



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019

No. 196

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 9, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN HORSFORD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

PASS USMCA NOW

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this week, I hope and I pray that we are on the verge of passing the United States-Mexico-Canada trade deal, a deal that will literally mean millions of dollars in new market opportunities for Kansas agriculture products, new customs and trade rules for our small businesses, and thousands of new jobs for Kansas that will allow more goods and materials to be manufactured in this great country.

Today, once again, I join nearly 160 of my colleagues in signing a letter urging Speaker PELOSI to hold a vote on this trade agreement. The agreement will set farmers, ranchers, workers, and businesses in Kansas up for long-term success. This will lead to more exports, more jobs, and higher wages. It would be a great Christmas present for all of Kansas and for all the hardworking Americans across this great Nation.

With now just 2 weeks remaining, the House has so far squandered this entire first session of the 116th Congress. There is no excuse for holding a trade agreement up that is expected to create 176,000 jobs, deliver a \$70 billion boost to our economy, and make us stronger in our trade negotiations with China.

Speaker PELOSI, I beg you, stop putting politics ahead of our producers. The House has a great chance to secure a victory for the American people. Let's deliver a win for our economy, pass the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, and give America a great Christmas present this year.

CELEBRATING THE COMPANIONSHIP OF PETS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this week is pet week in our office, to celebrate our furry companions and the happiness they bring to our lives.

In this spirit, this is an opportunity to recognize that the pet food industry is simply huge for Kansas. Pet food manufacturers in the animal health corridor stretching from Manhattan, Kansas, to Columbia, Missouri, and from Emporia, Kansas, to Omaha, Nebraska, account for more than half of all pet industry sales in the United States and provide thousands of jobs to Kansans.

Many of our State's finest agriculture commodities go into our domestic animal food production network. As companion animal pet products gain a larger foothold in the overall food market, it is vital we continue

to do all we can to capitalize on that growth and deliver high-paying new jobs for Kansas and encourage the development of the industry to not only benefit our farmers but all of Kansas.

Aside from the obvious economic reasons to support the pet food industry in our State, there are genuine benefits of companion animals to humans. Pet ownership has grown for a reason. Many studies show that having a companion animal, a pet, in the home can reduce depression and blood pressure and provide other mental health benefits. Additionally, there is incredible work being done with companion animals for our military servicemembers when they return home suffering from PTSD and other mental and physical challenges.

Some of the most successful and innovative pet companies in the world are in Kansas, incorporating our agriculture products in their pet food supply. There is a direct link between the pet food industry and the Kansas economy, and I will continue to work to expand those opportunities for the industry, both domestically and, very importantly, internationally.

The House has a chance to secure and encourage pet innovation going on across the country. We look forward to that market growing.

SENATE SHOULD ACT ON HOUSE-PASSED BILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I reflect on all that House Democrats have done for the people this year and how much harm the grim reaper of the Senate, MITCH MCCONNELL, has done by purposefully stalling our legislative agenda.

Our Democratic House majority has worked relentlessly for the people to

□ 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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strengthen the health, economic security, and well-being of every family in every community, and we have made real progress.

We ended the Trump government shutdown, which inflicted needless pain and chaos into the lives of our fellow Americans and New Mexicans whose paychecks, financial security, health, and well-being were held hostage by the President.

We stood strong and prevailed for the American people and did not give him the immoral, illegal border wall.

To improve the safety of our communities, we sent to the Senate common-sense, bipartisan gun violence prevention legislation that would make our children safer.

As vice chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus, I am proud that we have worked to strengthen women's personal and financial security by passing a strong reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act, and the Paycheck Fairness Act to ensure equal pay for equal work.

To bolster the paychecks and retirement security of working families, we passed the Raise the Wage Act to increase the Federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour, giving a raise to 33 million Americans, including 20 million women. We also passed the Butch Lewis Act to protect the pensions of more than 1 million workers and retirees.

To live up to the promises that we made to our veterans, we have passed dozens of bipartisan bills, including fixes to end unjust and unfair taxes on military families; expanded benefits for blue water Navy Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange; and legislation to reduce barriers for women veterans to access the VA, including an antiharassment initiative.

To address our climate crisis, we passed the Climate Action Now Act and multiple bills to protect our public lands for generations to come. I have introduced legislation myself to promote natural solutions to climate change, such as H.R. 4269, the Climate Stewardship Act, and for the adoption of clean energy, H.R. 5221, the 100% Clean Economy Act.

I am especially proud to have led the bipartisan effort on House passage of the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act to protect my ancestral homeland from oil and gas drilling.

We have fought for those who have been the targets of hateful rhetoric and policies of this administration. We passed H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act, to help Dreamers stay right here in the United States, their home, the only country they know.

Democrats have taken a stand to end discrimination against LGBTQ Americans by passing the historic Equality Act, H.R. 5.

