.

I said: What?

Nothing computed. Very quickly I learned a lot about partisan politics. A lot of people wanted to have somebody take Newt's place. Newt's body wasn't even cold yet, and they were picking over it. They wanted to have a person who wasn't squeamish in a war like that.

Anyway, to make a long story short, partisan politics was pretty rough in those days. It is a lot rougher now, but it was pretty rough back then. People

voted not with their heads but with a hammer—not with their hearts, either. So I learned in an era where if you were a Republican, you were a Republican, and if you were a Democrat, you were a Democrat, and they didn't ever cross. Don't work with anybody. Don't make it easy. If you have the votes, use them. And we kept getting beaten or kept getting tricked all the time because the whole game plan over there was to have enough Republicans beat the Democrats or vice versa. That is what everybody would try to do, and I thought that was stupid, but I didn't say that. Four hundred and thirty-five is a lot of people, so you don't want to get run over.

A few weeks down the line, I made a speech on the floor of the House about something very important to me and my State. It was a problem we had in the State where our State was divided, rural and urban—not Republican and Democrat but rural and urban. Because Republicans were pretty much rural back then and urban people were Democrats in the suburbs, at that time, it got divided politically anyway even though it was an economic issue, an ag issue, a shipping issue, and things like that. They divided up over parties, so by the time the issue got to the floor on some kind of compromise vote, we couldn't pass anything. We couldn't pass a kidney stone, much less anything else, because we couldn't get anybody to agree on anything. We had the parties cross each other and everybody else.

So I decided then, if I am going to be in this thing, at that age—I was about 60, I guess—I am not going to spend the rest of my life down here arguing about silly and stupid things. And there were some silly and stupid things said over there. I am not going to say who was saying them, but you know who they were. They were from both parties. It was bipartisan. That was the first bipartisan thing I saw—the stupid statements.

To make a long story short, we had some real battles, but finally I decided that I was going to be an example of what we really need to be like. I tried to find every way I could to be bipartisan, which to me meant that I did what I thought was right. I think that is the way to do it.

Mark Twain said:

When confronted with a difficult decision, do what is right. You will surprise a few, but you will amaze the rest.

I tried to start amazing everybody. I voted for some things. They would send somebody over to see me from the whip side. They would say: What did you do? Did you get confused?

No, I didn't get confused.

Finally, they realized they had somebody they could deal with, which is the good part of bipartisanship. The first time the partisan people figure they have somebody they can deal with, they come deal with you. The next thing you know, you are sitting at a table with the guys who were making fun of you, and they are not.

That is the way you go with bipartisanship. That is the way I did it on my own, going through 6 years in the House of Representatives and 15 years in the U.S. Senate, trying to find that little thing that could bring two people together, notwithstanding what party they were in. I never look at the party first. That is the last thing I look at.

CHUCK SCHUMER said some nice things today. One of the nicest things he said was that he liked the kindness part of it. He said I was a kind person. My wife might differ with that, and some other people might differ with that. I try to be a kind person. I try to be someone who somebody would like to sit down with because you can't get a problem solved if you can't sit down across the table from somebody you have a problem with. You can then build everything that way.

I hope this Senate and this Congress—all of us—in the years ahead—we have some big problems. Let's start having a main goal personally that we are going to do everything we can to be a part of the solutions and the decisions that are going to have to be made. If you don't want to do it, don't do it, but you are going to find out, if you figure it out, that if you try to do it, others watch you do it, and you start making decisions and solving problems, you are going to be more popular than the other people.

This is not a popularity contest. Governing is not a popularity contest. This is a will of minds. Bipartisanship is a state of being. It is a state of mind.

There are people in the U.S. Senate whom I work with and I love working with every day—I am looking at some of them right here in the eye. They have an attitude that I like. I know I can go sit down and talk to them. If they say no, I will take it, and I will not stick my tongue out at them or call them bad names or anything else, but they know I will be there tomorrow to ask them to do something for me.

The best way to get somebody to do something for you, when you hadn't done something for them the day before, is, well, maybe if I help them out, I will get some help on my side. It is a quid pro quo—well, that is a bad term. I am glad I remembered that joke. But those are the types of things you have to do, even in levelling the playing field.

My words to you today are these: When you are fortunate enough to see a JOHN LEWIS from Georgia, or someone like him, step out of his comfort zone and do what he thinks is right, and somebody tells you "He is wrong; don't do that," judge your conscience and your heart, not some TV commentators or somebody who is loyal to hate.

We still have some people in the United States of America who will play the hate card. We have some politicians who will dance around the issue of hate. They will not use the buzz words, but they will get awful close to it. They did it in Charlottesville. I have

had people in the basement of my house from law enforcement from time to time because the issues get pretty tough, whether it is college scholarship admissions or whatever it may be. We have to stand up to the evils of society today. If we don't do it, nobody will.

I decided I was going to tell you what I really believe, and that is, America, we have a problem, just like Apollo had. Our problem is we are not going to repeat ourselves. We are not going to exist much longer.

We live in the greatest country on the face of this Earth. There is not anybody any better than the United States of America. Everybody is trying to break in. Nobody is trying to break out.

We are always passing laws, not because they are breaking out; they are all trying to break in. Why? Because it is the safest, happiest, richest place in the world. We have the best people to protect that wealth and that happiness. We have enough people go in the military on a voluntary basis. Less than 1 percent of our population serves in the military. It makes us the strongest defender of freedom and opportunity in the world.

If we ever lose that—if we ever lose the club or the two-by-four that the mule gets used to, we are going to lose our coverage of ethics, standby support, and all the other things we love and things we do. We are that close.

I see things happening—which I am asked about by people—that scare me. I have heard some people I know say some things that terrify me. We are better than the hate and the vile statements that some people make. We have to do better than that. We have to talk not over them or under them, but we have to talk to them. We have to sit down and say: Why did you say that? What is your problem? If we have a problem, let's get it out in the open and talk about it.

This is the best country in the world. The strongest country in the world cannot succumb to crushing itself inwardly if we look the other way in the challenges of life. The challenges of life today are America's changing. It is changing for lots of reasons.

There are a lot of people who are big internet people and all that, and they have all the solutions. I think the solution is right here. It is in their heart.

I am telling you from my heart that after 45 years in elected office, raising three children and eight grandchildren—and my kids have done a great job of raising them, living in a great community and working, attending a great church, and doing the things I have done—I see some of it slipping away. Churches don't have the memberships they used to have, and it is significant. School curriculum is getting a whole lot tougher than it used to be. I was chairman of the board of education for the State for a few years. A lot of the traditional things we all love and believe in, like God and country, like school curriculum, reli-

gion, Sunday school, and things like that—they have their challenges.

I am going to roll up my sleeves and do whatever I can with the life I have left. I said I am going to leave on December 31, but it is not because I am leaving you. I am not leaving you. I am going to be with you a lot longer than I thought I would because of what I am doing. I want to be here for you, and I want to be here when that bell rings to say: America, we don't have a problem anymore. We solved it. You helped us do it through our tax policies, through our Federal policies, through our education policies, and how we treat people. We helped you do it. Let's not get back in that shape again.

We have the people and the spirit of JOHN LEWIS and other people I know in this room who are willing to do it. Some think this is all just a bunch of Sunday school folly that somebody who is leaving believes in. Don't believe that. I will be back to make a speech again sometime and give you a progress report. We need some progress.

Now, the last thing I want to talk about—the best thing—the example to me of what bipartisanship means is a picture taken of JOHN LEWIS and me last week. Bipartisanship doesn't mean one is Black and one is White—could be one Black and one White, could be. But JOHN is Black and I am White, and we are different about other things.

When JOHN and I were addressing the House at a tribute to me, unfortunately for everybody else, I liked it. We had a great time. When JOHN's time to speak came, he made a beautiful speech too. It was very meaningful to me because we know what the buzz words were. We know what we said to make it sound like we were really liberal or positive. We knew we really weren't.

JOHN knew, JOHN knew who deserved cover and who didn't, which takes as much guts as somebody who knows what is right and what is wrong. So JOHN made this beautiful speech, and I said: You know, this is my time to pay JOHN back. All these years he has helped me out with so many things I have done.

I went to his 75th birthday because I am 75, and I wanted to see what I was going to look like. I looked in the mirror, and I didn't look like me.

JOHN and I turned out to be really good friends. I went to JOHN and said: JOHN, I thank you for that speech. That was the best I ever heard.

I opened my arms and hugged him, not for show and not for display and not for any purpose except to hug him because I love him. I know what he has done for me and this country, as well as so many other things.

But JOHN hugged me, and it got pretty long there for a minute, and that didn't bother me. But the TV people went crazy, so the best picture you could have seen last week among the popular pictures in magazines and the like was JOHN hugging me on the floor of the House.

TOM GRAVES and all the others from the Georgia delegation are here. I am sorry I haven't called out everybody's name; I haven't been able to see everybody. But they all came up and said: Thank you for doing that. I hope everybody back in Georgia sees that.

I said: That is what you are going to tell them. Here in the Senate at a luncheon next Tuesday, we all need to be seen doing the things they don't expect us to do. We are doing what is right for a change, and I just want them to feel good.

Politics doesn't need to be a feel-good business anymore. It needs to be a do-the-right-thing business. I tell you, I am big on bipartisanship. Whether you are Black or White, Republican or Democrat, whatever it might be, find a way to find common ground. Give it a chance to work, and if it doesn't, be a future friend. That is my slogan. When I started my business and people wouldn't buy a house from me, I would shake their hand and say: Thank you for looking for me, and when you buy your next one, call me, and I will do a better job because all I have are customers and future customers. I addressed everybody as a future customer, and I got some.

When I got into politics and I started asking people to vote for me, I said: All I have out there in Georgia are friends and future friends. So when we walked away from a Republican meeting somewhere and somebody had given me their right hand in the face and said, "We are not going to vote for you," I said, "I tell you what. I will give you another chance in 2 years so we can be a future friend, not less of a friend."

Friends and future friends are what it is all about. If you find anybody in business who helps you make it through life, you will make it through life and be treated that way. Life is a win-win proposition if you do it good. It is not a win-lose proposition. It is win-win. But you have to demand it, whichever side of the transition you are on.

So on a day in which I have had more nice things said about me than I deserve, it has brought clarity to me. I am going to tell you how much this place really means.

I am the happiest guy who could ever be. I am happy because I haven't cried yet. I am more happy because of all of you. I think you know what I am talking about. We can do it. We can do anything. We may be called liberal and may be called a RINO and may be called whatever it is. Let's solve the problem, and then see what happens.

Most people who call people names and point fingers are people who don't have a solution themselves but just want to make damn sure you don't solve it. We have to start doing that, and then bipartisanship will become a way you accomplish things, a way you live, a state of being. It will be the end of a bad time and the beginning of a new one, and I want to live long enough to see both.



God bless all of you, and thank you for your support and your friendship. It means more to me than I can ever tell you. I will always be there for you, whether it is buying dinner, going to church, or just listening to one of your speeches when I don't have anything else to do. God bless all of you.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). The Senator from Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ISAKSON

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, it is always a privilege to come before the U.S. Senate. I always feel humbled by that because I think of the people who have spoken on this floor since 1859. I am always measured in what I try to bring in terms of thought or whatever, but today there is a special sense of responsibility.

Senator COONS and I have been chosen to lead our colleagues in honoring JOHNNY ISAKSON today. What we just heard was historic, I believe. It is not the first time we have had a speech on this floor that addressed that topic, nor will it be the last, I will predict.

We just heard JOHNNY admonish us to judge with our conscience and our heart. With that, I feel somewhat unworthy to try to address what I feel, and what he also talked about is his heart.

Today is truly a bittersweet occasion. It is bitter because my friend, my mentor, and partner in the U.S. Senate, JOHNNY ISAKSON, is stepping down at the end of this month. For those of us who know this man, it is tough to come to grips with that. I will dearly miss him on many levels. I will miss having him come here in the U.S. Senate alongside me. I will miss his words of wisdom. I will miss his patience. Most of all, I think I will miss his example.

However, we can still find joy in this occasion, I believe. As JOHNNY and Dianne head into the next chapter of their lives with their family, all of us can take time to reflect on who JOHNNY is and what his public service has truly meant not only to us individually and not just to the constituents in our State but to America.

JOHNNY has actually meant the world to me and for longer than I have been in the U.S. Senate. When I got involved in the political process, I had never been personally elected to anything—maybe in the 8th grade. You know how that goes. But this was a radically different experience than I personally had ever had. JOHNNY helped me personally with that transition. He gave me advice. He befriended me. He introduced me to our colleagues here in the Senate. He has been the best partner anyone could ever ask for. I remember the best advice he ever gave me. I just shared this with our colleagues at lunch: DAVE, I only have one piece of advice for you. Keep your head down, your mouth shut, and don't ever vote against the farm bill.

That was his advice, and it was sage, and I listened to that.

Over the last 5 years—and, JOHNNY, it is hard to believe it has been 5 years. To Dianne, I am sure it feels like five lifetimes. In the last 5 years, JOHNNY's advice has stuck with me on many levels. A lot of people in this town know how to talk, stick around. JOHNNY has shown us how important it is to listen and learn from each other. He has shown us how to work together on behalf of, not just ourselves or our next reelection, but truly for the people who put us here. JOHNNY is a true public servant.

I say that next to the word "servant" in the Webster dictionary is a picture of JOHNNY ISAKSON. He is devoted to getting results, not just for the people of Georgia, but for everybody in the United States. Most importantly, he does it in a way that really is worthy of this august body.

I know this body has had controversy throughout the last 230 years. Part of what makes us great is that we have differing opinions, but somehow, in the last 230 years, we found a way to put those aside to find compromise. I made a living in business for 40 years finding ways to compromise with people who had different views than I did.

One example of JOHNNY's statesmanship was with his longtime friendship with another great Georgian, Zell Miller, who happened to be a Democrat. Zell was a former Governor of Georgia and a U.S. Senator. Last year, he, sadly, passed away. What most people forget is that early in his career, JOHNNY actually ran for Governor against the same Zell Miller who ended up being, as JOHNNY calls him, the best friend he has ever had.

When Zell Miller passed away, JOHNNY was asked to speak, and he spoke on this floor. In that speech, he said that Zell Miller was "an individual I met through politics, became one of my best friends through politics, and probably had more influence on my life than anybody else I know in public service." That is a Democrat JOHNNY ISAKSON is talking about. Saxby Chambliss and I get a little upset about that occasionally, but, JOHNNY, that is a big deal. Thank you.

It is almost hard to believe JOHNNY and Zell used to be political opponents. Despite their political differences, JOHNNY and Zell remained close friends up until Zell's death. In fact, Zell even appointed JOHNNY as chairman of the Georgia Board of Education 7 years after Zell had beaten him in that same Governor's race. We can have strong differences in rigorous debates, but we should always be civil and respectful to one another, JOHNNY says. And JOHNNY lives that out every day.

I have said before that JOHNNY ISAKSON is the Howard Baker of our time. Why do I say that; what do I mean? JOHNNY doesn't talk a lot, but when JOHNNY talks, people listen. What we just witnessed was, I think, historic. The paper that was on the podium in front of Senator ISAKSON just now was not a speech. I want everybody to un-

derstand this. It was a list of the 50 Senators who have asked to come to this floor over the next few hours to honor this man as he goes into retirement.

What we just saw was straight from the heart—better than anybody I have ever witnessed and in a way that I will always remember. Truly, when JOHNNY talks, people listen. It doesn't matter if you are a young child, a member of his staff, a colleague, or the President of the United States, not only do people listen to JOHNNY, but I will add one thing to what I have been saying for the last 5 years, when other people talk, JOHNNY ISAKSON listens. That is a rare commodity in this town; trust me.

If you need help, JOHNNY ISAKSON is always there. We all know now that JOHNNY will no longer be with us in this body every day, but we know he will still be around to help us in any way he can. I am hoping he will still call me and give those pieces of advice that have been so valuable over the last 5 years. I know he will answer my call when I call him and ask for that same advice.

But I want to leave the body with this thought today—and I think it echoes what he just said, and I prepared these remarks some time ago in thinking about today—in the new testament in the Bible, in Matthew 23, it says that the greatest among you will be the servant. And today, I want to remind everybody in this body that the greatest among us is JOHNNY ISAKSON.

JOHNNY, it has been a true blessing. God bless you and Dianne and your family. America will always be in your debt. Thank you for everything. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you, JOHNNY. God bless you.

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

Mr. COONS. Madam President, it is an honor to rise and speak in tribute to my dear friend and trusted colleague, JOHNNY ISAKSON of Georgia.

To follow the junior Senator from the State of Georgia, something remarkable happened just before this session on the floor of the Senate. There was a bipartisan lunch in which virtually every currently serving Senator—nearly 100—gathered, not just because there was tasty barbecue, but because we were there to thank our friend and colleague JOHNNY ISAKSON for his decade of public service, for his dedication to this body, and for the ways in which he has been the glue that has helped hold so many of us together. You just heard it again here on the floor, his passion and his commitment to working across the aisle.

JOHNNY ISAKSON has been an effective, capable, and powerful Senator because he is never worried about who gets the credit for the work he does. He has kept his word. He has a great sense of humor. He is easy to be with. He is persuasive. He is persistent, and he is principled.

Let me just start by saying to Dianne, to John and Julie and Kevin and the grandkids: Thank you. Thank you for sharing JOHNNY with the State of Georgia and with our Nation for decades.

When I first got elected to the Senate back in 2010—which was a somewhat unexpected election, I got seated right after a special election—a respected senior realtor from my hometown, Dick Christopher, came and told me I should look up a guy named JOHNNY ISAKSON from Georgia. He was someone he knew from the real estate business. He said: He is a good husband and father, a principled man. You will enjoy working with him.

I never heard of him, so I looked him up online. If all you had to judge someone by was their right-left position—he succeeded Newt Gingrich—he and I, on the surface on a few positions, would have nothing in common. But as luck or providence would have it, when I got here, he was the trainer with Barbara Boxer for ethics for the new Senators. And to his misfortune, he got assigned to be my mentor. I began what has been an adventure that hasn't yet ended—and I hope never will—of a friendship and a companionship that has taken us to some pretty wild places.

Early in 2011, I was made the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa and JOHNNY was the ranking member. I could not have asked for a better companion or partner. We did dozens of hearings on foreign aid policy, on security and trade interests, and on the growing role of China in Africa. But then we also went and visited places—widely—places both easy and hard. We went to Mali and Congo, to Senegal and Benin, to South Africa and to Ghana.

Over several trips, we visited AIDS orphanages and hospitals, water purification plants, and Millennium Challenge Corporation trips. On these trips, we saw the terrible impact of terrorism and grinding poverty in countries like Nigeria and Mali, but we enjoyed some pretty darn good times, too, like seeing the fruits of the best pineapple plantation I have ever been on and enjoying a beautiful vineyard in Cape Town, South Africa.

But JOHNNY didn't just go because it was an assignment. He went because it was his passion, even his calling. The first trip we took together was to Benin, a tiny little impoverished country in West Africa that hadn't had two Senators visit in 50 years. We went because Kate Puzey, a young woman who was a Peace Corps volunteer from Georgia, had been murdered. She was tragically and senselessly murdered because she tried to report child abuse back to the capital.

We had a remarkable and memorable series of meetings there that I won't go into. I will just say the thing about JOHNNY is not just that he persuaded me and others to join him in the quest for justice for Kate Puzey, but he

worked and worked until. Ultimately, the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act was law in 2011. That was followed by so many others. JOHNNY is the consummate legislator. On this one small subcommittee of one of the many committees of this Senate, he and many others of us worked and passed the Electrify Africa Act, the Global Food Security Act, the BUILD Act, the Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act, and, of course, AGOA reauthorization—something we worked very hard on.

The secret to JOHNNY's success is he doesn't focus on the two-dimensional ways that you are different. He focuses on what you have in common. In my home State, we have a county that raises more chickens than any county in America. The whole State of Georgia raises more chickens than any other State. So JOHNNY suggested, and I agreed, that we would form a Chicken Caucus. You may not know there is a Chicken Caucus. You may not know about the great ways in which it has made the world safe and free for America's chickens—a tasty, low-calorie, incredibly environmentally sustainable and affordable source of protein for a hungry world. That was brought to you by the National Chicken Council.

At one point, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee mockingly called me the "Senator from Chicken," but our work together on AGOA reauthorization and our travels together resulted in opening new markets to American exports. On this floor, in this august body, with all the things we deal with, that might seem like a small accomplishment, but I will tell you, the chicken farmers of Delaware and Georgia are grateful.

Each of us comes here to represent our State. In the travels I have undertaken with JOHNNY, I saw a remarkable passion and commitment to his home State, which has made him such a great legislator. There are so many other things we legislated on, but I know we have literally half the Senate waiting to speak. Let me move.

The other joy I have had with JOHNNY, which has been at the other end of our decade together—he is the chairman and I am the advocacy chairman of the Ethics Committee. It is a very tough committee. We handle difficult subjects. JOHNNY runs it well and will be deeply missed. We are joined here by many of the staff of the Ethics Committee, the folks who have seen his common sense, his humor, his decency, but also his focus on getting to a result. For me, it has been just another opportunity to see how JOHNNY ISAKSON lives his values.

We have joined together almost every Wednesday morning at a bipartisan prayer breakfast, and JOHNNY has taught Sunday school for three decades at Mount Zion United Methodist. Those of us who have gotten to know the blessing of his humor, decency, and his common sense and his attitude—everyone who is a friend or future friend

knows that it is rooted in his connection with the Eternal.

JOHNNY said something important here just a few minutes ago: America, we have a problem. It is my hope that after today's good, brave, important speeches, that some of us will step forward and take up the best way to honor JOHNNY, which is to model and mimic his style, listening to each other, respecting each other, committing to practice a brand of politics that is a little less combative and a little more focused on results, and finding ways to trust each other and to work together.

In some ways, JOHNNY's best work has been his tireless, relentless work on behalf of our veterans. As I heard said: The best way to honor our veterans is to be the sort of Americans for whom they fought and served. This Senate, this body needs to step forward and be worthy of the service and sacrifice of JOHNNY ISAKSON.

JOHNNY, I can't thank you enough for all the ways you have been an amazing partner and colleague on issues large and small. Your kindness and friendship has meant the world to Annie and me. As you and Dianne go home to enjoy the blessings of family, know that I will always look forward to another visit to Georgia or Delaware, and I am always up for another trip to an obscure country that hasn't seen two American Senators in 50 years.

Thank you for your service, and God bless.

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I am honored to congratulate my friend and colleague, Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON on his retirement from the U.S. Senate after 15 years of dedicated service. Senator ISAKSON served the State of Georgia and the entire Nation with integrity, inspiring future generations through his public service. He has led a remarkable career, and he will be truly missed in the Senate. I am proud to know JOHNNY, and I wish him and his wife, Dianne, all the best in his retirement.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia for allowing me to participate in this colloquy and pay tribute to his remarkable career of public service.

I think you could ask anyone in this Chamber, Republican or Democrat, what they think of JOHNNY ISAKSON, and you probably get the same answer every time: He is a gentleman and a statesman, somebody who knows how to find common ground and understands why that is still important. Sometimes, it was the little things—a bipartisan barbecue to just get Senators in the same room for a few minutes. As a chairman he brought folks together on one of the few remaining pieces of bipartisan territory: caring for our veterans.

Even on issues that often divide us, JOHNNY has spent his career looking for ways to get to yes, and he has a track record to prove it, particularly on the issue of healthcare. This is an issue that JOHNNY approaches from a place of deep knowledge but also deep empathy.

One of my proudest moments in the Senate was working with Senator ISAKSON, along with Senator Hatch, Senator WYDEN, and others, on improving care for the millions of Americans with multiple chronic illnesses. As many of you know, this is pretty personal for me. My mom had Alzheimer's for 10 years before she passed away; 9 of those she couldn't speak.

Working with JOHNNY on that Chronic Care Working Group—you knew he wasn't just transacting business or playing politics; he was personally invested in making life better for folks with these conditions.

I can't think of a better testament to the JOHNNY ISAKSON way than the fact that just a couple months after one of the toughest fights to ever take place over healthcare, we passed the Chronic Care Act on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis.

A lot of people in politics can tell you what they are against, but not many people can show you what they have accomplished. And as JOHNNY ISAKSON heads home to Georgia, he leaves behind a legacy of bipartisan accomplishment that will live on for many years to come.

JOHNNY, I want to wish you, Dianne, and your family health and happiness.

In closing, I just want to say thank you for your years of service to our country and for your years of friendship.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I join my colleagues in recognizing Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON for a lifetime of service and achievement, from the Georgia Air National Guard, to the Georgia Legislature, and finally to Congress.

Georgians know JOHNNY as a trailblazer, a proud Republican in a State that was once solidly Democratic. Americans know him as a friend to veterans and taxpayers, a strong conservative who loves and fights for his country. Those of us in this body know JOHNNY as a leader, a man of great integrity, and a statesman whose legacy will last a very long time.

We are sad to see you go, but proud of what you built while you were here. Thanks, JOHNNY, for your work on behalf of our country and the State of Georgia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, one thing I am always going to remember about JOHNNY ISAKSON is that with every conversation with him, he always included some words of encouragement for the work that I am involved in or how we are working together. I think you saw that in his remarks today, that he wants to encourage all of us. In this town of Washington, DC, where a lot of people think that they are the most important person in the room, JOHNNY ISAKSON is known instead for his unassuming manner. He is unfailingly kind and considerate to Senators and staff alike, and I think I expressed that in my first

statement about his giving encouraging words in almost every conversation one has with him.

In fact, my staff told me a story wherein Senator ISAKSON came to the Senate Committee on Finance when I was previously the chairman, and he asked to speak to a member of my tax staff. The staff assistant didn't recognize Senator ISAKSON. When asked who he was, he simply said, "Senator ISAKSON." It was not until after my tax staff came out that he realized that it was Senator ISAKSON himself.

Throughout my Senate career, it is safe to say that when it comes to me, all roads lead to Iowa. For JOHNNY, it is no exception. JOHNNY has close friendships with the famous Knapp family of Des Moines, IA. In fact, the Knapp family is known all throughout Iowa. Now, you are probably thinking: How in the world does a southern boy from Georgia get acquainted with Iowans? Well, for JOHNNY, a common answer is the golf course. That is where he first became friends with the Knapp brothers, Paul and Bill. In fact, JOHNNY delivered the eulogy at Paul's funeral in 2008. Paul and Carol, his wife, were friends of the ISAKSONS for more than two decades. Bill, Paul's brother, is a senior statesman of the Democratic Party of Iowa. Partisan glasses will not fool commonsense Iowans, particularly when it comes to JOHNNY's charm and heart. JOHNNY reminds me that he was the first Republican who Bill Knapp ever supported.

I guess, JOHNNY, you beat me to the punch on that one.

JOHNNY said today that Iowa produces some of the finest people he knows, but I say today that Georgia produces very fine people as well. At the top of my list is JOHNNY ISAKSON.

JOHNNY brings a smile to each person he encounters when he walks the halls of the Senate. As a result, he will be greatly missed by everyone. That includes me and our fellow colleagues. It also includes a lot of people who don't get much attention around the Senate, the young staffers who answer the phones and the support staff who do things like cleaning the bathrooms. JOHNNY is always interested in how you are doing and has a word of encouragement to share, the same sort of encouragement he gives me in every conversation.

We have heard it before, but I haven't said it; he is a workhorse, not a show horse. No one can doubt JOHNNY ISAKSON's dedication to the people of Georgia and the United States, not to mention our country's veterans, where he has worked very hard as a member of that committee and as the chairman of that committee to bring justice to our veterans and to keep our promises to those veterans.

JOHNNY ISAKSON is a true public servant. I am proud to have served with him, and I am proud of the work he has done on the Committee on Finance, which I chair.

Now, JOHNNY, I am sorry to see you go, but I wish you and Dianne, your

wife, the best as you step back from public life.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I am so glad to have the chance to be here today to recognize Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON. He is a dedicated public servant to the people of Georgia and is a dear friend of mine here in the Senate. I am pretty sure every single person here in the U.S. Senate building would say the same.

I have had the good fortune to have been office neighbors with Senator ISAKSON for several years now, and like any good neighbor, Senator ISAKSON has made it very clear that his door is always open whenever I need someone to help work out a problem, to swap stories, or to just share a laugh. Over the years, in working together and in walking together to the Senate floor, we have managed to take a lot of steps to help the families and the veterans back in our States and across the country.

I remember back when Senator ALEXANDER and I were working to replace No Child Left Behind, and I kept telling him that early childhood education just had to be a part of this. After I pushed and pushed and pushed, Senator ALEXANDER finally said to me: OK. Go talk with JOHNNY. If you two can work something out, I will accept it in the committee.

I knew right then and there that we were in business because I knew Senator ISAKSON was someone who really cared about early childhood education and who also knew how to work with people across the aisle. He understands not everyone is going to have the same ideas, but he listens to other people. He respects their views, and he works so hard to find common ground so as to pass something that can actually help our families, and that is exactly what happened there. When the Every Student Succeeds Act was signed into law, it included a strong focus on early childhood education, thanks to the efforts of JOHNNY ISAKSON, and I so appreciate that.

It is also exactly what happened when I worked with Senator ISAKSON to pass support for military caregivers. Throughout that process, every time there was something that tried to derail it, Senator ISAKSON was right there, working with me to get things back on track, because he understood it was not about politics; it was about people. It was about the spouses and the family members who stepped up to make sure our servicemembers had the support they needed no matter what.

That is something that has been clear on every issue Senator ISAKSON has worked on. He has always known the people behind the words of legislation. He has always understood how personal the work is that we do here for our families back home.

That has possibly never been clearer than it was last year when we worked

on legislation in the HELP Committee to respond to the opioid epidemic. Senator ISAKSON spoke up throughout that process about the loss of his own grandson, a victim of the opioid crisis. He shared his family's story in the hope it would help other families who struggle with the disease of addiction so that they would seek and find help.

I have no doubt that, because of your work, they did.

As usual, the bill that we passed was stronger thanks to Senator ISAKSON's efforts and thanks to the perspective he brought that always kept families top of mind.

Now, of course, Senator ISAKSON hasn't just brought an important perspective to the Senate but a distinctive voice. A few years ago, we worked together to update our country's workforce training programs. The bill that we passed represented years—and I mean years—of bipartisan effort and was an important step forward for workers in our country.

I remember heading back to our offices after the bill passed. I said how excited I was to finally get this done, and Senator ISAKSON said:

Me, too. I was grinning like a mule eating Breyers.

Well, we don't have charming phrases like that in the State of Washington, so I am certainly going to miss those. Yet colorful sayings aren't the only reason Senator ISAKSON's words have always been so notable.

The real reason is, when JOHNNY ISAKSON gives you his word, you know he is going to keep it. Some people will say something to you just to get you out of the way or it is said without their really meaning it. Senator ISAKSON never did that. When he said, "I am going to get this done," you knew it would get done. Just as he kept his word to me so many times, I think it is safe to say, as he leaves the Senate, that he kept his word to the people of Georgia.

His No. 1 priority has never been to get the most coverage on Sunday talk shows or to start political fights. Instead, his legacy will be that when he came into these halls every day, he came in with the people of Georgia in his head and in his heart and that he did the absolute best he could do, each day, to make their lives better.

I am so grateful I have been able to work with him throughout our time together here in the Senate, and I know so many families are grateful, as well, for the tremendous work he has accomplished. I am going to miss having a friend like JOHNNY ISAKSON across the aisle and down the hall from me.

JOHNNY, as you head home to Dianne and your family and the State that you love so much and the State that you have done so much for, I hope, when you think back on all of the work you have done, you will still grin like a mule eating Breyers. Thank you so much.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, I am honored to pay tribute to JOHNNY ISAKSON. I don't know how I could top anything that has been mentioned by Senator PERDUE and, especially, Senator COONS—Senator CHRIS COONS has given us a charge to follow JOHNNY's example—and Senator GRASSLEY and now Senator MURRAY and everybody who will follow me.

I have a problem. I did all of this on Veterans Day. I tried to point out that his committee has passed 57 bills. I don't know of any other committee that has done that on behalf of the people who wear the uniform of the United States—who do so much on our behalf—and, more especially, for the VA and what that is all about. There has never been a better chairman than JOHNNY ISAKSON. I said all of that. I also said, in this body, there are those who choose ideology and partisan issues while JOHNNY is someone who works with his colleagues to pass legislation that benefits not only our Nation's veterans but every American's pocketbook and daily life.

The reason I just sort of read through that is that we have just had lunch wherein nearly every Senator was in attendance with the exception of those who are running for President, and they would have liked to have been there. By my count, there were seven standing ovations—seven. Each Member, both of the leaders, and the people who have served with JOHNNY either as a minority member or as a chairman gave their amazing tributes to this wonderful man.

Isn't it amazing that in this very difficult time in the Senate, when the bar of civility is about forehead high—you don't want to run into it here—that here is a man who has given us a way out? I have never seen that before.

JOHNNY has had, I think, 50 years of public service. I have him beat if you add in staff time and 40 years of public service—by the way, of being elected 24 to 0. I have never seen such an outpouring of affection and genuine admiration for an individual, be he a Member of the House or the Senate, as was experienced at this lunch.

It was CHRIS COONS who, during his tribute, said: Why don't we use this as a wonderful way to see if we can get past all of the trials and tribulations that we have gone through in the Senate and work together for a change? People talked about, when they had come to the Senate, that it wasn't this way. Actually, it was. Yet we look very fondly upon the past. So I hope that people can take CHRIS's challenge to heart.

It is a pretty easy deal. JOHNNY knows it by heart, for that is who he is; yet, if a person or a group of people or Senators in this body love to come down here and make speech after speech—in many cases, they are very partisan, and many of the younger Members do this—I give them that. I mean, that is their right. I remember, in the early days when I was in the

House, that I did that a couple of times and then was talked to by some of the senior Members who said: We don't do that here in order to get along, especially in the all-powerful House Agriculture Committee and now the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. We always work together because we are nonpartisan on that committee.

So you ignore that. Then, if you really do take the time to know that individual, as opposed to the individual you have seen on the floor, you will find out this is a person who is very interesting. You will find out this is a person worth knowing. You will find out that you have common ground. You will find out that you can get a vote for them in order for them to vote for the farm bill or for a veterans' program or for any other thing.

So I think that is the example that JOHNNY has set. I don't know if there is anything more I can add after seven standing ovations and obviously many, many people actually telling the truth about you. I know, JOHNNY, it must be a little much for you. Frankly, I am getting a little tired of it.

I would just like to say what I said back then when I was speaking of your tremendous success as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee when I said: "JOHNNY, thank you for your service; now thank you for your message; now thank you for being simply who you are." And I said: "Senators eventually come and Senators go."

I do not think we will see the likes of Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON for years to come. We love you. I love you. I will miss you greatly. Thank you for your fortitude and courage in fighting Parkinson's as an example to so many.

Semper fi, my dear friend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, it really is a privilege to join with so many of my Senate friends in honoring the service of Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON.

I would also say to Senator ISAKSON: Isn't it nice to hear all of these wonderful things while you are alive and can be enjoying it?

I have had the privilege of serving with 391 U.S. Senators. I respect the office they hold, but some of those 391 I respect not just for the office but for who they are.

JOHNNY ISAKSON stands out among the 391 because of who he is: a lifelong Georgian through and through, born and raised in Atlanta. As we have heard from others, he went on to serve in the Georgia Air National Guard and had a wildly successful career in real estate in his home State.

It was a call to service that led him to seek opportunities to represent his fellow Georgians in the State legislature, in the U.S. House of Representatives, and, to the benefit of every single Senator in both parties, ultimately, here in the U.S. Senate.

I have seen him, as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, fight for

our Nation's servicemembers. He tried to make our system of care for our veterans more efficient, higher quality, and most importantly widely accessible.

The VA MISSION Act was a wonderful signature accomplishment of Senator ISAKSON's tenure on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. But his commitment to our nation's veterans extends far beyond healthcare. He was a key leader of the Forever GI Bill, which made GI bill benefits available to veterans at any time in their career, without expiration.

As I said, I hold in my mind a very special group of the 391 Senators I have served with. JOHNNY, you know you are in that very, very special group. I remember when I first came to the Senate in the wake of Watergate, I spent time cultivating bipartisan relationships that might help my advocacy for Vermonters and for the Nation.

I forged relationships with Senators with whom I had strong differences of opinion, but with whom I could find common ground. I valued the partnership of Members who, when they gave their word, they kept it. That is why I value Senator ISAKSON. He is a Senator in that mold whom I looked up to the most when I first came here. He reflects the best of those Senators of both parties, who, over the decades, have shaped my knowledge of this body.

He is a public servant devoted to his constituents, devoted to his country, devoted to this Chamber. The Senate needs more people like JOHNNY ISAKSON.

I know that he and Dianne will welcome the calmer days that lie ahead of them, but the Senate is going to miss him and his efforts to promote bipartisanship. I have even learned to like Georgian barbecue, which I never had before I met JOHNNY ISAKSON. I also like the good spirit he brought with him and the fact that he had Republicans and Democrats across the political spectrum sitting and enjoying each other's company, enjoying the example of JOHNNY ISAKSON.

JOHNNY, as I have told you privately, I am sad to see you leave, but I so value our friendship.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, the State motto of Georgia is "Wisdom, Justice, and Moderation." Those three words aptly describe Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON's more than four decades of service to the people of Georgia and to our Nation.

He has indeed served with wisdom, justice, and moderation, setting an example for all of us.

I would add to that description that JOHNNY is extraordinarily effective and beloved on both sides of the aisle. His life of public service is characterized not only by his extraordinary integrity, intelligence, and statesmanship but also by his kindness to everyone.

As was mentioned several times at our luncheon honoring JOHNNY today, if ever there were a poll held in the Senate to determine the most popular Senator, he would win, hands down.

It has been such a pleasure and honor to serve with this remarkable leader on issues ranging from supporting research and cures for rare pediatric diseases to improving education. JOHNNY is always thoughtful, informed, and determined to achieve a result to make a difference.

As a veteran himself, and as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, JOHNNY has led the way in reforming veterans' healthcare to make the VA more responsive to those who have served. What a wonderful legacy to leave, to know that you have been responsible for improving healthcare for those who have worn the uniform of our country.

JOHNNY, as we have heard today, has always sought common ground rather than partisan advantage. I thought it was so telling, as I listened to his farewell remarks today, that JOHNNY did not take the time to list his own legislative accomplishments, even though they are so impressive and so numerous.

Instead, he posed a challenge to us. He called on us to put aside the petty bickering that has prevented progress in America. He called upon us to work together. He reminded us that we achieve the best legislation when we sit down and negotiate with one another, when we listen with respect to each other. Those were his final words to us as a U.S. Senator.

I have had so many wonderful experiences with JOHNNY, whether it was working on legislation or having an informal dinner, but perhaps the most memorable experience occurred this past June on a bipartisan codel that JOHNNY led to France to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-day.

It was a privilege to join him in honoring the American heroes who began the liberation of Europe from Nazi tyranny.

JOHNNY, I thank you for your service but, most of all, for your friendship. You have indeed set an example of civility and bipartisanship that everyone who serves in this great institution should emulate.

I wish you and your wonderful wife Dianne, whom I enjoy so much, all the best, and I want to tell you that I will always miss your friendly greeting, your big smile, and your even bigger heart.

Thank you for all you have done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I am honored to stand and join tributes to JOHNNY ISAKSON. A lawyer from Springfield once gave a pretty famous speech, and it was only 275 words long. This speech may be a little longer, but I don't believe a speech has to be eternal to be immortal. So I will try, in just a few words, to say what I feel in

my heart this moment as you are preparing to leave the U.S. Senate.

Your heart is good, and I know that because I saw something on the floor of the Senate today. Your relationship and your comments about your friend JOHN LEWIS were so genuine and so heartfelt, and the fact that you would point to a photograph taken of the two of you embracing one another as one of the signature photographs of your career in public service tells me a lot about you, JOHNNY ISAKSON.

Our lives have been led along the same path. We know how many changes there have been in America during the course of our lives and how many more we need to be even better in the future. JOHN LEWIS was one of the real leaders in our Nation who led us all to look very closely at the issue of race and the issue of civil rights. It was painful, many times unpopular. For his heroic work, he was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and he deserved it more than anyone I can think of. The fact that he counts you as a friend and comes over here for your farewell address and that you would embrace him and announce that to the United States and the world, tells me your heart is good, JOHNNY ISAKSON. That simple experience tells me that.

The other thing I know is that your word is good. It was 2 years ago when we had a debate on the floor of the Senate about a measure that means quite a bit to me, the Dream Act—the idea that young immigrants brought to this country would have a chance to become part of America's future. I worked on that legislation for 19 years, so I remember when people voted with me on the Dream Act, and you voted with me. It wasn't easy 2 years ago. Immigration was not a popular thing, but you stood up, and when I went to you afterward and thanked you, you said it was the right thing to do. I will never forget that. It told me that your word is good, and your heart is good.

And, finally, let me tell you, you have struggled with affliction, illness, and you have done most of it very openly so that people with similar challenges in life can watch as you live through this challenging experience.

All of us can remember moments here when you were willing yourself to come to this floor, to that chair, to cast your vote. I have never seen courage like that. Your determination will stick with me forever.

Now you are going to have some time for yourself with your family, Dianne, and others and have some relaxing time together, but I am going to miss you. I am going to miss you as a special colleague whose heart was right, whose word is good, and his courage was there for all of us to see.

Thanks, JOHNNY. I wish you the best.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I have had the pleasure of serving in the Senate alongside JOHNNY ISAKSON for close

to 15 years, and it has been a privilege to work and join with him on a number of legislative efforts, but, more importantly, JOHNNY is the big brother I never had, whom I aspired to be like. I will never have the speaking ability he does, but he is a brother because although we grew up across the country from each other, we shared many experiences that shaped our formative years and continue to influence our work in the Senate. We both served in the Air National Guard; we both were in business before entering politics; and we both were Sunday school teachers. Even our spouses, Dianne and Diana, have similar names. We both served in the State legislature before we came here.

Besides his speaking ability, there are many things I will never match. JOHNNY served in the Georgia legislature for 17 years, beginning in 1974. After serving as the chairman of the Georgia Board of Education for 2 years, he was elected to the House of Representatives in 1999 and then to the U.S. Senate in 2004.

Throughout his time in both the State and Federal legislatures, JOHNNY was nothing short of a pioneer in the State of Georgia. He was the first Georgian ever to be elected to both Houses of the Georgia State legislature and both Houses of Congress. He is the first Republican in Georgia to be elected to a third term in the U.S. Senate, and he is the only Republican Senator currently serving as the chair of two committees at the same time.

Now, despite these tremendous achievements, JOHNNY never lost sight of what was important and remains committed to legislation that is important to the folks in Georgia and across the country.

I remember when I was chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, there was a mine accident in West Virginia. Senator KENNEDY, who was the ranking member, and I decided to go down there to take a look, and Senator ISAKSON asked if he could come along. We went down, and we talked to the safety inspectors; we talked to the mine owners; and, most importantly, we talked to the families of the men who had been trapped in this mine. We learned the story of how coal mining had been decreasing over the years, so the people who sell the safety equipment quit inventing the safety equipment because they never had the market for it. Consequently, when coal mining started coming back up again, the equipment wasn't in place for it. We found out what was needed, but JOHNNY was the real salesman for it. He has a picture of one of the family members. He carried that picture with him everywhere, and anytime the subject of mine safety came up, he brought that picture out so everybody could see a real person—there it is—a real person whom we were trying to provide for the future and see that accidents didn't happen.

I also had the pleasure of working with JOHNNY on the Senate Finance

Committee. We passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which reformed America's Tax Code for the first time in 30 years, and gave hard-working families more choices about how their hard-earned money should be used. We were both businessowners in the private sector before entering politics and understand the burden that heavy taxes and Federal regulations can place on families and businesses. His expertise and insight was invaluable when the Committee was considering this historic piece of legislation, and instrumental in helping it become law.

Throughout his time in the Senate, JOHNNY remained committed to ending reckless Federal spending and reining in out-of-control national debt. This is an issue we cannot ignore anymore. It is a focus of mine as chairman of the Budget Committee. Senator ISAKSON has repeatedly introduced the biennial Budgeting Appropriations Act, which would take concrete, serious steps toward fixing our appropriations process. It has been a pleasure to work with a friend who understands how dire our situation is and has a commitment to finding lasting solutions that will not only secure a better future for today but also for generations to come.

JOHNNY understood that the United States owes all its servicemembers, veterans, and families a great debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice they have made. He knew our country would not be the Nation it is today without those who are willing to give so much of themselves. JOHNNY took those values to heart as chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs and enacted policies that significantly improved the lives of our most vulnerable veterans.

He was instrumental in the passage of the MISSION Act, which took significant steps toward reforming veterans' healthcare through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Senator ISAKSON truly understood that military service requires sacrifices not only for the servicemember but of the entire family. He ensured that those who gave so much for their country received not only the benefits they deserve but knowledge that those efforts in protecting their homeland did not go unappreciated.

Probably most important, though, is that JOHNNY is a man of faith. Despite the tremendous achievements, he never lost sight of what truly matters and never wavered in his commitment to God and to do what is right. My mother used to tell me: Do what is right, do what is best, and treat others as they wish to be treated. JOHNNY lives by these words and never forgets why he is here, which is to represent and serve the people of Georgia and the United States to the best of his ability.

I am deeply saddened that JOHNNY will be leaving us soon. His experience, knowledge, and friendship will surely be missed as you can tell from the speeches here so far today.

Diana and I send our best wishes and appreciation to JOHNNY and Dianne. We

wish them all the best as they take time to spend with their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Together they have been great examples of the importance of public service. We wish them the best in whatever adventure they choose to pursue next. God bless you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I join my colleagues honoring Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON of Georgia who is retiring from this body. He is a dear friend and a great example of a great Senator.

JOHNNY and I have worked together on a number of public health priorities. I had the privilege of serving with JOHNNY on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. We forged a shared commitment to improving public health, from cancer prevention to better surveillance of neurological diseases, from strengthening regulations of indoor tanning devices to improving trauma care. JOHNNY has the privilege of representing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC headquarters in Atlanta, GA, made up of some of the greatest professionals in the healthcare field across the globe. He has always been a fearless advocate for the CDC and its staff, and the critical work being done by the CDC. He has always been a fierce advocate for all of his constituents in Georgia.

During our time on the HELP Committee, we developed a partnership while working on skin cancer prevention. We spent many years advancing legislation to require improved labeling on indoor tanning beds to better reflect their dangers. We also worked hard to make sure there was disclosure of the ingredients in sunscreens, and we were proud to see signed into law in 2014 the Sunscreen Innovation Act. It was a work JOHNNY led with such distinction.