To stand up for human rights, we passed bipartisan legislation to recognize the Armenian genocide as the atrocity that it was, hold Turkey ac-

countable for attacking our Kurdish allies, reject the President's disastrous decisionmaking in Syria, and uphold America's commitment to human rights and the rule of law in Hong Kong.

In light of the threats our democracy faces from foes foreign and domestic, we passed H.R. 1, the For the People Act; the SAFE Act; and the SHIELD Act to strengthen our elections and democracy and boost our defenses against foreign attacks on these systems. We passed H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, to protect the right of all Americans to participate in our democracy.

The Democratic House has sent Senator MCCONNELL more than 275 bipartisan bills, yet he still refuses to take them up. The American people deserve and demand action, and we call on Senator MCCONNELL to put our legislation up for a vote.

I am proud to have worked alongside my colleagues in this House majority to move these important issues forward for the people.

STOP IGNORING CRISIS IN IDLIB, SYRIA

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today again to bring attention to the travesty happening in Idlib, Syria.

A week ago, Syrian dictator Assad, his protector Putin, and his Iranian co-conspirators continued to bomb civilians in the town of Idlib.

The Wisdom House School, a school supported by my constituents in Arkansas, has had to close for the third time due to this bombing and the massive attacks.

I recently watched a video posted on Twitter of the airstrikes hitting a civilian home in the same town where Wisdom House School is located. Many of the children attending the Wisdom House School are now orphans. There are no military targets in this area, which has been repeatedly bombed by the Assad regime.

When we look back on this calamitous conflict, the United States and our allies in Europe will hang our heads in shame for ignoring red lines that gave a green light to Assad's slaughter of his own civilians by the hundreds of thousands.

FUND NATO TO COUNTER RUSSIA

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, since its formation, NATO has served as the foundation for security between the United States and our allies in Europe.

Years ago, the now-29 members agreed to a goal of spending at least 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense. When President Trump took office, only three countries met that objective. Now, it is nine. President Trump has done a good job urging NATO to meet its obligations among members.

Russia, under Putin, is a threat to freedom that many in the post-Cold War world have fought and died for. For decades, Russia has engaged in propaganda and political meddling in the Western democracies. It has invaded Ukraine and annexed Crimea and territories in Georgia.

NATO members need to meet their defense spending guidelines now more than ever. Actions speak louder than words, and NATO must continue to counter Russia and Russia's political and military actions around the world.

HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF JERRY MCKINNIS

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of Arkansas' great outdoorsmen, Mr. Jerry McKinnis, who recently passed away at the age of 82.

A longtime Little Rock, Arkansas, resident, Jerry was a pioneer in outdoor cable TV programming. He was best known for his television program "The Fishin' Hole," which featured fishing trips with celebrity guests like Hall of Fame baseball player Ted Williams.

Jerry created the show after playing baseball professionally for a short time. "The Fishin' Hole" aired for 44 years and was the longest running show on ESPN short of "SportsCenter."

Jerry has been inducted into the International Game Fish Hall of Fame, the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame, the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame, the National Fishing Hall of Fame, and the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame.

Jerry was an inspiration and friend to many across our State, and I extend my respect, affection, and prayers to his friends, family, and loved ones.

CONGRATULATING RACHELLE STEWART

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Deputy Rachelle Stewart for receiving the Lifesaving Award from Saline County Sheriff Rodney Wright.

Stewart responded to an unknown medical emergency to assist EMS personnel with a patient who was unconscious and not breathing. Chief Deputy Stewart quickly recognized the patient was experiencing an opioid overdose and administered Narcan to save the patient's life. Chief Deputy Stewart's action marked the fifth life saved by Saline County sheriff deputies successfully using Narcan in the field.

I extend my congratulations to Chief Deputy Rachelle Stewart and the Saline County Sheriff's Office for saving lives and continuing the hard work of protecting and serving central Arkansas.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DESAULNIER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

We ask Your blessing in these days to come. You know well the contentiousness of this session. Look into the hearts of all the Members of this people's House to discern the good-will within.

May the goodwill You find be rewarded with Your grace. May any contrary spirit be banished.

In the days that come, help each Member to understand well and interpret positively, as they are able, the positions of those with whom they disagree. Grant to each the wisdom of Solomon and to us all the faith and confidence to know that, no matter how difficult things appear to be, You continue to walk with our Nation, as You have done over two centuries.

May all that is done in the people's House 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.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. ROSE of New York led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONGRATULATING THE TOTTENVILLE PIRATES FOOTBALL TEAM

(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 congratulate the Tottenville Pirates football team on an incredible season that took them all the way to the New York PSAL championship game at Yankee Stadium last week.