Building on that skin cancer prevention and other preventive health measures, JOHNNY is, again, a fierce advocate for improving the health of children, particularly children with cancer. I was so proud to work with JOHNNY on the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act and later the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research Act, the STAR Act, tremendously benefiting children who have cancer. That goes, I think, to JOHNNY keeping his commitment to doing the right thing, doing it well, and helping the most vulnerable in this country.

As mentioned, JOHNNY has been on the veterans' committee and has chaired that committee since 2015. He is a veteran himself, a veteran of the Georgia Air National Guard from 1966 to 1972. He has done significant work for veterans and, as a veteran, I thank Senator ISAKSON.

He was instrumental in passing the VA MISSION Act, critical legislation that enhances the ability of comprehensive caregivers to assist veterans. Further, after the VA MISSION



Act, he has been working so hard, and he was also able to pass—and I was proud to work with him—the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act. This is known as the Forever GI Bill because it made critical improvements to the GI bill, but most important is the law ends the 15-year limit on the use of GI bill benefits, allowing the use of those benefits throughout the lifetime of the recipient. He has been an extraordinary leader, doing so much.

I wish Senator ISAKSON, his wife Dianne, and his entire family well. Finally, what I want to say is, the true measure of an individual is not the sum of their legislative achievements, JOHNNY has had many of those; not political victories, JOHNNY has had many of those; not success in any one realm of any endeavor, public or private; the true test of an individual is the sum of their kindnesses, of what they have done for and with other people. By that measure, no one surpasses the gentleman from Georgia, and I thank him.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I will bet Senator ISAKSON is a little bit surprised that his farewell address would produce such an eruption of bipartisan speeches, both in the luncheon we just had for nearly 100 Senators—almost everybody was there, Democrats and Republicans—and then the 50 or so Senators who are going to speak on the floor.

As I listened carefully to Senator ISAKSON's own remarks about bipartisanship, it kind of reminded me of the preacher on Sunday talking to the congregation saying: I am not so worried about what you do during this 1 hour during church. It is what you do between now and the next Sunday during the 1 hour in church.

I think what JOHNNY Isakson is saying is that the speeches about bipartisanship are honorable and good, but what he would like to suggest to us is that what we need to do is have a little bit better behavior, follow those speeches a little bit better between now and the next time we have a group of speeches.

JOHNNY learned a long time ago that if all you want to do is take a position or make a speech, you don't need to go to all the trouble to come to the U.S. Senate. You can get a radio program or get a street corner. If you want to come to the U.S. Senate, you are supposed to get something done.

I like to say to our constituents in Tennessee that I encourage them to look at Washington, DC, as if it were a split-screen television set. On the one side, you see where most people are watching. You see impeachment, tweets, and Supreme Court controversies. On the other side, where very few probably watch, you see Senators like JOHNNY ISAKSON working to pass an opioids bill or Senators working to pay songwriters a fair amount for what

they do or Appropriations members working to set a record, as Senator BLUNT and Senator MURRAY have, for example, in terms of funding for biomedical research. All of that is on the side of the television screen where JOHNNY ISAKSON has spent most of his 15 years.

Senator MURRAY of Washington, during her remarks, talked very accurately about what happened in 2015 when we were working on fixing No Child Left Behind. That was not easy to do. Working on legislation to try to set rules for elementary and secondary education is like being at a University of Tennessee football game, where you have 100,000 people in the stands, all of whom know what the next play ought to be, and when the coach doesn't call it, they have an opinion about that.

Well, everybody has had a little education, and so they had a lot to say about how we would fix No Child Left Behind. Finally, we just ground to a halt over preschool education and what the Federal role ought to be. Senator MURRAY felt very strongly about it. As she said, she is a former kindergarten teacher. So I stepped back and said: Why don't you and Senator ISAKSON sit down and see if you can come up with a solution, and if you do, we will take that.

They did. They presented it to us. We took it. It went in the bill, and President Obama signed the law called No Child Left Behind and called it a Christmas miracle.

The same thing happened on the Workforce Investment Act. Again, Senator MURRAY and Senator ISAKSON sat down and worked together to solve a problem that the rest of us couldn't solve.

Senator REED, who just spoke, worked with JOHNNY on sunscreen; Senator TESTER worked with JOHNNY to make it easier for veterans to get care nearer their home; Senator CASEY from Pennsylvania—all these Democrats—working with Senator ISAKSON on the most important piece of legislation to govern the sale of over-the-counter drugs, which I hope the Senate will adopt either this week or next week.

All of that was done not because these Senators gave up their principles or not because they were not good negotiators. I think JOHNNY would say Senator MURRAY is as tough a negotiator you will find in the U.S. Senate. But the difference is they also understood that we are here to get results—not just to take a position, not just to make a speech, but to see if we can get a result.

That is why Senator ISAKSON has had so many Senators praise him today, because he understands that it is hard to get here, it is hard to stay here, and while you are here, you might as well try to accomplish something for the country. JOHNNY ISAKSON knows it is hard to get here. He started in 1974. He lost his first race. Then he was on the ballot 20 times. He won 18 of those

times. He knows it is hard to stay here. A year before he ran for reelection this last time, he announced that he has Parkinson's disease.

JOHNNY ISAKSON has legislated, as has been mentioned, with his heart. When we worked on skin cancer, he talked about his skin cancer. When we worked on the Opioids Response Act, he talked about his family's loss because of an opioid overdose. And he has not been afraid to stick his neck out. There was a time during the Atlanta Olympics when one of the county commissions passed a bill saying: Gays are not welcome at the Olympics. Senator ISAKSON said—he was not a Senator then—“The Bill of Rights does not have an asterisk in it. The Bill of Rights is for everyone.”

And as his comments about JOHN LEWIS would reflect, JOHNNY ISAKSON was willing to speak out for civil rights in the South when not everybody was.

I often think that members of the U.S. Senate are generally men and women who once sat in the front row of their first grade class with their hand up, hoping that the teacher would call on them. These are not a reticent bunch of men and women, and I am sure JOHNNY ISAKSON sat on the front row of his first grade class. But I am also sure that he raised his hand and he conducted himself and caused all of his classmates to like him and admire him and elect him as their leader, because that has happened all throughout his life.

The luncheon we had today was an extraordinary event, a bipartisan occasion. I do not remember anything like it in my time here, just to honor a retiring member of the Senate. And as someone said, listening to the speeches by the handful of Democrats and Republicans who spoke, you would not have known which party JOHNNY ISAKSON came from.

Our love for JOHNNY is great, but his greater legacy is something else. What is more important is that he, by his example, has reminded us why we are here, reminded us that if you are a U.S. Senator, it is hard to get here, it is hard to stay here, and while you are here, you might as well try to accomplish something good for the country.

That is JOHNNY ISAKSON's legacy, and that is something we should be grateful for and remember.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I join my colleagues in expressing our genuine affection for JOHNNY ISAKSON. This is surely a sad day as Senator ISAKSON is leaving us as a member of the U.S. Senate.

But frankly, his retirement from the Senate has given us an opportunity to recognize how fortunate each one of us is to be a Member of the U.S. Senate and that we can get things done if we follow Senator ISAKSON's recommendations and model to work together to find common ground.

One other thing that I will always remember about Senator ISAKSON is that he has taught us that the Senate family really is family and you can form genuine friendships in the U.S. Senate and it makes no difference your party affiliation in forming those friendships.

I first got to know Senator ISAKSON when he was Congressman ISAKSON. We were both serving in the House of Representatives. The House is a much larger body, and we did not have the opportunity during those years we served together in the House to get to know each other in a personal manner. But when I was elected to the U.S. Senate in January of 2007, it was Senator ISAKSON and Dianne that reached out to Myrna and me to welcome us to the Senate family.

It was not a one-time, let's get to know each other and try to understand each other. We come from different backgrounds and different States. We have different religions. But he and Dianne, Myrna and I, really wanted to try to understand each other.

You heard Senator ISAKSON talk about finding common ground. Well, you cannot find common ground if you do not know the other person you are talking with. And Senator ISAKSON has lived by example to develop that type of genuine friendship with his colleagues, so that we can really understand what our priorities are and how we can find that common ground to get things done.

So we have enjoyed a professional relationship, but it has been a true friendship. And as Senator ISAKSON has said, the way to get things done is through understanding what bipartisanship is about. Bipartisanship works, as Senator ISAKSON has said many times, to find common ground. And Senator ISAKSON has lived by that example throughout his whole life.

You have heard he is the only Georgian to have served in the State House, the State Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives from Georgia, and the U.S. Senate from Georgia, so he has been the whole legislative route in the State of Georgia.

But by using that approach of getting to know each of us and spending the time to become friends and finding out what our priorities are all about and be able to find common ground, he has been able to accomplish an incredible record of success for the people of Georgia and our Nation.

Let me give some examples. You have heard many of them, but I am going to talk a little bit from a personal point of view. Yes, I had the distinction of serving on the Ethics Committee for a short period of time on one case, and I got to see Senator ISAKSON at work and how he defended the integrity of this institution.

As I was listening to his leadership during that deliberation, I had no idea what party he belonged to in the way that he conducted that investigation. It was done with one thing in mind: to protect the integrity of the institution

and to find common ground in order to serve the institution right. He has a deep respect for the U.S. Senate, he has a deep respect for the legislative branch of government, and he has demonstrated that, over and over again, by his leadership.

You have heard about his experiences as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Well, I had the opportunity to travel with Senator ISAKSON to Normandy to celebrate the 75th anniversary of D-Day, and I must tell you the emotion of that moment as I saw Senator ISAKSON interact with our veterans and saw that genuine way that he connected to those who have served our Nation.

You see, his presence was important, his words were important, but he has also shown his appreciation through the deeds of what he has been able to get accomplished. It has been pointed out that the Veterans' Affairs Committee under Senator ISAKSON's leadership has produced numerous bipartisan bills to help our servicepeople.

We can mention maybe the one that I am most proud that we were able to get done is dealing with the healthcare issues because the healthcare issues were not fair to our veterans. Senator ISAKSON was able to find common ground in a very difficult environment so that we could pass the appropriate legislation, so that the members of the armed services could get the healthcare and our veterans could get the healthcare that they so richly deserve.

I have had the chance to work with Senator ISAKSON on the Senate Finance Committee. We have worked together to protect pensions for workers, an area that is very important to all of us. And we helped first-time home buyers. I must tell you, Senator ISAKSON's experience as a realtor helped us get through that issue as to how we could help a recovery at the time that the economy was not doing well.

You see, Senator ISAKSON had taken his experiences as a successful independent real estate leader, president of the largest company in the southeast, to his responsibilities here in the U.S. Senate, taking that business common sense of what works in the community to what can work here in the U.S. Senate.

We have worked together on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. You have heard the examples of what we have been able to do in boosting trade and development in Africa—the Global Food Security Act, which helps starving people around the world. Very few, if any, will ever know Senator ISAKSON's name. Millions have been helped, thanks to the leadership of this incredible U.S. Senator. And you heard the personal example of the Peace Corps, how he went not only the extra mile, but the extra tens of thousands of miles to bring safety to those who volunteered in the Peace Corps.

You have heard Senator ALEXANDER and Senator MURRAY talk about the

Health Committee and work he has done on education and health. I particularly appreciate the work on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, a critically important bill that, again, has Senator ISAKSON's motto throughout.

He has been a champion for the people of Georgia and the United States. I particularly appreciated Senator ISAKSON's reference to Congressman JOHN LEWIS who was on the floor during Senator ISAKSON's speech. Congressman LEWIS and I came to the U.S. Congress the same year; we were both elected to Congress in 1987. We have been friends ever since.

Senator ISAKSON is correct that Congressman LEWIS is an icon of civil rights. He says what he believes, and he calls it the way it is. He is not going to change. That is who Senator ISAKSON is as a person. And as JOHN LEWIS said about Senator ISAKSON, "He did not just talk the talk, he literally walked the walk."

Over and over again, Senator ISAKSON has been in the forefront in the civil rights for all Americans.

So to my friend—and I mean a true friend—we will miss you in the U.S. Senate. It is a sad day because we know we will not have the benefit of your wisdom as a Member of the U.S. Senate, but all of us are better off because of being given the opportunity to serve with you in the U.S. Senate.

You said in your comments that you want to come back to ring the bell when we work together to promote the values that made the U.S. Senate the greatest deliberative body in the world. Well, I am going to tell you, I believe we will reach that day sooner because of what Senator ISAKSON has done and the example he has set for all of us. I look forward to ringing that bell with my friend.

With that, I yield floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I rise to join my colleagues today in celebrating the distinguished career of our friend, JOHNNY ISAKSON. It is a great moment for all of us to talk about our shared aspirations as representatives of the American people, to recognize the role that we play—that all Americans play—in supporting our country, and to celebrate some of our successes. We have heard a lot about Senator ISAKSON's successes as a legislator and maybe to shrug off a few of our failures, but reaffirm our determination to make self-government work.

The senior Senator from Georgia did not set out to build a long, storied career in politics, I am told, or even to enter public service at all, for that matter. After graduating from the University of Georgia, he began a 40-year career in real estate. He opened a branch of Northside Realty and would later spend more than 20 years as that company's president.

JOHNNY's career in public service began in a unique way. It was by winning an election that he never entered. He made the mistake of not showing up at a meeting where he was selected as a member of a new commission, as new commission president, with the host of zoning issues that riddled the community, so that was JOHNNY's first election, as the new commission president of the zoning commission.

Of course, in that position, you could imagine he listened to his neighbors' concerns, and he would work with the commission to make improvements, but the truth is, from that point onward, JOHNNY was hooked. He went on to serve in the State house, the State senate, the U.S. House, and finally in the U.S. Senate, as the first and only Georgian to hold all four titles.

As we have heard—but it bears repeating—at each step, he never lost sight of his most important responsibility: to listen to his constituents and to work every day to make their lives just a little better.

Here in the Senate, I have had the privilege, as we all have had, of working with JOHNNY on a number of bills to empower our military, strengthen American agriculture, and improve our Nation's healthcare, but I believe his lasting legacy, the thing that perhaps is the most important to my mind that he should be very proud of—and I know he is—is our collective work together to support our Nation's veterans.

JOHNNY is a veteran himself, and he didn't take the position as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee lightly. He never stopped listening to America's veterans or fighting to ensure they have the services and the support they have earned.

One of the seminal pieces of legislation that we passed thanks to JOHNNY's leadership was the VA MISSION Act, which made significant reforms to the Department of Veterans Affairs and strengthened healthcare options for all veterans. This was not an easy piece of legislation to move through the legislative process, which, as we all know, under the Constitution and under the way Congress works, essentially, the system is dead set to defeat you, and you have to find a way to navigate it in a way to get things done, which is hard work. But at every step, JOHNNY helped guide this legislation from a bill that looked good on paper to a law that has made a real difference in the lives of our veterans. He did what he does best; that is, listened, learned, negotiated, and built consensus between people who had very different views of what that law should look like. In the end, it was because of his hard work and dedication that it passed and was signed into law.

As great as his legislative impact has been, his personal impact on all of us has been immeasurable. During the time I served as the Republican whip, I had a chance to work with him most often and saw how this soft-spoken master operated.

Two years ago, we were working on tax reform, and I remember one crucial meeting at a luncheon conference we had. We wanted to make sure everybody was on the same page because we knew that failure was not an option. Our Members heard from colleagues who were subject-matter experts, who had been working on tax reform, but I think the most encouraging words we heard came from JOHNNY ISAKSON.

It reminds me of that old movie that Ronald Reagan was in where the coach, Knute Rockne, talked about an ailing player, George Gipp. He talked about winning one for the Gipper. Well, JOHNNY told us to win one for the Gipper that day, and we all left excited, inspired, and eager to accomplish our goals.

That meeting showed a lot about who JOHNNY ISAKSON is. He is rarely the loudest voice in the room, but when he speaks, people listen. He isn't the type to pat himself on the back. He isn't afraid to work behind the scenes or let his work go unnoticed in the press, and he cares about getting results and results alone. He doesn't care who gets the credit.

I believe the reason JOHNNY ISAKSON has been able to accomplish so much here in the Senate—and he has—is because of his focus on building relationships. In fact, as we have heard, you would be hard-pressed to find somebody more well-liked or well-respected by folks on both sides of the aisle.

I think JOHNNY summed it up himself pretty well recently when he said:

It's about relationships. It's about respect. It's about motivation, and it's about getting things done. So make friends. Be a friend, and know how to be a friend. It makes all the difference in the world. I am sure that is true in life in general, but it is certainly true in the U.S. Senate.

That is how our friend JOHNNY ISAKSON has gained the respect of every Senator in this Chamber. He is a straight shooter, a man of great integrity, and an honest broker. He is not just a nice guy by Washington, DC, standards; he is a nice guy by any standard.

I know our friend from Georgia is sad, perhaps, to leave this Chamber, and we are equally sad to bid him farewell. The Halls of Congress will not be the same without JOHNNY ISAKSON.

I will personally miss those Wednesday mornings together at the Senate Prayer Breakfast and catching up with my friend here on the Senate floor. I know we will all miss his great example—this humble man of great integrity, who has taught us all how to work together.

When another Georgia colleague, Saxby Chambliss, retired 5 years ago, Senator ISAKSON said Saxby would join Richard Russell, Zell Miller, and Sam Nunn and become the fourth face on the Mount Rushmore of Georgia Senators. Well, JOHNNY, I think they are going to have to make room for a fifth.

I thank our good friend JOHNNY ISAKSON for his dedicated service to his

State, to our country, and to this institution. I join all of our colleagues in wishing him well, along with his wife, Dianne, their three children, and their eight grandchildren. We wish him all the best as he retires to his beloved Georgia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, a lot of things have been said today, and some things will be repeated, but as I sit here, it occurs to me that the mark of a truly great legislator and a great friend is how many people have an individual story about JOHNNY ISAKSON.

That helpful word at a right time, the ability to come in and solve a problem and get a piece of legislation passed or to get over a particular bump in a piece of legislation—those are the kinds of things that define a great legislator.

All of us have our own personal stories about JOHNNY ISAKSON. My first memory of JOHNNY ISAKSON is long before I met him personally. In 1992, I was hiring a new pollster who also happened to be JOHNNY ISAKSON's pollster. After I hired that pollster, Linda Duvall, she brought in somebody she likes to work with in campaigns. I was looking at some campaign commercials they put together, and there was JOHNNY ISAKSON playing basketball with a bunch of seventh grade boys.

If you can play basketball with seventh grade boys, you can do almost anything. I am going to come back to the seventh grade boys in a minute.

Linda called me a few days later and said: We have been trying to figure out which of our clients you remind us of. She said: We have decided you remind us of JOHNNY ISAKSON. So in 1999, 2 years after I got to the House, when JOHNNY ISAKSON ran for the House, I was eager to meet this guy whom Linda said I reminded her of. It didn't take me very long to find out that Linda had misjudged either me or JOHNNY and that JOHNNY set a different standard than the standard most of us are able to set, but it also encouraged me to want to spend more time with him.

When he got there, I had been there 2 years. I was the chief deputy whip, and our 20 years of close friendship began then. Then I became the whip, and I asked JOHNNY to become one of the deputy whips.

JOHNNY had the worst whip card in the House. All the people he whipped were not the worse people to whip, but he definitely had more than his share of the hardest people to whip. Whoever was the most impatient with everybody else somehow couldn't resist becoming patient with JOHNNY.

Beyond that, JOHNNY somehow was always able to take the time needed. I said that JOHNNY was one of the three whips we had in the House who could take however much time it took to explain an issue to whomever he was explaining it to, in whatever level of information they needed to hear it in. He

could be very simple and basic in his explanation if that is all that was necessary, and he could be incredibly detailed if he had that unique Member who wanted to know everything before they made up their mind. But he was always ready to do what had to be done.

Back to the seventh grade boys. If you could teach a Sunday school class for 30 years that has one group of seventh grade boys after another going through that Sunday school class, you are truly ready to have the patience to be in the U.S. Congress, to be a Member of the House, and then to be a Member of the Senate and to let that become part of your extended family.

JOHNNY has such a great family who is his own family. He and Dianne have a great partnership. Dianne leads in community projects. When there is a First Lady's lunch, Dianne always does the artwork for the First Lady's lunch.

One of things you benefit from on occasion in the Congress is the ability to travel together. That has been mentioned here, some of the travels that JOHNNY has headed—the D-Day operations and other things. Not long after JOHNNY came to Congress, he, Dianne, and I had a chance to travel together. You could just tell their enjoyment in each other and their enjoyment in the people they were getting to know better.

JOHNNY's work at the VA is incredible—the VA MISSION Act, the determination that veterans would have more choices in where they get their healthcare, realizing that young veterans didn't always look at healthcare decisions the same way older veterans did, realizing that people wanted more choices than they had before, realizing that we could make that happen, and also realizing there was a standard of care that we could insist on. JOHNNY passed the legislation that allowed us to do that.

His advocacy for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta—we have our annual discussion. I chair that committee now, and we have our annual, very subtle but, for me, almost irresistible discussion—somehow the Centers for Disease Control doesn't quite yet have everything they need, and we can do better.

Then there is the Ethics Committee. When JOHNNY announced he was going to retire, I happened to be speaking to our conference at lunch that day, to the Republicans in the Senate, and I said: The bad news is that JOHNNY is leaving. The really bad news is that someone else has to be the chairman of the Ethics Committee.

If there is a job in the Senate that you don't want, it is the Ethics Committee job. If there is a job in the Senate that you need to have exactly the right person in, it is the Ethics Committee job. Somebody has to be chairman.

In one of my favorite books, "To Kill A Mockingbird," the neighbor across the street, Miss Maude, is explaining to

Scout why her father is having to do what her father is doing. I think the best I can remember that quote is that she says someone has to do the jobs that have to be done and that nobody wants to do. JOHNNY ISAKSON has always been willing to do the jobs that have to be done, and he does them in a way that you wonder why everybody doesn't want to do them because he makes them look like they are a lot easier than they are.

We will miss you here, JOHNNY, but we are not going to miss your continued friendship. We all are already planning on how we can come up with a reason to go to Atlanta. For me, it is to check in on the CDC. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your friendship.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues on the floor and pay tribute to my colleague from Georgia, Senator ISAKSON, and to congratulate him on his retirement after 20 years in Congress, including the past 15 years in the U.S. Senate.

We worked together on key provisions of the SECURE Act to improve retirement planning for millions of Americans.

I would be remiss if I did not mention all the work he has done on behalf of our veterans. His work on the VA MISSION Act is important to so many people who have served our country.

We also worked together on the Finance Committee for the last 6 years on important issues like affordable housing. There has been no better advocate for the affordable housing tax credit—helping to secure billions of dollars in funding for affordable housing nationwide—than Senator ISAKSON. It is true that my colleague Senator Hatch and I had a bill that helped to increase the affordable housing tax credit, but I guarantee you, there is nobody who understood it better, could explain it better, and could bring more colleagues to join us in support of it than JOHNNY ISAKSON.

I was amazed at a debate in the Finance Committee. Some of our colleagues weren't quite sure of their support, but by the time JOHNNY ISAKSON was done speaking, I think they had to backtrack their opposition and wonder if they would ever take him on in a debate again. I thank him for that because that is an issue that has complexity to it, but at its heart and soul, it is really about providing affordable housing to our fellow human beings, and JOHNNY knew that. I so appreciated his joining us this year again as we fight to get more affordable housing.