Now, although they came up just short of their ultimate goal, the Pirates should be incredibly proud of what they accomplished this season. After a loss in their season opener, the Pirates bounced back with a remarkable 11-game winning streak, including a dramatic last-second victory in their first matchup with the eventual champions, Erasmus Hall.

In the championship game, their star running back, Roland Dempster, battled through a hamstring injury until he literally couldn't run anymore and had to be helped off the field by his teammates.

I think I speak for all of Staten Island when I say how incredibly proud I am of Coach Brian Neville and the entire Pirates team for putting up a hell of a fight.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating them, particularly the graduating seniors, and wishing them well in whatever comes next, both on and off the field.

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 9, 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 9, 2019, at 10:07 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 743.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 2486.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1501

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 3 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

MSI STEM ACHIEVEMENT ACT

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4372) to direct Federal science agencies and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to undertake activities to improve the quality of undergraduate STEM education and enhance the research capacity at the Nation's HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4372

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 "MSI STEM Achievement Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Evidence suggests that the supply of STEM workers is not keeping pace with the rapidly evolving needs of the public and private sector, resulting in a deficit often referred to as a STEM skills shortage.

(2) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the United States will need one million additional STEM professionals than it is on track to produce in the coming decade.

(3) STEM occupations offer higher wages, more opportunities for advancement, and a higher degree of job security than non-STEM occupations.

(4) The composition of the STEM workforce does not reflect the current or projected diversity of the Nation, with Hispanics, African Americans, and other racial and ethnic minorities, significantly underrepresented in the STEM workforce compared to their presence in the workforce more generally.

(5) A stronger national commitment to increasing the diversity of the STEM workforce is needed to help address the STEM skills shortage.

(6) According to a 2019 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report entitled "Minority Serving Institutions: America's Underutilized Resource for Strengthening the STEM Workforce", two- and four-year minority serving institutions enroll nearly 30 percent of all undergraduate students—a percentage that is expected to grow in the coming years—in the United States higher education system and play a critical role in providing important pathways to STEM-related education, training, and careers for students of color.

(7) HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs are highly successful at educating underrepresented minority students in STEM fields and can serve as best

practice models for other colleges and universities to further expand participation of underrepresented minorities in the STEM workforce.

(8) Increased investment in STEM infrastructure at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs has the potential to increase these institutions' ability to educate even more students in the STEM disciplines.

(9) With the demand for STEM skills exceeding the supply of STEM graduates, success of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in educating and training science and engineering leaders is increasingly important for United States economic growth and competitiveness.

SEC. 3. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to Congress—

(1) an inventory of competitive funding programs and initiatives carried out by Federal science agencies that are targeted to HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs or partnerships with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(2) an assessment of Federal science agency outreach activities to increase the participation and competitiveness of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in the funding programs and initiatives identified in paragraph (1); and

(3) recommendations of the Comptroller General to increase the participation of and the rate of success of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in competitive funding programs offered by Federal science agencies.

SEC. 4. RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or consortia thereof) to—

(1) conduct research described in subsection (b) with respect to HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(2) conduct activities described in subsection (c) to build the capacity of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to graduate students who are competitive in attaining and advancing in the STEM workforce;

(3) build the research capacity and competitiveness of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in STEM disciplines; and

(4) identify and broadly disseminate effective models for programs and practices at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs that promote the education and workforce preparation of minority students pursuing STEM studies and careers in which such students are underrepresented.

(b) **RESEARCH.**—Research described in this subsection is research on the contribution of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to the education and training of underrepresented minority students in STEM fields and to the meeting of national STEM workforce needs, including—

(1) the diversity with respect to local context, cultural differences, and institutional structure among HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and any associated impact on education and research endeavors;

(2) effective practices at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and associated outcomes on student recruitment, retention, and advancement in STEM fields, including the ability for students to compete for fellowships, employment, and advancement in the workforce;

(3) contributions made by HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to local, regional, and national workforces;

(4) the unique challenges and opportunities for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in attaining the resources needed for integrating effective practices in STEM education, including providing research experiences for underrepresented minority students;

(5) the access of students at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to STEM infrastructure and any associated outcomes for STEM competency;

(6) models of STEM curriculum, learning, and teaching successful at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs

for increasing participation, retention, and success of underrepresented minority students; and

(7) successful or promising partnerships between HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and other institutions of higher education, private sector and non-profit organizations, Federal laboratories, and international research institutions.

(c) **CAPACITY BUILDING.**—Activities described in this subsection include the design, development, implementation, expansion, and assessment of—

(1) metrics of success to best capture the achievements of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and students of such institutions to account for institutional context and missions, faculty investment, student populations, student needs, and institutional resource constraints;

(2) enhancements to undergraduate STEM curriculum at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to increase the participation, retention, degree completion, and success of underrepresented students;

(3) professional development programs to increase the numbers and the high-quality preparation of STEM faculty at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, including programs to encourage STEM doctoral students to teach at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs; and

(4) mechanisms for institutions of higher education that are not HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs to partner with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs on STEM education, including the facilitation of student transfer, mentoring programs for students and junior faculty, joint research projects, and student access to graduate education.

(d) **RESEARCH EXPERIENCES.**—Grants under this section may fund the development or expansion of opportunities for the exchange of students and faculty to conduct research, including through partnerships with institutions of higher education that are not HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs, private sector and non-profit organizations, Federal laboratories, and international research institutions.

(e) **PARTNERSHIPS.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall—

(1) encourage HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and consortia thereof and partnerships with one or more HBCU, TCU, or MSI, to submit proposals;

(2) require proposals submitted in partnership with one or more HBCU, TCU, or MSI include a plan for establishing a sustained partnership that is jointly developed and managed, draws from the capacities of each institution, and is mutually beneficial; and

(3) encourage proposals submitted in partnership with the private sector, non-profit organizations, Federal laboratories, and international research institutions, as appropriate.

(f) **MSI CENTERS OF INNOVATION.**—Grants under this section may fund the establishment of no more than five MSI Centers of Innovation to leverage successes of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in STEM education and research training of underrepresented minority students as models for other institutions, including both HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and institutions of higher education that are not HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs. Such centers will be located on campuses of selected institutions of higher education and serve as incubators to allow institutions of higher education to experiment, pilot, evaluate, and scale up promising practices.

(g) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the National Science Foundation \$170,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, \$175,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, \$180,000,000 for fiscal year FY 2022, \$185,000,000 for fiscal year 2023, and \$190,000,000 fiscal year 2024 to carry out this section.

SEC. 5. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In consultation with outside stakeholders and the heads of the Federal science agencies, the Director shall develop a uniform set of policy guidelines for Federal

science agencies to carry out a sustained program of outreach activities to increase clarity, transparency, and accountability for Federal science agency investments in STEM education and research activities at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs.

(b) **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.**—In developing policy guidelines under subsection (a) the Director shall include guidelines that require each Federal science agency—

(1) to designate a liaison for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs responsible for—

(A) enhancing direct communication with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to increase the Federal science agency's understanding of the capacity and needs of such institutions and to raise awareness of available Federal funding opportunities at such institutions;

(B) coordinating programs, activities, and initiatives while accounting for the capacity and needs of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(C) tracking Federal science agency investments in and engagement with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs; and

(D) reporting progress toward increasing participation of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in grant programs;

(2) to publish annual forecasts of funding opportunities and proposal deadlines, including for grants, contracts, subcontracts, and cooperative agreements;

(3) to conduct on-site reviews of research facilities at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, as practicable, and make recommendations regarding strategies for becoming more competitive in research;

(4) to hold geographically accessible or virtual workshops on research priorities of the Federal science agency and on how to write competitive grant proposals;

(5) to ensure opportunities for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to directly communicate with Federal science agency officials responsible for managing competitive grant programs in order to receive feedback on research ideas and proposals, including guidance on the Federal science agency's peer review process;

(6) to foster mutually beneficial public-private collaboration among Federal science agencies, industry, Federal laboratories, academia, and nonprofit organizations to—

(A) identify alternative sources of funding for STEM education and research at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(B) provide access to high-quality, relevant research experiences for students and faculty of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(C) expand the professional networks of students and faculty of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(D) broaden STEM educational opportunities for students and faculty of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs; and

(E) support the transition of students of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs into the STEM workforce; and

(7) to publish an annual report that provides an account of Federal science agency investments in HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, including data on the level of participation of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs as prime recipients/contractors or subrecipients/subcontractors.

(c) **STRATEGIC PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in collaboration with the head of each Federal science agency, shall submit to Congress a report containing a strategic plan for each Federal science agency to increase the capacity of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to compete effectively for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements and to encourage HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to participate in Federal programs.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In developing a strategic plan under paragraph (1), the Director and each head of each Federal science agency shall consider—

(A) issuing new or expanding existing funding opportunities targeted to HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(B) modifying existing research and development program solicitations to incentivize effective partnerships with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(C) offering planning grants for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to develop or equip grant offices with the requisite depth of knowledge to submit competitive grant proposals and manage awarded grants;

(D) offering additional training programs and individualized and timely guidance to grant officers and faculty researchers at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to ensure they understand the requirements for an effective grant proposal; and

(E) other approaches for making current competitive funding models more accessible for under-resourced HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director shall report to Congress on the implementation by Federal science agencies of the policy guidelines developed under this section.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term “Federal laboratory” has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

(3) FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY.—The term “Federal science agency” means any Federal agency with an annual extramural research expenditure of over \$100,000,000.