We also have worked together on very small things with our colleague Senator FISCHER to make sure that military servicemembers didn't get charged cancellation fees for TV and internet services when they were deployed and to work on diverse issues like mass timber innovation and funding for community health centers.

One thing is clear, though, when you work on all of these issues with JOHNNY ISAKSON, you realize that not only is there great integrity behind the purpose of what he focuses on and great intelligence that he brings to the debate, but there also is just a general kindness to his personality.

You know, sometimes, I think today we have lost that kindness and ability to work across the aisle. When you read stories about our past predecessors, whether it was in the time of Scoop Jackson and Warren Magnuson, I keep thinking: Did they get along because they had to stay here? They couldn't travel all the way back to the Pacific Northwest. So they bonded together. Many of them lived in rooming houses together and did all sorts of activities and got to know each other. Our colleagues lament many times: Where has this Senate gone?

Well, I think today we saw at lunch and have seen many times over the hospitality of barbecue with JOHNNY ISAKSON that you don't have to be with each other on weekends and you don't have to stay here to get to know people. The ability to communicate just a little bit of niceness, a little bit of civility, a little bit of "I will work with you on this important issue" is what it takes to make the Senate work.

JOHNNY, I just want to congratulate you for 20 years of service in the U.S. Senate, but, more importantly, for reminding us what the Senate should be about and that just a few words and a few examples and a common attitude can really bring us together, and we mount an effort to surpass the biggest obstacles that we face because of our regions and our ideologies. That is what we have to get back to.

So, as you go home to Georgia, I hope that you will take our great gratitude for reminding us of all of that, and I know that you will always have a smile, a quick wit about you, something nice to say, and we will always remember you as the Senator who not only got things done but who made us feel like the Senate again. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, when I learned that JOHNNY ISAKSON would be retiring at the end of the year, I was saddened. I served with JOHNNY for a long time, not just here in the Senate, where we were both freshmen Members in 2005, but in the House of Representatives as well, and I have been honored to call him my friend.

It is really hard for me to imagine Congress without JOHNNY. He is, hands down, as I have said, the nicest person ever to serve in the U.S. Senate. He is a model of decency and graciousness and the kind of person who can fight hard every day for the principles that he believes in without ever developing any rancor toward his political opponents.

He is not just kind and decent. He is also a tremendously effective legislator. He is deeply knowledgeable on a

whole range of issues, and he possesses the gift of being able to explain complicated subjects in a very clear way. He gets things done. He doesn't stand around talking about things or playing to the cameras. He just rolls up his sleeves and gets to work, and he makes things happen.

If there was a decency index and we were all rated on that decency index on a scale of 1 to 10, JOHNNY would be the perfect 10. Anybody who knows JOHNNY knows that he has a real passion for people and he has a real passion for veterans.

I had the opportunity to work with JOHNNY on a couple of important issues. We served together on the Senate Finance Committee. Tax reform was something to which he brought tremendous knowledge and experience and know-how. He talked with great understanding about the complicated issues that we had to deal with when it came to reforming our Tax Code. His experience was invaluable as we did something that hadn't been done in over 30 years and reformed an outdated, archaic Tax Code that was keeping us noncompetitive in the global marketplace.

In 2015, he became the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and he spent the past 5 years working tirelessly to increase accountability at the VA, to improve healthcare for veterans, and to strengthen veterans' benefits. Over the course of 2017 and 2018, the Veterans' Affairs Committee, under JOHNNY, passed 25 pieces of legislation, all of which were signed into law. One of those pieces of legislation was the VA MISSION Act, which was a bill that made significant reforms to the healthcare delivery system for veterans to ensure that veterans have access to the care that they need when they need it.

My wife Kimberley and I have traveled with JOHNNY and Dianne a number of times over the years. One trip that will forever stand out for me is a trip we took led by Senator BURR to a number of World War I and World War II cemeteries in Europe—the Normandy American Cemetery, the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, and the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, as well as several others. We walked in battlefields where American soldiers fought and bled, and we visited the graves of young Americans who died on those fields.

It was a profoundly moving trip, especially because we were able to visit the graves of soldiers from our home States of South Dakota and Georgia. While the trip would have been meaningful enough on its own, it was doubly so because JOHNNY cares so much about those issues. It meant so much to him to visit the places where American soldiers had served and died, to remember their sacrifices, and to honor their memory.

I am going to miss working with JOHNNY. His retirement is a real loss for the institution, and I am not the

only Senator who will miss his expertise and dedication, as well as his unfailing graciousness and good humor. The Senate is going to be a poorer place without him.

There have been a lot of tributes to JOHNNY since he announced his decision to retire, and one that I came across that I thought really captured JOHNNY was published in a Georgia magazine. The author of the piece is a political science professor at Kennesaw State University, and this is what he said:

As a political science professor and an administrator, I'm often asked by students if good people can serve in government and keep their integrity. Johnny Isakson is always the first example I come to. It's very often a shocking revelation to most people—that good people can, and often do, serve in government for long periods, fight hard for what they believe in, and remain true to themselves and their principles. And they don't have to sell their souls to do it. It's a great lesson, really.

I remember being down in Georgia with JOHNNY a few years ago on the weekend of the Florida-Georgia football game, and we were at one of the celebrations. I remember being struck by how well known and how well liked JOHNNY was among the college students who were there. Nowadays, we often hear about young people being disillusioned with politics, but I have to tell you that these students weren't disillusioned with JOHNNY ISAKSON. I think that is because they recognized JOHNNY's character. They knew that JOHNNY was somebody who was truly, genuinely committed to making life better for the people of the State and for the people of this country. Here was somebody who had gotten into public service because he genuinely wanted to serve.

Interestingly enough, on that trip we were near the coast of Florida or Georgia, and I had to get back to Macon, GA. My daughter was competing in a cross-country meet there. JOHNNY was kind enough—he was flying back to Atlanta—to take me on that plane and to drop me at Macon, GA, so I could watch my daughter compete.

Interestingly enough, when he got on the plane to go back from Macon to Atlanta, they had engine trouble. They had to make an emergency landing. JOHNNY ended up, I think, having to drive or have somebody—a taxi or somebody—drive him 100 miles from Macon up to Atlanta and his home, but that is the kind of person that he is. He thought it was important for me to be there and to see my daughter compete, and he was always willing to go out of his way to make it possible for somebody to be able to participate in an event like that—a family event.

That is what I think about when I think about his retirement. I am sad about his retirement, but I am happy that he is going to have a chance to spend more time with Dianne, with his family, his children, and his grandchildren. I have been lucky enough to get to know Dianne, as well as JOHNNY,

over the years, and they are just the same—the warmest, kindest, most gracious, most genuine people you will ever meet.

I know that after years of sharing him with the people of Georgia and the American people, Dianne and the rest of the family will enjoy having JOHNNY to themselves for awhile. After all, somebody has to babysit those eight beautiful grandchildren.

The Senate is losing one of its finest Members, but he has more than earned his retirement. I wish him and Dianne the very best in retirement. I pray for God's blessing upon him, and let him know how much we are going to miss him.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Democrat, Republican, and Independent colleagues alike on the floor today. I understand there is an overflow that is going to be back on the floor tomorrow to say the truth and tell the truth about JOHNNY ISAKSON.

One of my friends likes to say: "Flattery won't hurt you if you don't inhale." JOHNNY, I know a lot of nice things have been said about you today, and more tomorrow, and probably for the rest of the year. So I would just say: Don't inhale too deeply, and you will be just fine.

I just want to follow up on what several of our colleagues have said. A number of them talked about how kind JOHNNY is. He is one of those people who will say hello to the folks who are custodians, the people who may run the elevators, the folks who are the security police here, and he even says nice things to the pages. Can you imagine that? That is true. He is about as kind as anybody you would ever want to meet, and it is not just occasionally. It is like that all the time.

He is also smart. I haven't heard anybody say he is smart. They may have. I may have missed it. I want to say, for the record, that he is one smart fellow—as my mother used to say, smart as a whip. He grasps complex issues, understands them, and is really good at explaining them so that even people like me can usually understand them.

I first met JOHNNY when he was newly elected to the Senate, and we had just established something called orientation. We didn't have orientation for a number of years here. George Voinovich from Ohio, LAMAR ALEXANDER from Tennessee, and Mark Pryor from Arkansas, and I put together a 3-day deal. We called it orientation for new Senators and spouses, and I remember that JOHNNY, I think, was in the first class that came through.

I had been Governor of Delaware for 8 years. I got here in the beginning of 2001. One of the Governors I served with was a Governor from Georgia named Zell Miller. Zell Miller was elected and served two 4-year terms. I think he served two 4-year terms. One of the

people who ran against him was JOHN-  
NY ISAKSON. When Senator-elect JOHN-  
NY ISAKSON came through orientation  
right after he had been elected, I asked  
him if he knew Governor Zell Miller. I  
thought that they had a connection,  
and, sure enough, they did because  
they had run against each other in an  
earlier year.

There is a saying that some of you  
have heard. That saying is something  
like this: Just because somebody is  
your opponent, doesn't mean they have  
to be your enemy.

I don't think I have ever heard any-  
body say such nice things, kind things,  
and generous things about their oppo-  
nent in an earlier election where he  
lost and Zell Miller won. That is proof  
that your opponent does not have to be  
your enemy. For us around here, this  
day and age, that is a lesson that we  
would do well to take to heart.

One of the other things I want to say  
is that I want to share a story I was re-  
minded of today by one of my staff  
members.

My office is in the Hart Building, and  
I have been in the same office for, gosh,  
19 years now. My staff doesn't want to  
leave. They want to stay there. They  
like it. As to what makes them happy,  
you know the old saying: Happy wife,  
happy life. Well, happy staff, happy  
life, too—they want to stay in the of-  
fice, and that is where we have stayed.

Once, a number of years ago, when  
JOHNNY was relatively new in the Sen-  
ate, he came to a meeting on the same  
floor, and he came to the wrong Senate  
office. He came to my office by mis-  
take. He meant to go to the office next  
door where David Vitter was, a Senator  
from Louisiana. His office was next  
door to ours. He came into the en-  
trance—the foyer, if you will—of our  
office and met a couple of young people  
at the front desk there. He came in and  
said that he was there to see the Sen-  
ator. They were looking at their sched-  
ules, trying to figure out what was  
going on. They didn't know quite what  
to tell him. He was there to see the  
Senator, and we had a wonderful gal at  
the front desk who was a little bit shy.  
He very kindly engaged her in a con-  
versation and asked her: Well, tell me  
about you.

She offered some things, and when  
she stopped, he would just very gently  
pull out her story and make her feel  
special. There was another fellow at a  
desk a short distance away in that  
foyer, that entrance to our office. He  
was a young man named David, and he  
would say to Senator ISAKSON, "Sen-  
ator"—and JOHNNY would interrupt  
him and keep talking to this young gal  
on our staff. JOHNNY would say: I am  
not in a rush. Take your time.

David just couldn't get in a word  
edgewise. This went on for several min-  
utes, and, finally, the young man inter-  
rupted, and he said to Senator ISAKSON:  
Senator, I think you are in the wrong  
office. Who do you think you are here  
to see?

He said: Well, David Vitter.

His office was next door to ours at  
the time.

He said: You are in Senator TOM CAR-  
PER's office.

JOHNNY, without missing a beat, said:  
Well, I will just meet with TOM.

And he picked up his stuff, and he  
walked into my office. I am sure those  
young people hadn't seen anything  
quite like that.

We welcomed him warmly. He could  
walk into any office, and he would be  
welcomed warmly, whether he had an  
appointment or not.

Recently, I served with JOHNNY on  
the Finance Committee. The fellow  
standing behind him is Senator  
PORTMAN. We served there together.  
Senator BOOZMAN, who is sitting down  
next to JOHNNY right now—he and I  
serve on the Committee on Environ-  
ment Public Works. In Environment  
and Public Works, we had a witness not  
long ago who was here for a confirma-  
tion hearing, a fellow named Rob Wal-  
lace. I know Senator BOOZMAN would  
remember him. He had been nominated  
to be a very senior guy in the Depart-  
ment of Commerce. The job he was  
nominated for was to be in charge of  
National Parks and in charge of Fish  
and Wildlife. It was a big deal. In his  
testimony, he talked to us. He used to  
work for Senator Malcolm Wallop from  
Wyoming. He had a distinguished ca-  
reer. During his testimony, he said  
words I will never forget. He said: Bi-  
partisan solutions are lasting solu-  
tions.

Think about that.

He said: Bipartisan solutions are  
lasting solutions.

JOHNNY ISAKSON is as good at  
crafting bipartisan solutions as any-  
body I have had the privilege of work-  
ing with here. Again, he is a great role  
model for us.

I want to close with just a few words  
on leadership. In my experience, having  
been privileged to be in the Navy for  
many years—I served in some wars and  
in peace and had the chance to be Gov-  
ernor and Senator, Congressman, and  
treasurer of my State—I have seen a  
lot of leaders. I have seen great leaders.  
I have seen some lousy leaders. I expect  
that is true of all of us. I have probably  
learned more from the not-so-good  
leaders as I have learned from the su-  
perb leaders. In my experience, leaders  
are humble, not haughty. Leaders have  
the heart of a servant. They realize  
that our job is to serve, not be served.  
Leaders have the courage to stay out of  
step when everybody else is marching  
to the wrong tune. Leaders build  
bridges, not walls. They unite, not di-  
vide. Leaders surround themselves with  
the best team they can find, and when  
the team does well, the leader gives the  
credit to the team. When the team falls  
short, the leader takes the blame. Leaders  
don't build themselves up by  
tearing others down. In fact, it is just  
the opposite. Leaders are aspirational.

There is a French philosopher named  
Camus, I think—Albert Camus. He  
would say: Leaders are purveyors of

hope. They appeal to our better angels.  
Leaders are interested in doing what is  
right, not what is easy—not what is ex-  
pedient, but what is right. Leaders em-  
brace the golden rule: Treat other peo-  
ple the way they want to be treated.  
Leaders focus on excellence in every-  
thing they do. They essentially say: If  
it isn't perfect, let's just make it bet-  
ter.

Finally, when the really great lead-  
ers know they are right, when they are  
sure they are right, they don't give up.  
They just don't give up. We need lead-  
ership here in this building as much as  
at any time I can remember. We need  
leadership in this Capital City of ours,  
and we need leadership in all kinds of  
roles across our country. I just want to  
say about the leadership qualities I  
just described that you can find some  
of them in all of us, but in JOHNNY  
ISAKSON, you find all of those qualities.

There is a saying: "I would rather see  
a sermon than hear one." In JOHNNY  
ISAKSON, we see the sermon.

JOHNNY, again, my friend, God bless  
you, Dianne, your family, and we will  
hold you close to our hearts. We will  
always be thankful for you. Thanks-  
giving, year-round, forever. God bless  
you. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen-  
ator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, we  
have too many people on the floor here  
to pay tribute to JOHNNY ISAKSON, and  
we all have to go quick. I will be back  
again, talking about my buddy from  
Georgia.

Let me make a couple of points. One  
is—and this is a little straight talk be-  
cause I heard so many great things  
about him—we ought to know some-  
thing else about him, which is, yes, he  
is a gentleman; yes, he is a nice guy;  
but he has the velvet hammer, as I  
have said. That velvet hammer has  
driven a lot of nails in around here and  
ended up with a lot of great bipartisan  
legislation. It is not just because he is  
a nice guy. It is because he is intense,  
and he is committed and determined  
for the people of Georgia as an inde-  
pendent voice for his constituents and  
for the great country that he loves so  
much.

Let me give you one example. We are  
working on energy efficiency legisla-  
tion right now. I work with JOHNNY on  
a number of different legislative  
projects. In this particular case, he is  
the author of something called the  
SAVE Act. The SAVE Act makes good  
sense policywise. It helps people reduce  
their energy costs and saves them  
money on mortgages, but it is not sup-  
ported by everybody around here.  
There are some powerful groups  
against it.

Once again, you will see in the  
Portman-Shaheen energy efficiency  
package, the SAVE Act is in there, and  
it is in there for one reason and one  
reason only, and that is because of the  
persistence of JOHNNY ISAKSON, a real  
estate guy who gets it.

To my friend, I have heard so many  
great things about you over the last



several hours. I agree with just about all of them—almost.

To Dianne, who is by far the better half here and such a dear friend of Jane's and mine, we love you. We are going to miss you. We will stay in touch, but we are going to watch you in your retirement as that velvet hammer continues to nail things that are good for your beloved Georgia and for the United States of America.

Thank you, JOHNNY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, keeping with the brevity that we have to exercise now because I know the guest of honor may have to leave the floor and others are going to speak before he leaves, I will write a longer statement for the RECORD with detail.

JOHNNY, it goes without saying—we keep saying it over and over again—how much we are going to miss you, not only because of the bipartisan work you did and the legislative achievements but because of who you are—your decency, your integrity, your warmth even in the heat of a battle. We are grateful for all of that.

I will just make brief mention of a few issues. I will start with the Global Food Security Act, which was started here in the Senate by Senator Dick Lugar way back in the period even before 2009 when I began to work with him. JOHNNY made it possible for us to finally get that passed. What that act does is put into law to authorize into the future the Feed the Future program, one of the most successful programs the U.S. Government ever undertook. Millions of children have been saved from chronic hunger or stunting, where they literally cannot grow because they haven't been able to get enough to eat. That program will now be perpetuated over time because of the work of JOHNNY ISAKSON. I will add more numbers to that in my written version.

Here is how Feed the Future is described in their website: It is a program that works with “partner countries to develop their agricultural sectors and break the vicious cycle of poverty and hunger” the world over for the countries that are participating. I will start with that.

Second—I will be very brief on the next three—is the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education, the so-called CHGME Program that funds residency programs at children's hospitals. JOHNNY knows about this well in the State of Georgia, and three of those hospitals are in my home State of Pennsylvania. It would not be possible for that program to continue without the good work of JOHNNY ISAKSON.

Third, disabilities. We don't have time for all of it today, but I know that JOHNNY and his wife Dianne have worked with students with disabilities for years, and JOHNNY has been a partner dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities. I will go into that in more detail in my written version.

Finally, the last one I will mention for purposes of today, JOHNNY, is the work that you did on the pediatric priority review vouchers program, which makes it possible for drug companies to develop new drugs for rare pediatric diseases.

JOHNNY, you and I are working these days, in these hours, to get the Over-the-Counter Monograph Reform done. Thank you for the work you have done on that.

For these and for so many other reasons, I will conclude with this, JOHNNY. There is an inscription on one of the State government buildings I worked in at Harrisburg, PA, for 10 years. It is a beautiful inscription of public service that applies to you personally and your integrity and to the work you have done: “All public service is a trust, given in faith and accepted in honor.”

You have always accepted that trust the people of Georgia gave you. You have returned that with honor.

We are grateful to be your friend. Congratulations on your work. God bless you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. In the interest of time, I am going to put my remarks in the RECORD, but I do want to take just a moment to thank JOHNNY for his friendship. I won a special election to the House of Representatives and was assigned to the Transportation Committee. Literally, JOHNNY was one of the first people I met there. He was an important person on Transportation.

I was the 435th Member of the House, and he was so very, very kind. He helped me get acclimated.

His wife Dianne was just wonderful to my wife Cathy when I came to the Senate. Nobody was any nicer, again, helping her to get acclimated to the ways of the Senate, and, certainly, this is a family affair. We appreciate that so very much.

I had the honor of serving on the Veterans Affairs Committee. The reality is, we got a bunch done under your leadership. We appreciate that so very much.

Proverbs tells us that a good man is worth more than silver and gold, and that is really what this has all been about this afternoon, just hearing Member after Member express the good name of JOHNNY ISAKSON. We appreciate you, JOHNNY. We truly will miss you more than you know.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I will submit my full comments for the RECORD as others have done. But you can tell, as we continue to go here—and we know that we have a hard stop on the vote at 5 p.m.—Senators just want to be here to express their admiration and their appreciation and their gratitude to Senator ISAKSON. We wish JOHNNY and Dianne the very best in their next endeavors.

It is hard to see Senator ISAKSON leave this body. He has added so much in an amazing and wonderful way for the time that he has been here. It is not just that, hands down, if we were going to vote as to the Senator who everybody appreciates the most, hands down, he would win that in a bipartisan vote. There is not a question about it.

At the same time, each of the Senators has remarked on something substantive and important that JOHNNY has done and they have had a chance to be part of—legislation that affects this Nation and the great people of this country in a real and meaningful way. I want to talk about that for just a minute, and that is the VA MISSION Act.

As the chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, there is no question that Senator ISAKSON led the effort on behalf of our veterans in so many instances. He passed legislation and did many things to help our veterans—things that will help our veterans, not only today and tomorrow but for years and years to come. Included among those accomplishments is the VA MISSION Act. I had the opportunity to work with him on making sure we could include language in that legislation that would not only make sure that veterans have access to healthcare, medical care—both institutional VA care and from private providers—but also that they could access those VA benefits for long-term care and for home- and community-based care. It is legislation that, thanks to JOHNNY, we were able to include in the VA MISSION Act.

So it is not just about medical care for those veterans. It is about making sure that they can use VA reimbursement to go into nursing homes in their communities if they need nursing home care or if they need home- or community-based care. Again, it is not only the medical care but the long-term care for our veterans that will make the difference for them today, tomorrow, and in the years and years to come. This is the kind of legacy that Senator ISAKSON leaves.

To JOHNNY and Dianne, we say thank you, and God bless you. We wish you the very best.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators GRAMHAM, TESTER, and MURRAY be allowed to complete their brief remarks before the vote previously scheduled for 5 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I will be brief.

Every one of us can stand here and talk on the floor about JOHNNY ISAKSON ad nauseam.

By the way, I have been watching this on TV, and I appreciate your stick-to-itiveness in your being on the

floor, listening to this. You are a great man.

The fact doesn't escape me that we are standing in the U.S. Senate, a body that has seen so many great Senators over the years. We can go back and have a history lesson on Clay, Calhoun, La Follette, MURRAY, Wheeler, Mansfield, Metcalf, and all of these folks. The truth, though, is the reason we are all here, talking today, is that JOHNNY ISAKSON is a very special guy, and he is special for a number of reasons.

He treats everybody with respect, and because of that, everybody treats him with respect. His word is his bond, and his handshake is worth something in this body, which is not something you see all the time. JOHNNY is somebody who can get things done. I speak from experience in being the ranking member on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. He has shepherded through many, many very difficult pieces of legislation, and he has done it because he has developed trust.

If we ever get in a foxhole together, JOHNNY, I will have your back. Do you know what? I know you will have mine because you have exhibited it before. It has been such an incredible pleasure to be in this body, serving with you. You are one of those guys who doesn't have to be disagreeable, but if you disagree, you can disagree. Thank you very much. It has been a pleasure to serve with you.

Godspeed to my friend JOHNNY ISAKSON.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. JOHNNY, at some point, this has to be painful for you. Very few people get together at their own funerals.

What we are trying to say is that we like you. You are a breath of fresh air in a body that has a hard time agreeing on much. I have known you since I got into politics. I served in the House with you, and I have served in the Senate with you. I have traveled the world with you. I have played golf with you. I have had dinner with you. I have gotten to know your family.

To sum it up, when it comes to being a U.S. Senator, JOHNNY ISAKSON has become the gold standard.

God bless you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

#### NOMINATION OF SARAH E. PITLYK

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I want to turn to the nomination that is pending before the Senate and that we will be voting on as soon as I finish my remarks.