(4) HBCU.—The term “HBCU” has the meaning given the term “part B institution” in section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(6) MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term “minority serving institution” or “MSI” means Hispanic-Serving Institutions as defined in section 502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a); Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions as defined in section 317 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d); and Predominantly Black Institutions, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions, and Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions as defined in section 371 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(c)).

(7) STEM.—The term “STEM” has the meaning given the term in the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.).

(8) TCU.—The term “TCU” has the meaning given the term “Tribal College or University” in section 316 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 4372, the bill that is under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4372, the MSI STEM Achievement Act, and I thank Representative WALTZ for joining me in introducing this bill and for his commitment to increasing diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, or STEM fields.

This bill was developed based upon recommendations in the 2019 National Academy of Sciences report entitled, “Minority Serving Institutions: America’s Underutilized Resource for Strengthening the STEM Workforce.”

The demographics of our country are changing, and we must do more to address the underrepresentation of minority students in STEM to keep our workforce competitive.

As stated in the report, the STEM readiness of students of color will have direct implications on America’s economic growth, national security, and global prosperity. The time to act is now.

Minority-serving institutions have a long record of success in recruiting, retaining, and graduating underrepresented minority students in STEM. However, more investment and outreach are needed to enable the MSIs to realize their potential.

The MSI STEM Achievement Act ensures that Federal STEM education and research funding opportunities are more accessible to the MSIs. The legislation directs the Government Accountability Office to compile an inventory of Federal science agency programs targeted to MSIs and to make recommendations of what more agencies can do to encourage increased participation and success for the MSIs in these programs.

In addition, the legislation authorizes the National Science Foundation to support research on the challenges and successes MSIs have had in contributing to the STEM workforce, including approaches to building the research competitiveness of MSIs.

And finally, the bill directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop a government-wide strategic plan and sustained outreach program to support STEM education and research at the MSIs.

It is important to remember that these institutions are not a monolith. Indeed, their focus on meeting the distinct needs of their students has been critical to their success. In carrying out the activities of this act, Federal science agencies and OSTP should ensure that they are accounting for the diversity among these institutions and the populations they serve. If we are to continue to prosper as a Nation, we must do more to diversify our STEM workforce.

Fortunately, the more than 700 MSIs that enroll nearly 30 percent of our Nation’s undergraduates know how to solve this problem. The MSI STEM Achievement Act will ensure these institutions are equipped with the resources they need to lead the way.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to cosponsor this legislation led by Chairwoman JOHNSON and Representative MICHAEL WALTZ, which continues the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology’s bipartisan work to support, encourage, and develop the next generation of America’s science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science workforce.

Minority-serving institutions, including historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and Tribal colleges and universities have a long record of success in recruiting, retaining, and graduating underrepresented students in STEM fields.

In my own district, I have seen the unique value of minority-serving institutions. For more than 100 years, Langston University, a historically Black college and land-grant institution, has educated students of all backgrounds. They have influenced people’s lives beyond the classroom in service to the community in both rural and urban Oklahoma. This legislation will help schools like Langston prepare their students to fill the STEM jobs of the 21st century.

Since 1990, employment in STEM occupations has grown by nearly 80 percent. Over the next decade, with demand continuing to grow and U.S. universities expected to produce only less than one-third of the STEM graduates needed, the STEM shortage is anticipated to reach 1 million professionals. At the same time, minorities are severely underrepresented in STEM fields, only accounting for 11 percent of the STEM workforce. To meet this growing demand, talent from all groups is essential.

The Trump administration has also recognized this need by calling for an increase of diversity, equality, and inclusion in Federal STEM programs in its recent 5-year STEM strategic plan.

This bill that we are considering today takes steps to meet the administration’s call to action by providing for increased transparency, accountability, and accessibility of Federal STEM education and research funds for MSIs. Without a diverse talent pool of Americans with strong STEM knowledge and skills prepared for the jobs of the future, the U.S. will not be able to maintain the innovation that supports key sectors of the economy, including agriculture, energy, healthcare, and defense.

I, again, thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Representative WALTZ for their leadership. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ).

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, since 1904, the Bethune Cookman University, a

historically Black college, has contributed to a rich and diverse history in my district. Four thousand students proudly call this university home in Florida's Sixth District, and we are proud of all of Bethune Cookman's accomplishments, especially in STEM fields.

Minorities make up nearly 30 percent of America's population, but nationwide, as my distinguished colleague from Oklahoma and the administration have noted, we are seeing a gap in minority representation in STEM fields. Believe it or not, minorities only account for 11 percent of the STEM workforce.

As we all know, the demand for STEM fields is at an all-time high. Over the next decade, the STEM shortage is anticipated to reach 1 million professionals. If we want America to compete and succeed, we must and we need to make sure our workforce reflects our country's diversity. The bill we are considering today, the MSI STEM Achievement Act, would help increase the capacity for minority students and STEM curricula and encourage partnerships with industry and Federal laboratories.

In short, this bill will enhance our domestic workforce, so as to ensure America continues to compete globally. If America wants to lead militarily, economically, and critically in space, we must lead in STEM.

I would be remiss to not also mention the importance of women in STEM. As I have said countless times since I have been elected, and will continue to say, from my experiences as a veteran and a Green Beret fighting all over the globe, where women thrive in business, where women thrive in civil society and in politics, extremism doesn't, and it is just that simple. And for that reason, diversity in STEM is truly a national security issue.

And in Volusia County, in my district in Florida, just north of Cape Canaveral and just north of the Kennedy Space Center, we are seeing countless businesses participate in workforce development programs like the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program. This program and so many others are making huge strides to advance STEM curriculum and workforce development.

As the Republican lead on the MSI STEM Achievement Act, I want to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS for working with me to improve participation in STEM at these critically important MSIs.

For America's continued predominance in science and technology, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill and for its passage.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The United States is in a race to remain the world leader in science and technology. The only way we will win is by utilizing America's most valuable

resource, our people. This means developing a diverse, STEM-capable workforce at every educational level and from every background.

Creating opportunities for students to not only develop STEM knowledge but also to have hands-on experience is essential. Research shows that students, especially those from underrepresented minority backgrounds, are more likely to graduate from science and engineering programs if they have opportunities to engage in STEM course content with peers, participate in undergraduate research, and join science clubs and organizations.

This bill will support such STEM education and training activities at MSIs, providing these students with the skills necessary to develop and flourish in the 21st century. These investments will help grow our workforce, improve our economy, and protect our country.

I, again, would like to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Representative WALTZ for their leadership, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I simply want to thank all of the Members and staff involved in this legislation. I urge its passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4372, 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.

□ 1515

ENGINEERING BIOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4373) to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4373

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 "Engineering Biology Research and Development Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Cellular and molecular processes may be used, mimicked, or redesigned to develop new products, processes, and systems that improve societal well-being, strengthen na-

tional security, and contribute to the economy.

(2) Engineering biology relies on a workforce with a diverse and unique set of skills combining the biological, physical, chemical, and information sciences and engineering.

(3) Long-term research and development is necessary to create breakthroughs in engineering biology. Such research and development requires government investment as many of the benefits are too distant or uncertain for industry to support alone.

(4) Research is necessary to inform evidence-based governance of engineering biology and to support the growth of the engineering biology industry.

(5) The Federal Government can play an important role by facilitating the development of tools and technologies to further advance engineering biology, including user facilities, by facilitating public-private partnerships, by supporting risk research, and by facilitating the commercial application in the United States of research funded by the Federal Government.

(5) The United States led the development of the science and engineering techniques that created the field of engineering biology, but due to increasing international competition, the United States is at risk of losing its competitive advantage if does not invest the necessary resources and have a national strategy.

(6) A National Engineering Biology Initiative can serve to establish new research directions and technology goals, improve interagency coordination and planning processes, drive technology transfer to the private sector, and help ensure optimal returns on the Federal investment.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) BIOMANUFACTURING.—The term "biomanufacturing" means the utilization of biological systems to develop new and advance existing products, tools, and processes at commercial scale.

(2) ENGINEERING BIOLOGY.—The term "engineering biology" means the application of engineering design principles and practices to biological systems, including molecular and cellular systems, to advance fundamental understanding of complex natural systems and to enable novel or optimize functions and capabilities.

(3) INITIATIVE.—The term "Initiative" means the National Engineering Biology Research and Development Initiative established under section 4.

(4) OMICS.—The term "omics" refers to the collective technologies used to explore the roles, relationships, and actions of the various types of molecules that make up the cells of an organism.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL ENGINEERING BIOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall implement a National Engineering Biology Research and Development Initiative to advance societal well-being, national security, sustainability, and economic productivity and competitiveness through—

(1) advancing areas of research at the intersection of the biological, physical, chemical, and information sciences and engineering to accelerate scientific understanding and technological innovation in engineering biology;

(2) advancing areas of biomanufacturing research to optimize, standardize, scale, and deliver new products and solutions;

(3) supporting social and behavioral sciences and economics research that advances the field of engineering biology and

contributes to the development and public understanding of new products, processes, and technologies;

(4) supporting risk research, including under subsection (d);

(5) supporting the development of novel tools and technologies to accelerate scientific understanding and technological innovation in engineering biology;

(6) expanding the number of researchers, educators, and students with engineering biology training, including from traditionally underserved populations;

(7) accelerating the translation and commercialization of engineering biology research and development by the private sector; and

(8) improving the interagency planning and coordination of Federal Government activities related to engineering biology.