I have come to the floor many times to speak in opposition to President Trump's ideologically driven, deeply partisan judicial nominees and to express my frustration that under Republican leadership, the Senate is rubberstamping one lifetime judicial nomination after another. The Republican leaders have been willing to

rubberstamp these nominees whose qualifications are in doubt. A record number have been deemed unqualified by the American Bar Association, whose impartiality is virtually nonexistent and who are, without a doubt, chosen for their commitment to upholding President Trump's agenda rather than to upholding our Nation's laws.

These nominees have sided with shady for-profit colleges rather than with student loan borrowers—just like the President's Department of Education. President Trump's nominees have followed his footsteps on healthcare, ruling and speaking against expanding affordable healthcare to more families. They have allowed major corporations to skirt rules that are intended to help address the urgent threat of the climate crisis.

Perhaps most consistently, President Trump's judicial nominees have adhered to rigid, backward, deeply harmful ideology when it comes to reproductive healthcare. One called Roe v. Wade "radical abortion rights." Another pushed pseudoscience and claimed that birth control can lead to suicide.

The vast majority of women and men in our country would agree that these are not positions you would want a supposedly impartial judge to espouse. Unfortunately, what I have just laid out pales in comparison to what we know of the judicial nominee we are considering today, Sarah Pitlyk.

Ms. Pitlyk, whom the American Bar Association rated as "unqualified," has actively worked to erode women's access to birth control and abortion. She even defended legislation that would have allowed landlords to have evicted their tenants and employers to have fired their employees simply because they had used birth control or had gotten pregnant before they had gotten married.

These views are already wildly invasive and disqualifying. Unfortunately, there is more.

Ms. Pitlyk has also not only expressed her personal bias against assisted reproductive technology, or ART, but she has actually authored briefs that have argued that surrogacy and ART have "grave effects on society."

I am very proud to have personally worked to expand access to in vitro fertilization, or IVF, especially for our military families who struggle with infertility, and I firmly believe all families who face this painful challenge should have our strong support.

My good friend the junior Senator from Illinois, who has spoken powerfully about her struggles with fertility and how IVF gave her the opportunity to realize her dream of motherhood, wrote in a letter to our colleagues: "As a mother who struggled with infertility for years and required IVF to start my family, I would be one of the many Americans who could never enter Ms. Pitlyk's courtroom with any reasonable expectation that my case would be

adjudicated in a fair and impartial manner."

Given Ms. Pitlyk's record of supporting cruel policies that would punish women for accessing basic healthcare like birth control, her support for banning women from exercising their right to abortion, as well as her personal bias and professional actions against starting a family via assisted reproductive technology, I believe a vote in favor of Ms. Pitlyk's nomination would be indefensible.

That is why I ask my colleagues on the Republican side to stop and really consider this vote. If confirmed, Ms. Pitlyk's tenure on the courts will last for decades—well beyond President Trump's last day in the White House. That would mean, for years and years, decisions would be made that we can only expect would harm women and families, restrict women's access to reproductive healthcare, and even potentially jeopardize their ability to become parents. In other words, a vote for Ms. Pitlyk now will keep hurting people long after the President's name-calling on Twitter doesn't drive headlines anymore.

I urge all of my colleagues to do the right thing for women and families today and for years to come and join me in opposing this nomination on the floor.

I yield the floor.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sarah E. Pitlyk, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Sarah E. Pitlyk, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted "nay."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 371 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

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

#### NAYS—43

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

#### NOT VOTING—7

Booker	Murkowski	Warren
Harris	Rounds	
Klobuchar	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in this series be 10 minutes each in length.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Douglas Russell Cole, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Steve Daines, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Thom Tillis, David Perdue, Chuck Grassley, Rick Scott.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Douglas Russell Cole, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 29.

[Rollcall Vote No. 372 Ex.]

#### YEAS—62

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

#### NAYS—29

Baldwin	Heinrich	Schumer
Bennet	Hirono	Shaheen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Smith
Cantwell	Markey	Stabenow
Cardin	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Udall
Duckworth	Murray	Van Hollen
Feinstein	Peters	Warner
Gillibrand	Rosen	Wyden
Hassan	Schatz	

#### NOT VOTING—9

Booker	Johnson	Rounds
Harris	Klobuchar	Sanders
Isakson	Murkowski	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 62, the nays are 29.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

#### CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, on rollcall vote 372, I voted no. It was my intention to vote aye. Therefore, I ask

unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote since it will not affect the outcome.

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

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

Steve Daines, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Mitch McConnell.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 88, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 373 Ex.]

#### YEAS—88

Alexander	Casey	Feinstein
Baldwin	Cassidy	Fischer
Barrasso	Collins	Gardner
Bennet	Coons	Graham
Blackburn	Cornyn	Grassley
Blumenthal	Cortez Masto	Hassan
Blunt	Cotton	Hawley
Boozman	Cramer	Heinrich
Braun	Crapo	Hoeven
Brown	Cruz	Hyde-Smith
Burr	Daines	Inhofe
Cantwell	Duckworth	Johnson
Capito	Durbin	Jones
Cardin	Enzi	Kaine
Carper	Ernst	Kennedy

King	Reed	Stabenow
Lankford	Risch	Sullivan
Leahy	Roberts	Tester
Lee	Romney	Thune
Manchin	Rosen	Tillis
McConnell	Rubio	Toomey
McSally	Sasse	Udall
Menendez	Schatz	Van Hollen
Moran	Schumer	Warner
Murphy	Scott (FL)	Whitehouse
Murray	Scott (SC)	Wicker
Paul	Shaheen	Wyden
Perdue	Shelby	Young
Peters	Sinema	
Portman	Smith	

## NAYS—4

Gillibrand	Markey
Hirono	Merkley

## NOT VOTING—8

Booker	Klobuchar	Sanders
Harris	Murkowski	Warren
Isakson	Rounds	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 88, the nays are 4.

The motion is agreed to.

## CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David B. Barlow, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rand Paul, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of David B. Barlow, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 88, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 374 Ex.]

## YEAS—88

Alexander	Feinstein	Reed
Baldwin	Fischer	Risch
Barrasso	Gardner	Roberts
Bennet	Graham	Romney
Blackburn	Grassley	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hassan	Rubio
Blunt	Hawley	Sasse
Boozman	Heinrich	Schatz
Braun	Hoeven	Schumer
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cantwell	Johnson	Shaheen
Capito	Jones	Shelby
Cardin	Kaine	Sinema
Carper	Kennedy	Smith
Casey	King	Stabenow
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	Manchin	Tillis
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Toomey
Cotton	McSally	Udall
Cramer	Menendez	Moran
Crapo	Moran	Van Hollen
Cruz	Murphy	Warner
Daines	Murray	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Paul	Wicker
Durbin	Perdue	Wyden
Enzi	Peters	Young
Ernst	Portman	

## NAYS—4

Gillibrand	Markey
Hirono	Merkley

## NOT VOTING—8

Booker	Klobuchar	Sanders
Harris	Murkowski	Warren
Isakson	Rounds	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 88, the nays are 4.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David B. Barlow, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

## TRIBUTE TO MIKE CARRIGAN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, nearly one-quarter of Illinois' workforce will see the benefit of a \$15 an our minimum wage by 2025. Also, the State of Illinois is about to embark on a massive \$45 billion infrastructure modernization and construction plan. Simply put, these are life-changing achievements. And behind both is Michael Carrigan.

Since 2010, Mike Carrigan has served as the president of the Illinois AFL-CIO, fighting for working families

across the State. At the end of the year, Mike is retiring from his decades' long service to Illinois' labor unions and its nearly 900,000 members.

In the fall of 2011, Mike was my guest for then-President Obama's joint session of Congress focusing on the economy. Mike had been an authority on creating jobs and putting people back to work for years so the invitation made perfect sense. And Mike was there to applaud a President he had worked hard to elect.

Michael Carrigan was born in Kankakee, IL, and grew up in Kankakee County. After graduating from MacMurray College in Jacksonville and completing a 4-year apprenticeship in Decatur, he became a journeyman electrician. Mike installed wiring at construction sites for everything from nuclear powerplants to fast-food restaurants. Later, he became the business manager and financial secretary for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 146 in Decatur.

In 1995, Mike ran for the city council in Decatur and won. Four years later, Margaret Blackshire chose Mike to be her running mate in an historic bid for the leadership of the Illinois AFL-CIO. Margaret was the first woman to serve as president of the labor organization, and they were the right people for the jobs at the right time. Under the leadership of Margaret and Mike, the AFL-CIO led the fight to raise the State's minimum wage multiple times, developed infrastructure plans, and strengthened labor union membership in Illinois. They brought together diverse groups and built coalitions to improve the lives of working families in Illinois, from infrastructure to healthcare.

When Margaret stepped away from her post in 2007, Mike seamlessly continued the hard work of leading Illinois AFL-CIO. In 2008, the mayor of Decatur resigned abruptly, and the city council picked Mike to finish the term. Like his work in labor, Mike took to his temporary role with enthusiasm. He served for 10 months, providing steady leadership, before returning full time to the AFL-CIO.

In 2015, a newly elected Republican Governor purposely chose Mike's hometown of Decatur to launch a campaign to break Illinois unions with right to work laws. Mike Carrigan did not back away. Mike fought then-Governor Rauner's efforts to weaken workers' rights in every corner of our State. From courtrooms to the picket line, Mike took the fight to Rauner. In 2018, the voters of Illinois retired Bruce Rauner. Within 6 months, Mike had worked behind the scenes to ensure that State workers had a new contract under our new Governor, J.B. Pritzker.

After 20 years of service to the Illinois AFL-CIO, Mike is retiring. Thanks to his hard work and dedication, the outlook for Illinois labor is bright.

Even in retirement, I know Mike will keep busy and will only be a phone call

away. I look forward to catching another Illini/Mizzou Braggin' Rights basketball game with Mike. And his holiday dinner is a favorite of the season for my wife, Loretta, and me.

I am excited to see what Mike does next and I am proud to call him a friend.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD).

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. HARRIS. Madam President, I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 368 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 47, Eric Ross Komitee to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. •

#### SECURE ACT

Mr. LEE. Madam President, as more Americans enjoy longer lives than ever before, it is more crucial than ever that retirement plans and the policies that govern them keep pace with healthcare innovation and demographic change. That is the reason why a bipartisan coalition in both houses of Congress has proposed the SECURE Act, to modernize retirement savings policies.

For the first time, it would give businesses the option to band together to create pooled retirement plans for their employees, helping them save time and money and expanding access to millions of workers to an indispensable job benefit. This would especially help small businesses who would love to offer their employees retirement plans but simply cannot afford it on their own. It would allow graduate and postdoctoral students to save for their retirements by contributing income from their stipends and fellowships to Individual Retirement Accounts. And it would allow parents to withdraw retirement funds, without penalty, for the birth or adoption of a child, providing special help to younger families when they need it most.

I support all of the above provisions, and to see them enacted, I am willing to accept multiple provisions in this bill that I oppose. Unfortunately, one provision goes over the line, would hurt the very workers it purports to help, and would set a dangerous precedent for Federal policy. This measure would allow a handful of select businesses to cut their required contributions to their workers' pension plans, while still promising those workers full benefits.

Under current law, if a pension plan fails to meet its funding target, the plan sponsor must eliminate the funding shortfall through additional plan contributions, plus interest, over 7 years. The bailout in the SECURE Act, however, would extend that period to 30 years for only a handful of struggling newspapers. Additionally, it would entitle them to legally assume a

higher return on investment than other businesses must use.

This would reduce the amount that certain community newspapers are required to contribute to their employees' plans each month and, given the longer payback window, would also make it less likely that these bailed out companies would ever make up the shortfall. In other words, this bill grants a special bailout to a handful of community newspapers by allowing them to shortchange their workers' pensions.

This is bad policy and bad precedent. This short-sighted strategy might prolong the life of these community newspapers for a while; that is what short-sighted strategies do. But it would only do so at the expense of their employees because, when these newspaper pensions inevitably become insolvent, which is the trajectory they are already on, they will most likely end up in the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. The PBGC is a federally-chartered business that provides pension insurance through premiums paid by private companies. In other words, all the companies required to pay into the PBGC, but that do not receive a special bailout, will be forced to pay the price. This is the opposite of "secure." We ought not provide special treatment to a select group of community newspapers in the first place. And we certainly shouldn't set the precedent that those bailouts entitle recipients to raid their workers' pensions and then force more prudently run businesses to pick up the tab.

This is why I have an amendment that strikes this pension bailout provision out of the bill. A few weeks ago, Senator TOOMEY offered a reasonable path forward for the SECURE Act. He suggested allowing the Senate to consider the SECURE Act with five Republican amendments and five Democratic amendments of their choosing. Unfortunately, Senator MURRAY refused to accept that proposal, claiming that the amendments are "not in the interest of hardworking Americans."

I respectfully disagree. In addition to my amendment, which would stop corporate bailouts and protect workers from corporate raids on their pension funds, Senator CRUZ and Senator BRAUN have amendments to expand 529 savings accounts. Under their proposals, parents and grandparents could save money for the educational expenses of children with disabilities, for homeschooling, and for apprenticeships and training programs.

All of these amendments are "in the interests of American workers." The Senate should consider each of them. I hope my Democratic colleagues will recognize the need to put this bill on the Senate floor so we can vote on the underlying text, as well as the reasonable amendments that have been proposed.

#### REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, Senator Kay Hagan was a great friend and a devoted public servant. Her loss has been deeply felt by her many friends in this Chamber.

Kay and I first got to know each other when we were running for the Senate in 2008. Throughout that campaign, we would talk periodically, and her courage in the face of the attacks she dealt with said so much about her character and her strong faith. We were sworn in together as freshmen Senators in 2009, and I had the pleasure of serving alongside her for 6 years.

Throughout her time in the Senate, Kay served the people of North Carolina with integrity. I knew her to be someone who approached every challenge not as a member of a particular political party but as someone who wanted to do right by the people of North Carolina, who were always her top priority.

She brought a valuable perspective on financial matters and significant experience in that arena to the Senate, having worked in the banking sector in North Carolina. During her time on Capitol Hill, she was known as a legislator who was always willing to listen to good ideas—no matter which side of the aisle they came from. I saw this firsthand whenever we collaborated on legislation.

Through her work Senator Hagan sought to leave behind a better nation for our future generations. In our first year in the Senate, we worked closely together on the value and innovation amendment package—an ambitious set of amendments to encourage innovation and drive down costs in healthcare. I was also proud to have worked with her on legislation to do things like strengthen America's housing finance system and bring jobs back to the United States.

Born in Shelby, NC, Kay got involved in public service early on, working as a Senate intern in the 1970s and eventually going on to work on Governor Jim Hunt's campaigns in her home of Guilford County. Before being elected to the Senate, she served in the North Carolina State Senate for 10 years, where she cochaired the budget committee.

Senator Hagan blazed the trail as North Carolina's first female democratic Senator and as the second woman to ever serve as Senator of her State. Championing a number of bills to fund expanded screening for newborns, provide medical assistance to families exposed to toxic drinking water, and safeguard tuition funding for servicemembers, Senator Hagan spent her career fighting for the well-being of North Carolina families.

Senator Hagan will be remembered as a leader within her community and as someone who was not afraid to stand for what was right. My heart goes out to her husband, Chip; her three children, Jeannette, Tilden and Carrie; her beloved grandchildren; and her whole family.

## TRIBUTE TO MARK COVALL

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I rise to recognize Mr. Mark Covall, who, after 34 years with the National Association for Behavioral Healthcare, NABH, is retiring.

For the past 24 years, Mark ably served as the president and CEO of the NABH, which was founded in 1933 to advocate for the interests of behavioral healthcare systems and providers that treat children, adolescents, adults, and senior citizens with mental health and substance use disorders. Under Mark's steadfast leadership, NABH helped to secure parity in mental and general healthcare services, paving the way for the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. More recently, Mark and NABH helped to ensure that Congress enacted the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and 21st Century Cures Act in 2016 and the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act in 2018.

Mark's leadership in coalition-building, as well as his work to develop strong relationships with behavioral healthcare providers, government officials, and associations such as the American Hospital Association, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Mental Health America, and the Kennedy Forum, explain why he has been as effective in influencing regulation as he has been in advancing legislation. I am told others in the behavioral health field would go to Mark for his insight, knowing he is one of the behavioral healthcare community's most well-informed and strongest advocates.

Today, I join others in the mental health community in thanking Mark Covall for his decades of leadership, dedication, and passion for ensuring that millions of Americans have access to quality mental health and addiction treatment services.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## RECOGNIZING TOMATO EXPRESS

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, as the chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the unique American entrepreneurial spirit. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy: creating jobs, fostering economic growth, and providing services to their local communities. This week, it is my pleasure to honor a small business that exemplifies these qualities, Tomato Express of Kissimmee, FL.

More than 28 years ago, the Siracusa family decided to immigrate to the United States, leaving behind their home in Argentina and bringing with them the hope of achieving the American dream. When Pedro, Stella, and Luis Siracusa arrived in Florida, they discovered that quality Hispanic foods were difficult to find in their Kissimmee community. This observation

marked the beginning of their entrepreneurial journey. In November 1991, the Siracuzas opened the first Tomato Express, a small produce stand selling local fruits and vegetables. As Kissimmee's Hispanic population grew, Tomato Express's business expanded until their produce stand became too small to support their customer base and sales numbers. After securing private funding and a Small Business Administration loan, the Siracusa family was able to grow from a small produce stand into a larger grocery store.

Today, Tomato Express still focuses on their original vision, supplying quality Hispanic foods for their community. The Tomato Express grocery store now offers locally sourced fruit, vegetables, meat, and imported beers and wines. In its deli and bakery, Tomato Express offers various homemade Hispanic dishes from both Central and South America, but its main focus remains authentic Argentinian cuisine.

The Siracusa family has been recognized for their part in making Kissimmee the dynamic and innovative community that it is today. In 2016, the Osceola Chamber of Commerce presented Stella Siracusa with the Compadre Award commemorating her numerous contributions to the Hispanic community. As a family-owned business, Tomato Express is dedicated to giving back to the community that is their home. For example, Tomato Express is a devoted sponsor to Orlando's Community Vision, Inc., which aims to allocate resources to solve the community's complex issues with innovative solutions. The Siracuzas' expansion and success of Tomato Express has also inspired entrepreneurs in their community to open Hispanic food businesses.

Today, the Siracusa family's initiative and passion has made them a vital part of the Kissimmee community and economy. The Siracuzas' entrepreneurial journey is a key example of the success that can be achieved through dignified work. I offer my sincere congratulations to the Siracusa family and the entire team at Tomato Express, and I look forward to watching your continued growth and success. •

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2103(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress on the part of the House of Representatives for a term of 6 years: Mr. Robert Anacletus Underwood of Hagatna, Guam.

## ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 6:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore

(Mr. BEYER) has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 887. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 877 East 1200 South in Orem, Utah, as the "Jerry C. Washburn Post Office Building".

H.R. 1252. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6531 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the "Marilyn Monroe Post Office".

H.R. 1253. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13507 Van Nuys Boulevard in Pacoima, California, as the "Ritchie Valens Post Office Building".

H.R. 1526. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Israel Road Southeast in Tumwater, Washington, as the "Eva G. Hewitt Post Office".

H.R. 1844. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, as the "Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 1972. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 West Kent Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the "Jeannette Rankin Post Office Building".

H.R. 2151. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7722 South Main Street in Pine Plains, New York, as the "Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent Post Office".

H.R. 2325. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building".

H.R. 2334. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Odessa, Texas, as the "Wilson and Young Medal of Honor VA Clinic".

H.R. 2451. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 575 Dexter Street in Central Falls, Rhode Island, as the "Elizabeth Buffum Chace Post Office".

H.R. 3144. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8520 Michigan Avenue in Whittier, California, as the "Jose Ramos Post Office Building".

H.R. 3314. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 McCulloch Boulevard North in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, as the "Lake Havasu City Combat Veterans Memorial Post Office Building".

## 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-3315. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Almonds Grown in California; Revisions to the Accepted User Program Requirements and New Information Collection" ((7 CFR Part 981) (Docket No. AMS-SC-18-0099)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3316. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dried Prunes Produced in California;



Decreased Assessment Rate” ((7 CFR Part 993) (Docket No. AMS-SC-19-0056)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3317. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Swine Health Protection Act; Amendments to Garbage Feeding Regulations” ((RIN0579-AE50) (Docket No. APHIS-2018-0067)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3318. A communication from the Director of the Issuances Staff, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Publication Method for Lists of Foreign Countries Eligible to Export Meat, Poultry, or Egg Products to the United States” ((RIN0583-AD72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3319. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Bruce H. Lindsey, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3320. A communication from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption that was declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3321. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3322. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Truth in Lending (Regulation Z); Screening and Training Requirements for Mortgage Loan Originators With Temporary Authority” (12 CFR Part 1026) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3323. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Venezuela Sanctions Regulations” (31 CFR Part 591) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 20, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3324. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests in, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds” ((RIN3064-AE67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 20, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3325. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller

of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Other Real Estate Owner and Technical Amendments” ((RIN1557-AE50) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3326. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold” ((RIN1557-AE68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3327. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Addition of Entities to the Entity List, Revision of an Entry on the Entity List, and Removal of Entities from the Entity List” ((RIN0694-AH85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3328. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “IMARA Calculation Under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program” ((RIN1505-AC62) (31 CFR Part 50)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3329. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Temporary General License: Extension of Validity” ((RIN0694-AH97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3330. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Temporary General License: Extension of Validity” ((RIN0694-AH97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3331. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting proposed legislation to provide for utility incentives that the Department of Homeland Security may receive, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3332. A joint communication from the Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, and the Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “2018 Status of the Nation’s Highways, Bridges, and Transit: Conditions and Performance”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3333. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Miscellaneous Corrections” ((RIN3150-AK34)

received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3334. 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; Connecticut; Regional Haze Five Year Progress Report” ((FRL No. 10002-42-Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3335. 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; Vermont; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 2008 and 2015 Ozone Standards” ((FRL No. 10002-16-Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3336. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Ohio; Redesignation of the Ohio Portion of the Steubenville Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area” ((FRL No. 10002-56-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3337. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Increasing Recycling: Adding Aerosol Cans to the Universal Waste Regulations” ((RIN2050-AG92) ((FRL No. 10002-49-OLEM)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3338. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “North Dakota: Codification and Incorporation by Reference of Approved State Underground Storage Tank Program” ((FRL No. 10000-51-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3339. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Accidental Release Prevention Requirements: Risk Management Programs under the Clean Air Act” ((RIN2050-AG95) ((FRL No. 10002-69-OLEM)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3340. 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; Iowa; Revisions to Regional Haze Plan and Visibility Requirements in Infrastructure State Implementation Plans for the 2006 PM2.5, 2012 PM2.5, 2010 NO2, 2010 SO2, 2008 Ozone, and 2015 Ozone NAAQS” ((FRL No. 10001-89-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3341. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to California State Implementation Plan; Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District; Nonattainment New Source Review Requirements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 10001-66-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3342. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to sections 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to the Philippines for the manufacture of 22 Magnum pistols in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-085); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3343. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms, parts, and components abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List of .300 caliber automatic rifles and spare parts to the Netherlands in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19-066); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3344. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Estate and Gift Taxes, Difference in the Basic Exclusion Amount" (RIN1545-BO72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3345. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance to Qualified States Requesting Allocations of Unused Low-Income Housing Credit Carryovers" (Rev. Proc. 2019-45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3346. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicaid Program; Covered Outpatient Drug; Further Delay of Inclusions of Territories in Definitions of States and United States" (RIN0938-AT09) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3347. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Per Diem Allowances" (Rev. Proc. 2019-48) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3348. A communication from the Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Labor's fiscal year 2016, fiscal year 2017, and fiscal year 2018 Office of Workers' Compensation Programs annual report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3349. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2017 Performance Report to Congress for the Office of Combination Products"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3350. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3351. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Labeling: Calorie Labeling of Articles of Food Sold From Certain Vending Machines; Front of Package Type Size" (RIN0910-AH83) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3352. A communication from the Division Director for Policy, Legislation, and Regulation, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procurement Roles and Responsibilities for Job Corps Contracts" (RIN1205-AB96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3353. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priority for Discretionary Grant Programs" (RIN1875-AA12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3354. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Total and Permanent Disability Discharge of Loans under Title IV of the Higher Education Act" (RIN1840-AD48) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3355. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Title I, Part C—Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged; Education of Migratory Children" (RIN1810-AB49) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3356. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRAPO, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2877. A bill to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

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

\*Richard Giacalone, of Virginia, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director.