(b) **INITIATIVE ACTIVITIES.**—The activities of the Initiative shall include—

(1) sustained support for engineering biology research and development through—

(A) grants to individual investigators and teams of investigators, including interdisciplinary teams;

(B) projects funded under joint solicitations by a collaboration of no fewer than two agencies participating in the Initiative; and

(C) interdisciplinary research centers that are organized to investigate basic research questions, carry out technology development and demonstration activities, and increase understanding of how to scale up engineering biology processes, including biomanufacturing;

(2) sustained support for databases and related tools, including—

(A) support for curated genomics, epigenomics, and all other relevant omics databases, including plant and microbial databases, that are available to researchers to carry out engineering biology research;

(B) development of standards for such databases, including for curation, interoperability, and protection of privacy and security; and

(C) support for the development of computational tools, including artificial intelligence tools, that can accelerate research and innovation using such databases; and

(D) an inventory and assessment of all Federal government omics databases to identify opportunities for consolidation and inform investment in such databases as critical infrastructure for the engineering biology research enterprise;

(3) sustained support for the development, optimization, and validation of novel tools and technologies to enable the dynamic study of molecular processes in situ, including through grants to investigators at institutions of higher education and other non-profit research institutions, and through the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, as described in section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638);

(4) education and training of undergraduate and graduate students in engineering biology, in biomanufacturing, in bioprocess engineering, and in areas of computational science applied to engineering biology;

(5) activities to develop robust mechanisms for tracking and quantifying the outputs and economic benefits of engineering biology; and

(6) activities to accelerate the translation and commercialization of new products, processes, and technologies by—

(A) identifying precompetitive research opportunities;

(B) facilitating public-private partnerships in engineering biology research and development;

(C) connecting researchers, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows with entrepreneurship education and training opportunities; and

(D) supporting proof of concept activities and the formation of startup companies including through programs such as the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program.

(c) **EXPANDING PARTICIPATION.**—The Initiative shall include, to the maximum extent practicable, outreach to primarily undergraduate and minority-serving institutions about Initiative opportunities, and shall encourage the development of research collaborations between research-intensive universities and primarily undergraduate and minority-serving institutions.

(d) **ETHICAL, LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, SECURITY, AND SOCIETAL ISSUES.**—Initiative activities shall take into account ethical, legal, environmental, safety, security, and other appropriate societal issues by—

(1) supporting research, including in the social sciences, and other activities addressing ethical, legal, environmental, and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology, including integrating research on such topics with the research and development in engineering biology, and ensuring that the results of such research are widely disseminated, including through interdisciplinary engineering biology research centers described in subsection (b)(1);

(2) supporting research and other activities related to the safety and security implications of engineering biology, including outreach to increase awareness among federally-funded researchers at institutions of higher education about potential safety and security implications of engineering biology research, as appropriate;

(3) ensuring that input from Federal and non-Federal experts on the ethical, legal, environmental, security, and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology is integrated into the Initiative; and

(4) ensuring, through the agencies and departments that participate in the Initiative, that public input and outreach are integrated into the Initiative by the convening of regular and ongoing public discussions through mechanisms such as workshops, consensus conferences, and educational events, as appropriate.

SEC. 5. INITIATIVE COORDINATION.

(a) **INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.**—The President, acting through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall designate an interagency committee to coordinate engineering biology, which shall be co-chaired by the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and include representatives from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture, the National Institutes of Health, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and any other agency that the President considers appropriate (in this section referred to as the “interagency committee”). The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall select an additional co-chairperson from among the members of the Interagency Committee. The Interagency Committee shall oversee the planning, management, and coordination of the Initiative. The Interagency Committee shall—

(1) provide for interagency coordination of Federal engineering biology research, development, and other activities undertaken pursuant to the Initiative;

(2) establish and periodically update goals and priorities for the Initiative;

(3) develop, not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and update every 3 years, a strategic plan that—

(A) guides the activities of the Initiative for purposes of meeting the goals and priorities established under (and updated pursuant to) paragraph (2); and

(B) describes—

(i) the Initiative's support for long-term funding for interdisciplinary engineering biology research and development;

(ii) the Initiative's support for education and public outreach activities;

(iii) the Initiative's support for research and other activities on ethical, legal, environmental, safety, security, and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology;

(iv) how the Initiative will move results out of the laboratory and into application for the benefit of society and United States competitiveness; and

(v) how the Initiative will measure and track the contributions of engineering biology to United States economic growth and other societal indicators;

(4) develop a national genomic sequencing strategy to ensure engineering biology research fully leverages plant, animal, and microbe biodiversity to enhance long-term innovation and competitiveness in engineering biology in the United States;

(5) propose an annually coordinated interagency budget for the Initiative that is intended to ensure—

(A) the maintenance of a robust engineering biology research and development portfolio; and