\*Cynthia L. Attwood, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2025.

\*Amanda Wood Laihow, of Maine, to be a Member of Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for the remainder of a term expiring April 27, 2023.

\*Stephen Hahn, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

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

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. UDALL, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 2963. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to allow certain individuals to terminate contracts for telephone, multichannel video programming, or internet access service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2964. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Transportation to issue non-premium aviation insurance; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2965. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2966. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transport individuals to and from facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs in connection with rehabilitation, counseling, examination, treatment, and care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 2967. A bill to establish the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations of the United States to facilitate the fullest cooperation, coordination, and mutual accountability among all levels of government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2968. A bill to provide consumers with foundational data privacy rights, create strong oversight mechanisms, and establish meaningful enforcement; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2969. A bill to expand adoption opportunities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. MCSALLY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2970. A bill to improve the fielding of newest generations of personal protective equipment to the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 2971. A bill to amend and reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. JONES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 445. A resolution recognizing the goals and ideals of International Day of Persons with Disabilities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 225

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 225, a bill to provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, and for other purposes.

S. 279

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 279, a bill to allow tribal grant schools to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program.

S. 460

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 479

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

S. 511

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 511, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 851

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 851, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 901

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support individuals with younger onset Alzheimer's disease.

S. 1130

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1130, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 1190

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1190, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payments for certain rural health clinic and Federally qualified health center services furnished to hospice patients under the Medicare program.

S. 1354

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1354, a bill to require certain protections for student loan borrowers, and for other purposes.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to eliminate barriers to providing child welfare services for children and youth in need, to provide additional resources to implement programmatic changes necessary to meet the requirements of the Family First Prevention Services Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1381

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1381, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 1392

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1392, a bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of suicide prevention coordinators of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1399

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1399, a bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Services Act to revise and extend nursing workforce development programs.

S. 1657

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1657, a bill to provide assistance to combat the escalating burden of Lyme disease and other tick and vector-borne diseases and disorders.

S. 1677

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide authority to postpone certain deadlines by reason of State declared disasters or emergencies.

S. 1757

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) 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 Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) 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. 1791

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1791, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion,

sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S. 1891

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1891, a bill to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of the names of the soldiers who died on Flying Tiger Flight 739 on March 16, 1962.

S. 1979

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1979, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for the minimum size of crews of freight trains, and for other purposes.

S. 2054

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2054, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 2085

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust, and for other purposes.

S. 2108

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2108, a bill to amend section 6903 of title 31, United States Code, to provide for additional population tiers, and for other purposes.

S. 2216

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2246

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2246, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide equal coverage of in vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests

for allergies under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2414

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2414, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Health Coverage Tax Credit.

S. 2427

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

S. 2481

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2481, a bill to facilitate effective research on and treatment of neglected tropical diseases through coordinated domestic and international efforts.

S. 2529

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2529, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to modify provisions relating to whistleblower incentives and protection, and for other purposes.

S. 2590

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2590, a bill to protect the dignity of fetal remains, and for other purposes.

S. 2619

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2619, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Healthy Start program.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2680, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 2772

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2772, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 2794

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2794, a bill to provide for the creation of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel

Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, and for other purposes.

S. 2819

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2819, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the income-based limitations for the Lifetime Learning Credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2826

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2826, a bill to require a global economic security strategy, and for other purposes.

S. 2842

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2842, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to expand and expedite access to cardiac rehabilitation programs and pulmonary rehabilitation programs under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2857

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2857, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to count military and veterans education benefits as Federal educational assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 2898

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2898, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a full annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers.

S. 2961

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2961, a bill to establish duties for online service providers with respect to end user data that such providers collect and use.

S. CON. RES. 23

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 23, a concurrent resolution honoring the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge fought during World War II, recognizing the valiant efforts of the Allied Forces in December 1944, and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice, all of which contributed to the Allied victory in the European Theater.

S. RES. 98

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Nevada

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 98, a resolution establishing the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program for the placement in offices of Senators of children, spouses, and siblings of members of the Armed Forces who are hostile casualties or who have died from a training-related injury.

S. RES. 404

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 404, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should work in cooperation with the international community and continue to exercise global leadership to address the causes and effects of climate change, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 410

At the request of Mr. JONES, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 410, a resolution establishing a McCain-Mansfield Fellowship Program in the Senate.

S. RES. 411

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 411, a resolution affirming that States maintain primacy for the regulation of hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas production on State and private lands, that the President has no authority to declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing on State and private lands, and that the President should not attempt to declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing on Federal lands (including the Outer Continental Shelf) or lands held in trust for an Indian Tribe, unless the moratorium is authorized by an Act of Congress.

S. RES. 418

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 418, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the Government of Turkey's crackdown on dissent related to its incursion into northeast Syria, and broader human rights violations.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 445—RECOGNIZING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. JONES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 445

Whereas December 3 of each year is recognized internationally as International Day of Persons with Disabilities;

Whereas the United Nations (UN) states that the observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities and seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic, and cultural life;

Whereas over 1,000,000,000 people, or 15 percent of the world's population, live with some form of disability;

Whereas 80 percent of individuals with disabilities live in developing countries;

Whereas there are more than 93,000,000 children with disabilities worldwide according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

Whereas the prevalence of disabilities is approximately 50 percent higher for women than for men, and women make up 75 percent of all individuals with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries, according to UN Women;

Whereas persons with disabilities are often excluded from the labor market, political participation and meaningful involvement in public life and are more likely to experience poverty, discrimination, social stigmatization, and lack of access to vital and inclusive resources;

Whereas children with disabilities are more likely to be malnourished, subject to violence, isolation, and abuse, and less likely to attend school than children without disabilities;

Whereas issues related to disability rights cut across all sectors of foreign assistance, including democracy, voting and elections, human rights, civil rights, labor, global health, education, economic growth and trade, gender equality and women's empowerment, agriculture and food security, water and sanitation, conflict transformation, disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian recovery and relief;

Whereas there are 59,500,000 people forcibly displaced worldwide and displaced people are more likely to have a disability, according to the UN High Commission for Refugees;

Whereas forced displacement amplifies the risk experienced by refugees with disabilities with respect to violence, including sexual and domestic abuse, trafficking, exploitation by family members, discrimination, and exclusion from access to justice, education, livelihoods, a nationality, and other public services;

Whereas people with disabilities are often members of marginalized groups, including women, young people, older adults, the LGBTI community, ethnic and religious minorities, indigenous people, internally displaced people, and refugees;

Whereas the United States has shown leadership domestically on disability rights with the enactment and implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-325), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), as well as section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794), and this leadership should be leveraged to support international disability rights;

Whereas United States support for the rights of individuals with disabilities—

(1) is in the diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian interests of the United States;

(2) generates goodwill toward the United States; and

(3) highlights the values of the people of the United States through the work of governmental, nongovernmental, and faith-based organizations of the United States;

Whereas the United States Government, through the United States Agency for Inter-

national Development (USAID), promotes disability-inclusive development by—

(1) improving the quality and accessibility of education for students with disabilities through the promotion of sign language, Braille, access to assistive technology, and other inclusive education practices;

(2) increasing the participation of people with disabilities in political processes through national awareness campaigns, use of accessible polling stations and voter materials, and open exchange between disability communities and politicians to update election laws to be more inclusive and compliant with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(3) strengthening organizations run by and for people with disabilities to advocate on their own behalf, design, and implement international development programs and access direct funding;

(4) supporting the economic independence of women with disabilities through micro-credit programs that provide seed grants to women to invest in their families and start new businesses;

(5) integrating youth and adults with disabilities into the competitive workforce by facilitating job training, internship opportunities, and educating employers on best practices for hiring people with disabilities; and

(6) ensuring community health care providers and disaster response experts include people with disabilities in their programs by employing the principles of universal design; and

Whereas the inclusion of people with disabilities is a fundamental part of democracy, and essential to the full realization of human rights: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes December 3, 2019, as International Day of Persons with Disabilities;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of International Day of Persons with Disabilities;

(3) recognizes the importance of supporting the rights of individuals with disabilities both domestically and abroad;

(4) supports efforts by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to promote disability-inclusive development;

(5) supports continued leadership by the United States in bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to promote and protect the rights of individuals with disabilities; and

(6) encourages other members of the international community to protect the rights and civil liberties of individuals with disabilities.

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I have 6 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, December 3, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

## COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,  
AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Stephen Hahn, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, Richard Giacalone, of Virginia, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director, and Cynthia L. Attwood, of Virginia, and Amanda Wood Laihow, of Maine, both to be a Member of Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR AND NUCLEAR  
SAFETY

The Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Subcommittee on Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 4, 2019

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, December 4; 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 proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 47 under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:36 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 10 a.m.

## CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate December 3, 2019:

## THE JUDICIARY

ERIC ROSS KOMITTEE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.



# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING FORMER VILLAGE OF  
LA GRANGE PRESIDENT ELIZA-  
BETH ASPERGER ON HER YEARS  
OF SERVICE

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Asperger for her accomplishments as the first woman elected President of the Village of La Grange, and her years of dedicated service to local residents. In order to recognize Ms. Asperger's positive impact on our community, the Village of La Grange is dedicating a garden at the historic Stone Avenue train station in her name on November 27th. I am pleased to be attending this celebration so that I can personally thank Ms. Asperger for her contributions and her tireless work to improve the lives of so many people.

Liz Asperger was elected President of the Village of La Grange after serving nine years as a trustee on the Village Board from 1996 to 2005. Prior to that she served on the village's Economic Development Commission beginning in 1993. Her two terms as President, from 2005 to 2013, were marked by tremendous accomplishments, and she was especially active on transportation and infrastructure issues. I was fortunate enough to work with Ms. Asperger and help La Grange accomplish vital projects including the parking deck behind Village Hall, modernization of La Grange's 9-1-1 call center, and the restoration of the Stone Avenue train station.

Prior to her time serving the Village of La Grange, Liz Asperger practiced law for sixteen years. As partner in her law firm, she specialized in real estate development. However, Ms. Asperger had a strong desire to serve our community, and in 1996 she resigned from her law firm in order to pursue opportunities in public service. After her retirement as President of the Village of La Grange, Ms. Asperger has remained committed to serving local residents and seniors. Liz and her husband, Jonathan, have resided in La Grange since 1983 and have one son, Kyle.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Elizabeth Asperger for her long history of public and community service. I am proud to have worked with such a dedicated public servant and leader, and I know that Ms. Asperger's example continues to inspire others to follow in her footsteps to work on behalf of La Grange and the region.

WISHING BUSTER AUSTIN A  
HAPPY 107TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 107th birthday of Fourth District cattle producer, Buster Austin.

Mr. Austin was born in Madison County, Arkansas on October 20, 1912, and has lived most of his young life in the Fourth District. He has seen over one hundred years of American change and progress. Born before the start of World War I, he has now lived to see the end of polio and the start of the computer age. Today, he and his wife, Gayle, raise cattle in Madison County.

I find deep encouragement in hearing the story of Mr. Austin's life and history. I take this time to wish him a happy birthday and to thank him for his years of work and service in the Fourth Congressional District.

HONORING MELVINDALE-DEARBORN  
FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL  
BRANNON

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Melvindale-Dearborn Firefighter Michael Brannon as he retires after eighteen years of service.

During his eighteen years of public service, Firefighter Michael Brannon has garnered accolades for his bravery and dedication to safety along the way. In 2001, Brannon joined the City of Melvindale's Fire Department. From there, he was quickly promoted to Firefighter II, and ultimately, Firefighter III. A hardworking public servant, Michael Brannon has been acknowledged for his military service, exceptional driving record, and has spent countless hours advancing his certification, including rope rescue operations. Beyond this, Michael Brannon has been recognized for his courage in the line of duty both in military service and as a firefighter receiving awards like the Meritorious Company Commendation and the Fire Chief Unit Commendation.

Firefighter Michael Brannon has spent nearly two decades tirelessly working to ensure safety for the community. Please join me in saluting him for his years of public service as we wish him well on his retirement.

COMMEMORATING WORLD AIDS  
DAY 2019

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, World AIDS Day affords us an opportunity to reflect on our progress in the fight against the global AIDS pandemic and to rededicate ourselves to ending the disease once and for all.

We have come a long way since the first World AIDS Day in 1988 by dramatically expanding investments in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment, and research.

Strong advocacy has paved the way for the Ryan White Act, the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS Initiative, growing investments in NIH research, and an end to the ban on federal funds for syringe exchange.

Beyond our borders, our efforts have extended care to millions in the developing world, through increased resources for PEPFAR and the Global Fund.

Our investments have saved lives—preventing millions of new HIV cases, expanding access to improved treatments, and enabling medical advances that help HIV/AIDS patients live longer and healthier.

Here and across the globe, AIDS deaths are on the decline, and studies are pointing the way to new approaches to limit the spread of the disease, with treatment as prevention.

While our efforts have grown, we still only reach half of all people eligible for HIV treatment; and more must be done.

Working together, we must continue to strengthen—not weaken—our national and international efforts to combat AIDS and other infectious diseases.

We must work to achieve the goal of an AIDS-free generation.

We must honor the memory of those we have lost and act on our hope, optimism, and determination to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

We must continue to work with programs and clinics, like the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD), who are treating and caring for patients with HIV/AIDS.

In 1989, HCHD opened Thomas Street Health Center, the first free-standing facility dedicated to outpatient HIV/AIDS care in the nation.

The center has become the cornerstone of all HIV/AIDS care available to Harris County residents.

The Thomas Street Health Center has dedicated their services to about 25 percent of Harris County's HIV/AIDS.

Annually, the health center, along with HCHD, serves 4,463 unique patients for about 37,000 patients' visits.

We will continue to fight a tough fight against HIV and AIDS.

We will continue to strengthen and support centers like Thomas Street Health Center who work diligently with HIV/AIDS patients.

Our focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness will be to ensure all of our friends,

● 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.

relatives and children live healthy and full lives.

There is a pressing need to raise awareness and engage in education within the African American community where HIV infections have been and continue to rise.

The incidents of HIV have decreased for the majority population, while it has grown nearly unchecked among African Americans.

This must change—decisions regarding funding for agencies charged with infectious disease education and minority health must be supported.

#### TRIBUTE TO MADELINE ROANHORSE

#### HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Madeline Roanhorse, former director of the Navajo Nation Abandoned Mine Lands Program.

Sadly, Madeline passed away earlier this fall.

Madeline worked diligently for over thirty years on uranium mine reclamation projects all across the Navajo Nation.

She played an invaluable role in many critical uranium mine clean up efforts.

This fall, the House voted to pass the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act, legislation to permanently ban uranium mining in and near the Grand Canyon.

This vote was a direct result of the culmination of years of work by Madeline and other tribal leaders who refused to give up.

I wish Madeline had been here with us to witness this historic vote and see her hard work come to fruition.

I am honored to have worked with Madeline on these efforts, but I am more honored to have known her as a friend.

Pat and I are keeping Madeline's loved ones and the entire Navajo Nation community in our prayers as they mourn her passing.

#### RECOGNIZING COMMAND MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ALVIN J. VEENSTRA FOR HIS RETIRE- MENT FROM THE NAVY RE- SERVES SEABEES

#### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Command Master Chief Petty Officer Alvin J. Veenstra for his retirement from the Navy Reserves Seabees. Through his more than thirty years of excellence and commitment to service, CMDCM Veenstra has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

The United States Naval Construction Battalions, more commonly known as the Navy Seabees, have a storied history in the United States Armed Forces—stretching from Normandy and Okinawa to Iraq and Afghanistan. Alvin decided to follow in this tradition of service early in his life, enlisting in the United

States Navy, Sea, and Air Mariner program during his sophomore year of college. He carried out a variety of roles throughout his 32 years with the Seabees—including deployment with the 7th Naval Construction Regiment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he served as the Senior Watch Chief for the II Marine Expeditionary Force. On September 6, 2019, Veenstra turned over his final command position as the Reserve Affairs Command Master Chief at Navy Facilities Engineering Command in Washington, D.C. Outside of his service in the military, Alvin is a graduate of Ferris State University and serves as Project Manager/Executive Assistant for W.B. Builders in East Jordan. Alvin's more than three decades of decorated service is commendable, and the impact of his work on his fellow servicemembers and the people of the United States cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Command Master Chief Petty Officer Alvin Veenstra for his decades of service to the people of the United States. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Alvin all the best in his future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS

#### HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Michael Tilson Thomas, the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of the New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy in Miami Beach.

Michael Tilson Thomas is also Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony and Conductor Laureate of the London Symphony Orchestra. In addition to these posts, he maintains an active presence guest-conducting with the major orchestras of Europe and the United States. The New World Symphony has helped launch the careers of more than 1,000 alumni worldwide.

Born in Los Angeles, Mr. Tilson Thomas is the third generation of his family to follow an artistic career. His grandparents, Boris and Bessie Thomashefsky, were founding members of the Yiddish Theater in America. His father, Ted Thomas, was a producer in the Mercury Theater Company in New York before moving to Los Angeles where he worked in films and television. His mother, Roberta Thomas, was the head of research for Columbia Pictures.

Mr. Tilson Thomas is a Chevalier dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres of France, was Musical America's Musician of the Year and Conductor of the Year, Gramophone Magazine's Artist of the Year, and has been profiled on CBS's 60 Minutes and ABC's Nightline. He has won 11 Grammy Awards for his recordings. In 2008 he received the Peabody Award for his radio series for SFS Media, The MTT Files. In 2010, President Obama awarded him the National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists in the United States.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE THIR- TIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VELVET REVOLUTION

#### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, a significant anniversary for two of America's closest allies—the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Only eight days after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the same spirit of freedom that overcame Berlin made its way to Prague. On November 17, 1989, the country formerly known as Czechoslovakia freed itself from four decades of a communist totalitarian regime, transforming authoritarian rule of the nation into democracy. Initiated by student protesters in the streets, the protest of the regime and the demand for democracy quickly gained momentum with over a half-million Czechs and Slovaks filling Prague's streets and taking over Wenceslas Square.

Soldiers beat protesters, used water cannons on the crowd, and made numerous arrests during this time. However, the demonstrators remained peaceful. By the end of 1989, Czechoslovakia was on its way to holding its first presidential election since 1948. The successful movement is now referred to as the "Velvet Revolution" or the "Gentle Revolution," which signifies the idea that the revolution was brought about without violence.

The years following the Velvet Revolution brought the "Velvet Divorce," the unofficial name given to the separation of the Czechoslovakia into two nations: the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Through peaceful mutual consent, Czechoslovakia separated on January 1, 1993. To solidify their places on the world stage and showcase their commitment to democracy, the Czech and Slovak Republics formally became members of the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the United Nations.

It is also worth mentioning that the Czech Republic has a local tie to Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. When applying for admission into NATO, the Czech Republic had the official documents signed at the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri in 1999. The induction ceremony that took place included Poland and Hungary, and marked the first eastward expansion by NATO since the end of the Cold War.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in congratulating the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic for their achievements in independence and their efforts in promoting democracy.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF FLORENCE WEISS

#### HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Florence Weiss for her honorable service to the City of Concord, California as she begins retirement.

Florence Weiss has been a resident of Concord since 1982. She was first hired by the City of Concord as Downtown Coordinator on June 24, 2002 and eventually became the Downtown Program Manager. Throughout Florence's 17-year career with the City, she has promoted and fostered an increased sense of community in the downtown area, including Todos Santos Plaza.

Florence focused much of her leadership on expanding community events. She has overseen countless events including the popular Music and Market series, which has grown in attendance from an average of 500 attendees to an average of 4,500 attendees. In an effort to keep the music series running in downtown Concord, Florence established the Save our Series program to help fund the event and she has consistently exceeded fundraising goals. She has also overseen the creation of new events such as viewing parties for the Golden State Warriors championship games and Concordstock, an event held in 2008 that celebrated 20 years of concerts in Todos Santos Plaza.

In conjunction with Florence's commitment to increasing attendance at downtown and community events, she has advocated for a healthier and cleaner Concord, most notably by helping to successfully implement a smoking ban in the Downtown District. Even in times of tight budgets, Florence has used her creative problem solving and fostered community engagement and enthusiasm.

Florence Weiss has been a champion for the City of Concord and its residents. We wish her great luck and joy in retirement.

HONORING MELVIN DALE-DEARBORN  
FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL PERRY

### HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Firefighter Michael Perry for his twenty-three years of service to the Melvindale-Dearborn Consolidated Fire Department, on the occasion of his retirement.

For more than two decades, Firefighter Michael Perry has persevered in his dedication to public safety and the well-being of his neighbors. In 1996, Perry joined the City of Melvindale's Fire Department as a fire fighter. Shortly after, he was promoted to Firefighter II, and was ultimately promoted to Firefighter III. With an unimpeachable record of service, Michael Perry has been acknowledged for his flawless attendance record, exceptional driving record, and has earned countless honors by his peers, including a Certificate of Special Recognition. His commitment and outstanding service have been recognized by Department Commendation, Meritorious Company Commendation, Fire Chief Company Citation, and Unit Commendation awards.

Please join me in recognizing Firefighter Michael Perry for his years of public service as we wish him well on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL CARRIGAN  
FOR YEARS OF DEDICATION AND  
SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF IL-  
LINOIS

### HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Michael Carrigan for a lifetime of vigorous and effective advocacy protecting the rights of workers in my home state of Illinois and working men and women across the United States.

Michael Carrigan's life is a quintessentially American story of talent, determination and deeply felt ambition to build a better world. He began his career as a journeyman wireman and a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Displaying an early talent for organizing, Michael quickly rose through the ranks to become business manager and financial secretary for IBEW Local 146, and then assumed greater positions of responsibility in the Illinois AFL-CIO as Secretary-Treasurer and President. Michael also held a variety of positions of national leadership in organized labor, somehow found time to serve nearly four terms on the Decatur City Council, and briefly as the Mayor of Decatur.

During his tenure as president of the Illinois AFL-CIO, Michael played a key role organizing support to increase the Illinois minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and to enact a \$45 billion dollar capital improvements bill that will fund the repair of aging infrastructure in our state. He continues to work tirelessly to build support for a progressive state income tax that asks our wealthiest citizens to shoulder their fair share of the cost of government, while providing revenue streams sufficient to balance our budget and fund education, important social services, and our state's pension obligations to its workers.

In 2018, Michael was the first Illinois resident to receive the World Peace Prize "Roving Ambassador for Peace" award. In accepting this honor, Michael observed that all peaceful societies are built upon foundations of economic justice: "The Labor Movement and its allies build peace through economic and social justice causes . . . Our fight for justice knows no borders, and the enemies of peace are the enemies of [social and economic] justice."

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 900,000 members of the Illinois AFL-CIO and the millions of hard-working men and women in our country who owe so much to Michael Carrigan, I offer my gratitude for his years of dedicated and selfless service to our country. Although Michael may be retiring from the Illinois AFL-CIO, I know he will not retire from his commitment to public service, and I wish him great success in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREITY FOUNDATION  
OF NORTH CENTRAL  
TEXAS

### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Careity Foundation of

North Central Texas. They have been providing direct patient services through the "Careity Celebrity Cutting" for 25 years in Tarrant, Parker, Palo Pinto, Hood, and Johnson Counties in Texas.

Careity provides early detection services to people who may otherwise go without and clinical services for those who have been diagnosed with cancer. Last year, Careity provided over 7600 patient services and has a strong record of responding quickly to patient's needs and caring about the people in the community who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Careity prides itself in a high-profile low-cost event, the "Careity Celebrity Cutting". The uniqueness of the event stands out above other charity events in that the entire venue is donated by the National Cutting Horse Association. All celebrities are volunteers, and Careity has no development or fundraising staff.

Given the competition for supporters that the non-profit industry has faced in the last several years, we can all appreciate this enormous accomplishment which speaks to the strong leadership that has steered the Foundation over the course of its impressive history. Careity exists to provide direct care that saves lives, gives hope, eases pain, and allows cancer patients and families to focus on healing.

I congratulate Careity on this significant milestone.

HONORING THE INNOVATIVE WORK  
OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS  
IN ILLINOIS'S 10TH DISTRICT

### HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the creative accomplishments of our local municipalities who have gone above and beyond to serve our communities. Innovation is alive and well in the cities, towns and villages of Illinois's Tenth Congressional District.

Some of these local achievements were recently recognized by the Lake County Municipal League highlighting the commitment, vision and ingenuity of our civic leaders.

The Village of Mundelein, Illinois won top honors for the "Mayor's Cup STEM Challenge", established by Mayor Steve Lentz. The program encourages Mundelein students' interest in fields such as mathematics and engineering, while promoting access to higher education. More than 1,000 students have participated, and 31 businesses have donated more than \$80,000 to the program. Since the Mayor's Cup STEM Challenge was established in 2014, the program has grown significantly and serves as a model for how municipal governments can partner with local schools, students, and businesses for the greater good.

The Village of Bannockburn was also honored for the creation of the Last Mile shuttle pilot program, which sought to solve the Village's transportation problem. The program's goal was to connect Bannockburn Lakes Office Complex with four Metra stations nearby and allow commuters a subsidized Lyft ride to

and from the Office complex and station. Since the creation of the project, more than 900 rides have been provided, and the program continues to see growth. The improvement earned an Honorable Mention at the awards dinner.

Other Lake County municipalities made significant strides in the past year to bolster their local small businesses, improve public safety and beautify their communities. The Village of Beach Park earned an Honorable Mention at the awards dinner for their work with neighboring communities to create the Northern Lakeshore Trail Connectivity Plan, which would improve walking and bicycling connections between five northern lakeshore communities.

We all strive to live in vibrant, healthy and dynamic communities. The work of these, and other, municipalities are helping to realize that dream.

I proudly applaud these municipalities and the dedicated civil servants for their commendable efforts to serve our communities. I look forward to learning more about these innovative efforts, and to continuing to work closely together in the months ahead.

HONORABLE ELBRA M.  
WEDGEWORTH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Elbra M. Wedgeworth, who after decades in public service, is retiring.

The Honorable Wedgeworth began her career in public service in 1989 as a Senior Analyst for the Denver City Council. From 1994 to 1996, she served as the Clerk and Recorder for the City and County of Denver, and also served as a member of the Denver Election Commission and as a Denver County Commissioner. In 1999, she was elected as Denver City Council's District 8 Councilwoman. After just four years on the City Council, her fellow Councilmembers unanimously elected her Council President from 2003 to 2005. In 2007, she resigned from the City Council to join Denver Health as Chief Government and Community Relations Officer where she has been active in advancing healthcare policy at the state and federal level. In August 2014, the Elbra M. Wedgeworth Municipal Building was dedicated in her honor in the historic Five Points neighborhood in honor of her service to the City of Denver and State of Colorado.

In addition to her esteemed career, Elbra served on many boards and commissions. In September 2008, she was unanimously elected as President of the Denver Union Station Project Authority Board of Directors and served nine terms as Board President. Under her leadership, the \$500 million Denver Union Station Project opened in May of 2014 on time and under budget. Also, in 2008, she was appointed as the President of the Democratic National Convention Host Committee where she oversaw a widely-viewed successful convention. From 2013 to 2014, Elbra served as the past Chairwoman for the Downtown Denver Partnership Inc., the first person of color male or female to serve as the organization's

chair in its 60-year history, earning her the title of Downtown Denver Partnership Honorary Partner. Throughout all of this, she has served on the Board of Trustees for the University of Redlands in Redlands, California, her college alma mater as well as a Board of Trustee for FirstBank in Colorado from 2017 to present. These positions reflect her leadership abilities, passion for the city and state she loves, and talent for bringing people together to get things done for the betterment of our community.

I want to congratulate The Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth on a long and distinguished career and I wish her all the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CHIP  
MABUS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Chip Mabus, who passed away on Saturday, November 16th, at the age of 43.

Chip, a resident of Fulton, Mississippi, was a dedicated employee of FL Crane & Sons for 21 years. Chip also served on the American Subcontractors Association National Board and was a member of the Floor Covering Installation Contractors Association, Associated Builders and Contractors, and Associated General Contractors. Chip attended the University of Mississippi and was an avid football fan.

Left to cherish his memory are his three children, Madeline Mabus of Starkville, Mississippi, Mallory Mabus, of Fulton, Mississippi and Samuel Mabus of Fulton, Mississippi; his father, Larry Mabus of Fulton, Mississippi; his sister, Teresa Estes, of Mooreville, Mississippi; his niece, Ashlyn Estes; his nephew, Brody Estes of Mooreville, Mississippi, as well as many more extended family members and friends.

Chip's life was one of grace, love for his family, and community. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF GARTH C. REEVES, SR.

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Garth C. Reeves, Sr. who sadly passed away in November at the age of 100. Garth was the publisher emeritus of The Miami Times and a voice for the aspirations of African Americans in Miami for most of the past century. He was a man of principle, who after serving in the United States Army during World War II, worked to improve his community through civil rights activism, journalism, and publishing.

Garth was born in Nassau, Bahamas in 1919. He attended Florida A&M University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in printing in 1940. He served in both the Eu-

ropean and Pacific theaters during World War II, from 1942 to 1946, and later returned to Miami to work under his father, Henry Reeves, who founded The Miami Times newspaper.

Garth dedicated his life to resisting and fighting racism. Taking the helm as publisher and chief executive officer of The Miami Times following his father's passing, he advanced the cause of civil rights and challenged segregation laws with acts of civil disobedience. In 1949, when African Americans were only allowed to play golf on Mondays, he showed up to play on a Wednesday. Garth and others sued for equal access to the golf course and won after a seven-year court battle. And in the 1950s, he was among the first to swim at Crandon Park in defiance of laws that designated it a whites only beach. Today, these may appear to be small acts, but they raised up the black community and highlighted the systemic inequalities facing African Americans each and every day.

Garth's good works didn't stop there. He provided scholarships for students to attend his alma maters, Booker T. Washington High School and Florida A&M University, and he donated to The Black Archives/Lyric Theater. It is no surprise that in 2011, he was recognized by the National Newspaper Publishers Association with the Legacy of Excellence Award, and The Miami Times named as the top black newspaper in the country. More recently, he was inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists' Hall of Fame in 2017.

Madam Speaker, Garth C. Reeves, Sr. was a champion for our community and positively impacted the lives of countless people in Miami and around our nation. I extend my deepest condolences to his family during this extremely difficult time. Garth was a true blessing to so many. His legacy will always endure. I am proud to have called him a friend. He will be dearly missed.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 DAVID CHARLES  
KNADLE

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Charles Knadle, a father, son, husband and soldier from Fort Worth, Texas.

Born on May 2, 1986, David Knadle fought bravely for our country. David grew up attending North Texas schools and graduated from Richland High School in 2003. He later went on to earn a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth.

In November of 2012, David left his career in accounting to serve his country by joining the U.S. Army. Following his dreams of being an aviator, Knadle attended Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and later graduated from the Warrant Officer Career College at Fort Rucker, Alabama. CW2 Knadle was deployed to Afghanistan in October 2019 as part of Task Force Knight Hawk. On November 20, 2019, CW2 Knadle passed away in an aircraft accident along with his forward pilot and friend, CW2 Takeshi Fuchigami of Hawaii.

Throughout his Army career, CW2 Knadle was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorist Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, and Army Aviator Badge.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my thoughts and prayers to David Knadle's family and friends. David was a man who fought bravely for his country and I am grateful for his service and sacrifice.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DAN BISHOP

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on H.R. 5084. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 630.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF ROMANIA'S GREAT UNION DAY

#### HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Romania on her 101st celebration of unification. This year is especially significant as we also celebrate 30 years since the fall of Communism in Romania.

December 1st is representative of the sovereignty of Romania because on this date in 1918 the Alba Iulia National Assembly met to unify the peoples and territories of Romania. The Resolution passed by the Assembly united Moldova and Wallachia with Transylvania, Crisana, Banat, and Maramures. While the authorities of Romania have changed several times since then, the proud and independent spirit of the Romanian people has not.

December holds an increased meaning as the Romanian Revolution occurred in 1989 in which the people wrested an opportunity for self-direction from the dark times of the Communism towards the bright future of a democratic country which nowadays shares common values with the United States. Over the past 30 years, Romania has become a bastion of democracy in Eastern Europe and a solid and strong U.S. ally in the region. Romania is setting an example of steady commitment to transatlantic security and democratic leadership, while the Romanian public opinion has an overwhelmingly favorable view of American leadership and role in the world.

Romania, as a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization since 2004, has sent troops to support NATO missions in the Western Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq and is contributing 2 percent of its gross domestic product on defense spending. Romania has been a leading nation in providing cybersecurity support to NATO and its partners and is working with the U.S. Government on the secure implementation of fifth generation wireless communication networks (5G) technology. Ro-

mania also joined the European Union in 2007 and recently successfully finished a term holding the EU's presidency.

The United States and Romania have enjoyed almost 140 years of diplomatic relations and share a deep and longstanding friendship, a strategic partnership built on historical ties, and a joint commitment to advancing the security and prosperity of their citizens and communities.

Madam Speaker, it is for these reasons that I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Romania on the 101st anniversary of its Great Union Day.

#### HONORING DR. CINDY L. MILES

#### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with admiration and respect to honor the career of one of San Diego's most dedicated public servants and leaders, Dr. Cindy L. Miles.

Dr. Miles is retiring after ten years as Chancellor of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, where she transformed public higher education in eastern San Diego County and opened the doors to college for thousands of students.

In the decade since Dr. Miles joined the college district as chancellor, the number of graduates from Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges increased by 78 percent, and the number of degrees and certificates awarded at the colleges rose by 178 percent. Under her direction, the district has been recognized nationally for removing barriers to student success and eliminating longstanding equity gaps that have impeded students of color in their educational pursuits.

One of Dr. Miles's most successful innovations was the creation of the East County Education Alliance in 2014, which initially began as a partnership between the district and the Grossmont Union High School District to ensure a smooth path for students between high school, college, and eventually, into a career. In 2019, the Mountain Empire School District joined the Alliance, ensuring that every public high school student in eastern San Diego County could benefit. As evidence of this fact, the Alliance was selected by the League for Innovation in the Community College for a national Innovation of the Year award.

The prestige of the two campuses was significantly advanced during Dr. Miles's service as chancellor. In 2018, the California Community College Chancellor's Office awarded Cuyamaca College the John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award and Grossmont College was recognized as a Champion of Higher Education.

Dr. Miles has played an influential role in state and national community college organizations. She served on committees and task forces for the American Association of Community Colleges, the American Council on Education, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the Community College League of California, and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

While her presence in the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District will be

missed, Dr. Miles has created a culture of progress that will endure for years to come. I extend my congratulations and best wishes to her for a well-deserved retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING PEGGY WHITE WELL KNOWN BUFFALO AND SUSAN KELLY OF GARRYOWEN

#### HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Peggy White Well Known Buffalo and Susan Kelly of Garryowen for their work to fight hunger in their community.

In 1999, Peggy and Susan launched the Center Pole Foundation, a Native grassroots organization that promotes knowledge, justice, and sovereignty in Native communities. The foundation seeks to serve the needs of the community, including hunger within the Crow Indian Reservation.

As part of the foundation, Peggy and Susan created a community food bank which serves not only the reservation but also the surrounding community.

Their mission to fulfill a fundamental need, such as nourishment, is personal for Peggy and Susan.

For Peggy, confronting hunger began when she attended a boarding school. There, she experienced hunger and made it a life mission to feed people in a loving and kind environment.

For Susan, she has seen firsthand how hunger impedes a child's progress. Wanting every kid to do well in school, Susan says a kid can't be creative if his or her stomach isn't full.

Each week, the food bank's staff goes to Billings to collect food from grocery stores. Their efforts provide food to the reservation and surrounding communities, feeding more than 300 people a week.

To Peggy and Susan, their work is about more than providing people with food. It's about providing their community nourishment, boosting its health, helping combat illness, and reinforcing the benefits of a healthy, positive lifestyle. Their commitment to the future of their communities is front and center of all they do through Center Pole Foundation.

Madam Speaker, for their dedicated work to fight hunger in their community, I recognize Peggy White Well Known Buffalo and Susan Kelly of Garryowen for their Spirit of Montana.

#### PRINCIPLES GOVERNING CONSIDERATION OF ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT OF A PRESIDENT

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee and one who served on the Committee during the last impeachment proceeding, I rise to share some of the fundamental principles that will guide my deliberations on the momentous task before the Committee.

In 1776, the Framers founded this country and created this government on the basis of a

bedrock belief in a revolutionary assumption: that all men are created equal and have the inalienable right to life, liberty, and property; are entitled to live free of arbitrary rule; and most important, are endowed with the right to govern themselves.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that “all Experience has sh[o]wn that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by taking” immediate action against their oppressors.

But, Jefferson continued, “when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty” to take immediate action to repel the danger.

The Framers had first-hand experience with the types of abuses and usurpations committed by political leaders who ruled them but were not accountable to them and detailed many of those wrongs in the Declaration of Independence.

The Framers understood and declared that democratic governors derived their powers from the knowing and voluntary consent of the governed as expressed in free, fair, and unfettered elections unmarred by the influence or sabotage of any entity not a member of the political community.

If elections are influenced by foreign actors, then voters are reduced from citizens to subjects, and government for and by the people is a sham.

The most important feature of a democracy is that it is the voters who alone can confer the legitimate consent and authorization necessary to govern upon the governors who are then duty-bound to represent the voters' interests, and only their interests.

The fundamental democratic compact between the governed and the governors is that the latter's authority and continuance in office comes exclusively from the governed and allegiance is owed exclusively to the governed.

This agreement can only be reached through free and fair elections, a breach of which threatens the vitality and viability of the social contract upon which democratic self-rule depends.

Based on their personal experiences, the Framers understood the importance of a president's allegiance being always and only to the nation.

That is why they included the Emoluments Clause in the Constitution as Article I, section 9, clause 8, which bans Presidents from accepting titles of nobility and strictly prohibits the acceptance of any emolument of any kind from any king, prince, or foreign state.

President Lincoln called the United States the “last best hope of man on earth” and stated at Gettysburg the importance of finishing the work we are in to ensure that “government of the people, for the people, by the people does not perish from the earth.”

The serious allegation before us is that the President extorted or bribed the head of a foreign nation to conspire with him to sabotage an American election by manufacturing false charges against his political rival so that he could retain his office and continue to abuse his power.

This is undoubtedly the most serious transgression that could be committed by a president who, as Lincoln said, has taken an oath “registered in Heaven” to preserve, protect,

and defend the Constitution of the United States.

If American elections are not free, fair, and uninfluenced by foreign actors, then the democracy is extinguished, and the people do not rule.

Instead, citizens are reduced to subjects, ruled by an authority dependent not on the consent of the governed, but on the assistance and beneficence of unaccountable foreign actors.

Such a state of affairs inevitably would lead to actions taken by the ruler that are not in the interests of the nation, like dishonoring treaty agreements, abandoning allies, impugning the independent judiciary and the free press, disregarding fundamental rights and liberties of the people, abrogating civic norms and virtues, pursuing acts of personal enrichment, and currying favor with foreign despots and authoritarians.

Although President Lincoln said in his First Inaugural Address that “while the people retain their virtue and vigilance no Administration by any extreme of wickedness or folly can very seriously injure the Government in the short space of four years,” the Framers anticipated that the day may come when the actions of a Chief Magistrate would constitute a clear and present danger to the security and survival of the republic.

To protect the republic, the Framers equipped the representatives chosen directly by the people with the necessary means of protecting their liberty by wisely including in the Constitution of the United States, Article I, section 2, clause 5, which vests the sole power of impeachment in the House of Representatives.

As a Member of Congress who has taken an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, these are the principles to which I am in fidelity and against which I will evaluate the actions of the President of the United States.

IN HONOR OF IRENE O'CONNELL,  
DEPARTING MEMBER OF THE  
SAN BRUNO CITY COUNCIL

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, Irene O'Connell is leaving the San Bruno City Council after a remarkable 24 years of service to the community. Her departure marks the end of an era but the beginning of a new path in the life of this amazing woman and civic leader. During all these years I have deeply appreciated Irene's friendship and enjoyed working with her to promote San Bruno's bright future.

In 1995, Irene O'Connell was elected to the San Bruno City Council, serving her community with enthusiasm, vigor and effectiveness. She helped initiate a Youth Committee and helped create an after-school program at Allen Elementary that has since expanded to five other schools. She identified \$600,000 in flood control district funds that became available to help residents of the Belle Air community. She initiated the creation of the City's Culture and Arts Commission with funding through a surcharge on building permits. The Commission

has installed a number of pieces of public art including the Centennial Mosaic at the San Bruno Caltrain station and the mural painting at Centennial Park in San Bruno's downtown. A park on Florida Avenue is authorized in large measure because Irene's love of civic beauty is matched with a love of open space in San Bruno's urban environment.

For 22+ years, 200 volunteers have joined Councilwoman O'Connell annually to sweep up, recycle, plant flowers and trees, paint garbage bins, and to otherwise beautify the city. As a representative on transportation and water agencies, she's helped the city to obtain transportation grants and ensured that the water supply remained reliable and affordable. If your heart stops in San Bruno, a paramedic on a fire truck is present in large part because Irene O'Connell insisted that the service be standard on fire trucks throughout the county. She evaluated and advocated for ambitious plans for full rehabilitation and replacement of the City's utility systems over a 20-year period and the necessary funding to complete the improvements.

During some of the most difficult years in the history of her hometown, Irene O'Connell and her colleagues first consoled and then fought for the citizens of San Bruno after a natural gas pipeline exploded and killed 8 residents and destroyed 38 homes. She and her colleagues were warriors for justice holding PG&E accountable for its gross negligence.

No mention of Irene's love of her community would be complete without mention of her founding of the San Bruno Library Foundation. Irene's commitment to the library is heartfelt and enduring.

Irene is a first-generation Italian American and as such reflects the industriousness and civic involvement characteristic of those whose parents struggle to come to this country. She was born in San Bruno and has lived there ever since.

She and her family were continually involved in community service and other activities. They volunteered for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and when that wasn't exhausting enough, Irene and her father collected paperback books for the veterans hospital. Also as volunteers, the family managed the San Bruno Girl Scout House, sewing curtains, painting and helping it to operate. During her time on the City Council, she helped develop and manage a Rebuilding Together project to refurbish the house to enhance community programs held there.

When St. Bruno's needed baptismal robes for less fortunate parishioners, Irene and her mother sewed them. This family exuded community pride with every undertaking.

As she grew into adulthood, Irene realized that her first love was teaching. She obtained a B.A. in Liberal Studies and a Master's in Elementary Education with a Lifelong Teaching Credential. She taught sixth grade at St. Veronica's in South San Francisco and then left to raise her three children. However, she didn't leave community service. As a board member of Art-Rise, a local non-profit, she promoted local artists by finding space for them to display their works. The Boy Scouts and 4-H benefitted greatly because Irene was ever-present.

Irene is the proud mother of son Joe and daughters Katie and Jennifer. Her husband, Bill, keeps her young, her mother Marina Kaiser keeps her hopping, and her community keeps her strong.



Madam Speaker, for decades Irene's presence in San Bruno has been as exciting to watch as a home run at a Little League game at San Bruno City Park. Now, San Bruno's Mighty Casey is laying down her bat. It's time to give her an enormous cheer for her contributions to the team. San Bruno will long cherish the swing-for-the-fence public service of Irene O'Connell.

HONORING JOSEPH HOGENKAMP'S  
CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the City Treasurer of the City of Tonawanda, Joseph Hogenkamp, who is retiring from public service as City Treasurer later this month.

Joe has many accomplishments as City Treasurer, including a commitment to modernizing his office. As I mentioned, first elected in 1987 and serving through mid-December of 2019, Joe has seen a lot of changes, both in government administration as well as in municipal finance. Working with several mayors and dozens of former aldermen and city council members, Joe's reputation was one of steady reliability and dedicated leadership to the taxpayers he served.

First elected in November of 1987, Joe has served the taxpayers and residents of Tonawanda for more than 30 years. A native of the city, Joe is a 1981 graduate of Tonawanda High School, after which he earned an accounting degree at Miami University of Ohio.

In addition to his elected duties, Joe has served as a board member and office for PERMA, an organization that provides workers compensation insurance coverage for municipal governments across New York State. Here at home, Joe serves on the Finance Committee for St. Francis of Assisi Church and on the Erie County Land Bank. He also serves as Treasurer of the Familial Cancer Foundation of Western New York.

Above all else, Joe is a proud husband and father. Joe married his beloved wife Nikki in 1990 and they are the proud parents of daughters Eugenia and Costantina.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all members of the House in congratulating the Honorable Joseph Hogenkamp upon the occasion of his retirement from elective public office and join me in extending to Joe and his entire family our best wishes for health and happiness in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA RETURNING CITI-  
ZENS COORDINATION ACT OF 2019

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Returning Citizens Coordination Act of 2019. This bill would allow the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP)

and the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA) to share information with the District of Columbia government to help ensure the District has services ready, in coordination with BOP and CSOSA, for returning citizens.

D.C. inmates face significant hurdles in preparing to return to society because most are spread across the country in BOP facilities hundreds or even thousands of miles from the District, their families and their loved ones. Because they are frequently housed so far away from the District, coordinating returning citizens' reentry into society is difficult. This bill would make the coordination efforts between the BOP, CSOSA and District agencies less burdensome and more efficient.

Under this bill, District agencies would be better able to determine what physical and mental health and other needs returning citizens may have before they are even released from prison. Because D.C. Code felons are the only local inmates housed by the BOP, this bill is especially important for District residents.

Currently, BOP is allowed to share information regarding returning citizens with CSOSA, since it is also a federal agency, but not with D.C. agencies. This bill would allow BOP and CSOSA to treat agencies of the D.C. government as they do other federal agencies for the purposes of—but only for the purposes of—federal privacy laws, such as the Privacy Act, so that the District agencies that assist individuals during their return can more easily obtain the necessary information to provide appropriate services.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNT TAMS  
STUDENT ENTRIES IN THE CON-  
GRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Vishok Jonnalagadda, Kate Liang, Ernest Lu, Mayur Pabba, Shubh Sharma, Tarush Verma and Connie Xu, participants in the first 26th District of Texas Congressional App Challenge and all students attending the University of North Texas as Texas Academy of Math and Science (TAMS) students. The Congressional App Challenge encourages students to learn how to code through an annual competition hosted by Members of Congress.

Structured as a competition, the Congressional App Challenge is a great way for Congress to engage students in computer programming and technology-related careers and encourage them to develop the skills that are becoming increasingly important for jobs contributing to our growing economy. By participating in the App Challenge, the students have the opportunity to create their own apps for mobile, tablet or computer device and compete with other students, receiving feedback from leading experts in the field. I thank each of the students competing in this year's endeavor as well as the judges who contributed their time and expertise to the process.

The Congressional App judging panel assembled was comprised of Dr. Jennifer Moore,

Associate Professor and School Librarian Certification Faculty Lead at Texas Woman's University School of Library & Information Sciences; Dr. Stephani Ludi, Professor, Undergraduate Coordinator and Co-Director of Research in the Software Engineering Lab at the University of North Texas (UNT) Department of Science & Engineering; and Mr. Mark Payne, Executive Director, Denco Area 911. After reviewing each of the Apps submitted, the board scored the entries, resulting in a tabulated outcome recognizing "Mindful Minutes" by Ms. Connie Xu and Kate Liang as the winner. "Mindful Minutes" is an app designed to combat the societal challenge of forgetfulness by allowing users to count anything, including hours worked or hours exercised, or even creating custom counters for any repetitive activity or subject they choose. Their app will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol and shown on the U.S. House of Representatives web site. The students will also be invited to the House of Representatives' Code Demo Day reception in Washington, D.C.

I am proud to participate in the Congressional App contest as a way of encouraging the development of the math and science education our country requires to remain competitive. Ms. Xu and Ms. Liang have displayed their creativity and skill through their submission, providing an example of the bright future they, and our country, have ahead. I am honored to represent these two bright young women and wish them and all the representative UNT TAMS program students involved, much continued success in their education and careers.

IN MEMORY OF MEL OLSSON

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to observe and mourn the passing one of Southeastern Connecticut's most accomplished and revered citizens, Mr. Melvin E. Olsson. Mel, as he was known to all, grew up in that region's historic city, New London, attended public school there, and upon graduation, immediately enlisted in the Connecticut National Guard where he served from 1959 until 1967. He also became part of the workforce at our nation's premiere submarine shipyard Electric Boat, where he was hired as a pipefitter embarking on a 47-year career, building and designing the world's most capable submarines. After his start as a metal tradesman, he migrated to the design workforce, which was responsible for the flawless conception, execution, and production of the Los Angeles, Seawolf, Ohio, and Virginia class submarines that have made America's "silent service" such an effective deterrent in keeping the peace for the last 75 years.

Mel was a strong advocate for Electric Boat's unionized workers, and over time he emerged as the president of the Marine Draftsman's/UAW Local 571 which represents all the drafting professionals and designers. For thirteen years Mel held that position and successfully negotiated contracts in tandem with his brothers and sisters in the Metal Trades Council to ensure their skilled work was adequately compensated with good salaries and benefits. In the early 2000s, Mel was

presiding at a time of great change at the shipyard which went from a workforce of around 30,000 down to just 8,500 in the wake of the fall of the Soviet Union. Mel worked tirelessly to assist the people he represented, making sure they were given transitional help as downsizing occurred. All the while, he continued to advocate for the Navy's investment in a new class of Seawolf and Virginia submarines, which in hindsight we now know kept that shipyard alive.

Madam Speaker, as the Congressman from Eastern Connecticut I had the honor to work with Mel in the shipyard's efforts to keep the unique, irreplaceable skills that made Southeastern Connecticut "The Submarine Capitol of the World." When I was elected to Congress in 2006, and was selected to serve on the Seapower Subcommittee on the House Armed Services Committee, we immediately began a push to boost submarine production, building a coalition of the UAW, the Metal Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, and industry to "plus up" the 2008 shipbuilding budget. By the Fall of 2007 we defied conventional wisdom that a freshman member would never pull that off, when \$588 million was added to the defense budget, igniting a new era of hiring in Groton. Mel's support and advice did not end there. He always made himself available, with good advice and a ready smile, if I had a question or challenge to face. I will always treasure his friendship.

Madam Speaker, when Mel stepped down from his union office in the 2000s, after 47 years of work at the yard, I think most would agree he had earned a quiet, easy retirement. However, as many noted, Mel's "retirement" marked the beginning of a second career when he threw himself into the region's Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (EWIB), the job training platform designated by the federal Workforce Investment Act, to shape education and apprenticeship programs to meet the region's local economy. Mel was perfect for this role. While at Electric Boat, he was always pushing for the shipyard to connect young people to the specialized work that went on there, and he fostered a mentorship program for high schoolers that still operates today. At EWIB, he saw that the need to recapitalize the submarine force was going to cause a new hiring spree that the tech schools, community colleges and apprenticeship programs needed to adjust to—fast. With his help, EWIB's innovative Manufacturing Pipeline Program received \$6 million from the U.S. Department of Labor in 2014, establishing an accelerated "pre-apprenticeship" program. The program far outperformed Labor's targets and has become a national model used all over Connecticut and the U.S. to generate new job-ready workers. Back home the pipeline has enabled Electric Boat to regrow to a workforce that reached 17,000 this year. Electric Boat also restarted its own apprenticeship program that Mel had been pressing for years. It is showing impressive results, with a new generation of diverse talent—more women and minorities in particular—who are embarking on not just jobs, but careers. For Mel, this type of work, which was done in collaboration with Electric Boat's unions and management, was the essence of the value of collective bargaining. Seeing a person's life transformed because of the pipeline or an apprenticeship was, in my experience knowing Mel, what truly animated him

and made him happy. It also demonstrated to me what a caring person he was, particularly when it came to helping young people.

What also made Mel very happy was his beautiful family. He shared 54 years of marital bliss with his wife Dorothy DeGroot Olsson. Together, they have a daughter, Alyssa A. Olsson Gaus, and two grandsons, Kyle Chase Olsson, and Gavin Olsson Gaus. Mel was also close with his brother Karl and his wife Glenda of Niantic. Despite all of his time-consuming work in the region, his family always came first. Madam Speaker, Mel is truly an example of "a life well lived." His funeral service in New London where he was born was packed with family, co-workers, and friends who shared a deep awareness of what a special person he was. Please join me in expressing our deepest condolences to Mel's family for their loss and our highest respect and regards for his inspiring legacy.

#### HONORING CAROLYN EDWARDS

#### HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, today I would like to recognize the outstanding career, significant accomplishments, and invaluable contributions of Carolyn Edwards, a dedicated civil servant who in January will retire after a distinguished 46-year career with the U.S. Department of Transportation—44 of these with the Federal Highway Administration.

Among her many exemplary accomplishments, Ms. Edwards has been involved in every Federal surface transportation bill since TEA-21 in 1998. This has included support—through the technical assistance process—for Congressional Committees, countless Members of Congress, and their staff on legislative and highway policy issues.

This is the fourth time that a Congressional Committee Chair (or Ranking Member) has publicly thanked Ms. Edwards, by name, for her contributions. Prior instances include—

On July 29, 2005, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (Senator JIM INHOFE) thanked her on the Senate floor during floor consideration of the conference report for SAFETEA-LU;

On June 29, 2012, in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (the Honorable John Mica) thanked Ms. Edwards, among others, for her work on MAP-21; and

On December 3, 2015, I thanked Ms. Edwards on the House floor for her work on the FAST Act.

Ms. Edwards joined the Federal Highway Administration in 1973 as an economist within the Agency's Office of Highway Planning. There, she helped to establish FHWA's Highway Performance Monitoring System—a system that 40 years later continues to provide national-level data on the extent, condition, performance, use, and operating characteristics of the nation's highways. Over the ensuing four-and-a-half decades, Ms. Edwards has gone on to serve in a range of high-level analytical positions at FHWA, including stints in FHWA's Office of Highway Policy Information

and in FHWA's Office of Legislative Affairs and Policy Communications.

As one example, during the mid-1990s, Ms. Edwards served in FHWA's Office of Highway Information Management. While there, she identified—then helped to resolve—a \$1.6 billion error in the Treasury Department's calculation of Highway Trust Fund revenues, which impacted the State-by-State distribution of Federal highway funding. Later, she also worked in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs, with a portfolio that covered Federal-aid highway programs and the Highway Trust Fund.

Ms. Edwards is ending her career as a member—and former leader—of FHWA's legislative analysis team. In this capacity, she serves as an unparalleled national expert on a wide range of highway-related topics, including Federal highway legislation, the Highway Trust Fund, and the operations of the Federal-aid highway program. For years, she has been a go-to reference on these topics for both agency and departmental leaders. Furthermore, as testament to the quality of her work, over the course of her career, Ms. Edwards has been recognized with multiple FHWA Superior Achievement Awards, a Secretary's Team Award, and two Secretarial Awards for Partnering for Excellence.

In closing, on behalf of myself, the Committee, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and our staff, I would like to thank Ms. Edwards for her steadfast public service, her support for the Congress, and her immeasurable contributions to the Federal-aid highway program.

#### HONORING CHIEF JAMES ANTHONY SECRETO

#### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor James Anthony Secreto, a native Brooklyn son and longtime public servant. James, or Jimmy as his friends call him, has dedicated his life to helping the people of New York City, most recently as the Chief of Housing at the New York Police Department (NYPD). As he retires this week, I wanted to pay homage to the work he has accomplished on behalf of so many New Yorkers.

Jimmy was born and raised in Brooklyn's Albany Houses, a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) development, in Crown Heights. He received his early education at St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Elementary School in Crown Heights for grades one through five. He joined the Robert F. Kennedy Incentive Program and later received an academic scholarship from the Brooklyn Catholic Interracial Council to attend Power Memorial Academy.

In 1979, he began his career with the NYPD on patrol in the 25th Precinct. He was promoted to Sergeant in December 1984 and steadily rose through the ranks. In 2014, Jimmy was promoted to Chief of Housing, his current position. In that capacity, he oversees the security of NYCHA, the largest public housing organization in North America, housing over 400,000 tenants.

During his 35-year career tenure with the NYPD, James has spearheaded a multitude of

food and clothing drives; an annual holiday toy drive he started in 1999, that continues today; a Thanksgiving community outreach initiative in which turkeys are distributed to families; and an annual Queens Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, which has successfully raised over \$100,000 since its inception nine years ago.

For these and other achievements, Chief Secreto has been honored by countless community groups, as well as several NYPD fraternal organizations. In 2009, the New York State Shields honored him as Man of the Year, and in 2014, the Tri-State Law Enforcement Foundation honored James as Person of the Year.

A devoted family man, Chief Secreto has been married to his wife, Yvonne, for 35 years. They are the proud parents of three children. Kiesha, Shamieka and Chanel. The couple also have eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, the people of New York owe a debt of gratitude to Chief Secreto for his years of service. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting him as he moves on to his next phase of life. I wish him and his family all the best and thank him for all he has done for Brooklyn, for NYCHA and all New York residents.

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HONORING OUACHITA NATIONAL  
FOREST SUPERVISOR NORMAN  
WAGONER

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**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2019*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Norman Wagoner for

his decades of service with the United States Forest Service.

Mr. Wagoner began his career with the Forest Service in 1986, right in the Fourth District's own Ouachita National Forest. He worked his way up from a co-op student to a Forester Trainee to a Forester, later serving as a District Ranger in Colorado and Wyoming. Mr. Wagoner returned to the Ouachita National Forest in 2006 to become the Forest Supervisor, where he served until his retirement in 2019.

I was privileged to work alongside Mr. Wagoner on numerous occasions, and always admired his commitment to forestry and environmental stewardship. He has been a fantastic leader and advocate for Arkansas forestry, and will be greatly missed. I wish him all the best in retirement.

# *Daily Digest*

## Senate

### *Chamber Action*

*Routine Proceedings, pages S6793–S6828*

**Measures Introduced:** Nine bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2963–2971, and S. Res. 445. **Pages S6824–25**

**Measures Reported:**

S. 2877, to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002. **Page S6824**

**Sinatra, Jr. Nomination—Cloture:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of John L. Sinatra, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York. **Pages S6800–18**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 76 yeas to 16 nays (Vote No. EX. 370), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6800**

**Nomination Votes—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 2 p.m., on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations of John L. Sinatra, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, Sarah E. Pitlyk, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, Douglas Russell Cole, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, and David B. Barlow, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah; that at 11:30 a.m., on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Richard Ernest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Sherri A. Lydon, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, and Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service; and that if cloture is invoked on the nominations, the confirmation votes occur at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, on Thursday, December 5, 2019. **Page S6800**

**Pitlyk Nomination—Cloture:** By 50 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 371), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Sarah E. Pitlyk, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. **Pages S6818–19**

**Cole Nomination—Cloture:** By 62 yeas to 29 nays (Vote No. EX. 372), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Douglas Russell Cole, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio. **Page S6819**

**Huffaker Nomination—Cloture:** By 88 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. EX. 373), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama. **Pages S6819–20**

**Barlow Nomination—Cloture:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of David B. Barlow, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah. **Page S6820**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 88 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. EX. 374), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6820**

**Myers Nomination—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Richard Ernest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina. **Page S6828**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 86 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. EX. 369), Eric Ross Komitee, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. **Pages S6795–S6800**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S6822**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S6822–24**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S6824**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S6825–27**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:****Page S6827****Additional Statements:****Page S6822****Authorities for Committees to Meet:****Pages S6827–28**

**Record Votes:** Six record votes were taken today. (Total—374) **Pages S6800, S6819–20**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:36 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6828.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### SUBSTANDARD MILITARY HOUSING CONDITIONS

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine testimony from the Government Accountability Office on privatized housing findings to include responses from the military services on ongoing reports of substandard housing conditions and services, including preliminary observations on the Department of Defense's oversight of the condition of privatized military housing, after receiving testimony from Elizabeth A. Field, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, Government Accountability Office; and Ryan D. McCarthy, Secretary of the Army, Thomas B. Modly, Acting Secretary of the Navy, Barbara M. Barrett, Secretary of the Air Force, General James C. McConville, USA, Chief of Staff of the Army, Admiral Michael M. Gilday, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, General David H. Berger, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and General David L. Goldfein, USAF, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense.

### NOMINATION

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Robert J. Feitel, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Cardin, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

ert J. Feitel, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Cardin, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

### U.S. POLICY TOWARDS RUSSIA

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the future of United States policy towards Russia, after receiving testimony from David Hale, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, and Christopher A. Ford, Assistant Secretary for International Security and Nonproliferation, both of the Department of State.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Stephen Hahn, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, Richard Giacalone, of Virginia, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director, and Cynthia L. Attwood, of Virginia, and Amanda Wood Laihow, of Maine, both to be a Member of Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

### FRAUDULENT TRADEMARKS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Intellectual Property concluded a hearing to examine fraudulent trademarks, focusing on how they undermine the trademark system and harm American consumers and businesses, after receiving testimony from Barton Beebe, New York University School of Law, and Megan K. Bannigan, Debevoise and Plimpton LLP, both of New York, New York; Douglas A. Rettew, Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner, LLP, Washington, D.C.; Thomas Williams, Duke University School of Law, Durham, North Carolina; and Stephen Lee, Target, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

### INTELLIGENCE

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

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# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 17 public bills, H.R. 5277–5293; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 736–740 were introduced. **Pages H9221–22**

### Additional Cosponsors:

**Pages H9222–23**

### Reports Filed:

Reports were filed today as follows: H.R. 4739, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to protect U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, other personnel, and canines

against potential synthetic opioid exposure, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–318, Part 1);

H.R. 4761, to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, and other personnel have adequate synthetic opioid detection equipment, that the Department of Homeland Security has a process to update synthetic opioid detection capability, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–319, Part 1);

H. Res. 739, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2534) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit certain securities trading and related communications by those who possess material, nonpublic information, and relating to consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 77) directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic that have not been authorized by Congress (H. Rept. 116–320); and

H.R. 2185, to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to allow the District of Columbia to receive Federal funding under such Act, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–321). **Page H9221**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Rose (NY) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H9187**

**American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress on the part of the House for a term of six years: Mr. Robert Anacletus Underwood of Hagatna, Guam. **Page H9188**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 3:45 p.m. **Page H9188**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

**Citizenship for Children of Military Members and Civil Servants Act:** H.R. 4803, amended, to facilitate the automatic acquisition of citizenship for lawful permanent resident children of military and Federal Government personnel residing abroad;

**Pages H9188–89**

**Advancing Mutual Interests and Growing Our Success Act:** H.R. 565, amended, to include Portugal in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E1 and E2 nonimmigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of Portugal;

**Pages H9189–91**

**Providing that the amount of time that an elderly offender must serve before being eligible for placement in home detention is to be reduced by the amount of good time credits earned by the pris-**

**oner:** H.R. 4018, amended, to provide that the amount of time that an elderly offender must serve before being eligible for placement in home detention is to be reduced by the amount of good time credits earned by the prisoner; **Pages H9191–92**

**Supporting the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and its Sixth Replenishment:** H. Res. 517, amended, supporting the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and its Sixth Replenishment; **Pages H9192–94**

**End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act:** H.R. 3460, to facilitate effective research on and treatment of neglected tropical diseases through coordinated international efforts; **Pages H9194–97**

**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:** 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, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 339 yeas to 71 nays, Roll No. 643; **Pages H9197–98, H9208–09**

**Reaffirming support for the Good Friday Agreement and other agreements to ensure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland:** H. Res. 585, reaffirming support for the Good Friday Agreement and other agreements to ensure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland; and **Pages H9198–H9201**

**Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019:** S. 178, amended, to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 407 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 644. **Pages H9201–08, H9209**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 5:56 p.m. and reconvened at 6:29 p.m. **Page H9208**

**Amending section 442 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt certain interests in mutual funds, unit investment trusts, employee benefit plans, and retirement plans from conflict of interest limitations for the Government Publishing Office:** The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 5277, to amend section 442 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt certain interests in mutual funds, unit investment trusts, employee benefit plans, and retirement plans from conflict of interest limitations for the Government Publishing Office. **Pages H9209–10**



**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H9187.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9208–09. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### INSIDER TRADING PROHIBITION ACT; EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT THROUGH A NEGOTIATED TWO-STATE SOLUTION

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2534, the “Insider Trading Prohibition Act”; and began a hearing on H. Res. 326, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–4, a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2534, the “Insider Trading Prohibition Act”. The rule provides one hour of general debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–39 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides that a motion to discharge House Concurrent Resolution 77 shall be in order on December 11, 2019, if offered by Representative Gabbard, with 20 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by Representative Gabbard and an

opponent. The rule provides that the provisions of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution shall not apply during the remainder of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress to House Concurrent Resolution 77. Testimony was heard from Representatives Himes, Huizenga, Levin, Zeldin, and Lowenthal.

## BUSINESS MEETING

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Full Committee held a business meeting on the Report Issued by the Chair, Pursuant to Section 2, Paragraph 6 of H. Res. 660, as Part of the House of Representatives’ Impeachment Inquiry. The Report Issued by the Chair, Pursuant to Section 2, Paragraph 6 of H. Res. 660, as Part of the House of Representatives’ Impeachment Inquiry passed, without amendment.

## Joint Meetings

### BALKAN RECOVERY

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* Commission received a briefing on Balkan recovery, focusing on corruption, after receiving testimony from Martina Hrvolova, Center for International Private Enterprise, Washington, D.C.; Igor Novakovic, International and Security Affairs Centre, Belgrade, Serbia; Misha Popovikj, Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis, Skopje, North Macedonia; and Igor Stojanovic, Center for Civic Initiatives, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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## NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1307)

H.R. 3889, to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 to make technical corrections. Signed on November 27, 2019. (Public Law 116–74)

H.R. 4258, to authorize the Marshal of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court Police to protect the Justices, employees, and official guests of the Supreme Court outside of the Supreme Court grounds. Signed on November 27, 2019. (Public Law 116–75)

S. 1838, to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992. Signed on November 27, 2019. (Public Law 116–76)

S. 2710, to prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force. Signed on November 27, 2019. (Public Law 116–77)

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 4, 2019**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

**Senate**

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on SeaPower, with the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold a joint hearing to examine United States Navy ship and submarine maintenance, 10 a.m., SD-106.

Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine testimony about servicemember, family, and veteran suicides and prevention strategies, 3 p.m., SR-222.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* to hold hearings to examine legislative proposals to protect consumer data privacy, 10 a.m., SH-216.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* to hold hearings to examine an original bill to create a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force, 10 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Millennium Challenge Corporation, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine Lebanon and Iraq protests, focusing on insights, implications, and objectives for United States policy, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul J. Ray, of Tennessee, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 2:30 p.m., SD-342.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Fernando L. Aenlle-Rocha, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, John Charles Hinderaker, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Joshua M. Kindred, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, Scott H. Rash, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, and Matthew Thomas Schelp, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, 10 a.m., SD-226.

**House**

*Committee on Education and Labor,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Growing Up in Fear: How the Trump Administration’s Immigration Policies Are Harming Children”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Building Consumer Confidence by Empowering FDA to Improve Cosmetic Safety”, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Flu Season: U.S. Public Health Preparedness and Response”, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of Prudential Regulators: Ensuring the Safety, Soundness, Diversity, and Accountability of Depository Institutions?”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Importance of the New START Treaty”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Impeachment Inquiry into President Donald J. Trump: Constitutional Grounds for Presidential Impeachment”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

*Committee on Natural Resources,* Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, hearing on H.R. 722, the “Miracle Mountain Designation Act”; H.R. 1702, the “Free Veterans from Fees Act”; H.R. 2317, the “Peter J. McGuire Labor Day Landmark Act”; H.R. 3094, to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806, and for other purposes; H.R. 3349, the “Republic of Texas Legation Memorial Act”; H.R. 3465, the “Fallen Journalists Memorial Act of 2019”; and H.R. 5068, the “Women Who Worked on the Home Front Commemorative Work Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States, hearing on H.R. 1964, the “Lumbee Recognition Act”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Reform,* Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, hearing entitled “Broken Promises: Examining the Administration’s Retreat on Banning Vaping Flavors”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Rules,* Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 4, the “Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019”, 5 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology,* Subcommittee on Research and Technology; and Subcommittee on Environment, joint hearing entitled “Calm Before the Storm: Reauthorizing the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program”, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Embracing Corporate Social Responsibility: Small Business Best Practices”, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 4

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Richard Ernest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

At 11:30 a.m., Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Richard Ernest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Sherri A. Lydon, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, and Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

At 2 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of John L. Sinatra, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, Sarah E. Pitlyk, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, Douglas Russell Cole, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, and David B. Barlow, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 4

## House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of H.R. 2534—Insider Trading Prohibition Act (Subject to a Rule).

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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