(B) that the balance of funding across the Initiative is sufficient to meet the goals and priorities established for the Program;

(6) develop a plan to utilize Federal programs, such as the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program as described in section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638), in support of the activities described in section 4(b)(3); and

(7) in carrying out this section, take into consideration the recommendations of the advisory committee established under section 6, the results of the workshop convened under section 7, existing reports on related topics, and the views of academic, State, industry, and other appropriate groups.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Beginning with fiscal year 2020, not later than 90 days after submission of the President's annual budget request and each fiscal year thereafter, the interagency committee shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a summarized agency budget in support of the Initiative for the fiscal year to which such budget request applies, and for the then current fiscal year, including a breakout of spending for each agency participating in the Program and for the development and acquisition of any research facilities and instrumentation; and

(2) an assessment of how Federal agencies are implementing the plan described in subsection (a)(3), and a description of the amount and number of awards made under the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program (as described in section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638)) in support of the Initiative.

(c) **INITIATIVE OFFICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall establish an Initiative Coordination Office, with a Director and full-time staff, which shall—

(A) provide technical and administrative support to the interagency committee and

the advisory committee established under section 6;

(B) serve as the point of contact on Federal engineering biology activities for government organizations, academia, industry, professional societies, State governments, interested citizen groups, and others to exchange technical and programmatic information;

(C) oversee interagency coordination of the Initiative, including by encouraging and supporting joint agency solicitation and selection of applications for funding of activities under the Initiative;

(D) conduct public outreach, including dissemination of findings and recommendations of the advisory committee established under section 6, as appropriate; and

(E) promote access to, and early application of, the technologies, innovations, and expertise derived from Initiative activities to agency missions and systems across the Federal Government, and to United States industry, including startup companies.

(2) **FUNDING.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall develop an estimate of the funds necessary to carry out the activities of the Initiative Coordination Office, including an estimate of how much each participating agency described in subsection (a) will contribute to such funds, and submit such estimate to Congress no later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act.

(3) **TERMINATION.**—The Initiative Coordination Office established under this subsection shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, unless a determination is made by the President that such Office is necessary to meet the economic or national security goals of the Program.

SEC. 6. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President, acting through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall designate or establish an advisory committee on engineering biology research and development (in this section referred to as the “advisory committee”) to be composed of not fewer than 12 members, including representatives of research and academic institutions, industry, and nongovernmental entities, who are qualified to provide advice on the Initiative.

(b) **ASSESSMENT.**—The advisory committee shall assess—

(1) the current state of United States competitiveness in engineering biology, including the scope and scale of United States investments in engineering biology research and development in the international context;

(2) current market barriers to commercialization of engineering biology products, processes, and tools in the United States;

(3) progress made in implementing the Initiative;

(4) the need to revise the Initiative;

(5) the balance of activities and funding across the Initiative;

(6) whether the strategic plan developed or updated by the interagency committee established under section 5 is helping to maintain United States leadership in engineering biology;

(7) the management, coordination, implementation, and activities of the Initiative; and

(8) whether ethical, legal, environmental, safety, security, and other appropriate societal issues are adequately addressed by the Initiative.

(c) **REPORTS.**—Beginning not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, the advisory committee shall submit to the President, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of

the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report on—

(1) the findings of the advisory committee’s assessment under subsection (b); and

(2) the advisory committee’s recommendations for ways to improve the Initiative.

(d) **APPLICATION OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.**—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Committee.

SEC. 7. EXTERNAL REVIEW OF ETHICAL, LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIETAL ISSUES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a review, and make recommendations with respect to, the ethical, legal, environmental, and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology research and development. The review shall include—

(1) an assessment of the current research on such issues;

(2) a description of the research gaps relating to such issues;

(3) recommendations on how the Initiative can address the research needs identified pursuant to paragraph (2); and

(4) recommendations on how engineering biology researchers can best incorporate considerations of ethical, legal, environmental, and other societal issues into the development of research proposals and the conduct of research.

(b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—The agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall require the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the findings and recommendations of the review conducted under subsection (a); and

(2) make a copy of such report available on a publicly accessible website.

SEC. 8. AGENCY ACTIVITIES.

(a) **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.**—As part of the Initiative, the National Science Foundation shall—

(1) support basic research in engineering biology through individual grants and through interdisciplinary research centers;

(2) support research on the environmental, legal, and social implications of engineering biology;

(3) provide support for research instrumentation for engineering biology disciplines, including support for research, development, optimization and validation of novel technologies to enable the dynamic study of molecular processes in situ;

(4) support curriculum development and research experiences for secondary, undergraduate, and graduate students in engineering biology and biomanufacturing; and

(5) award grants, on a competitive basis, to enable institutions to support graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who perform some of their engineering biology research in an industry setting.

(b) **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.**—As part of the Initiative, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall—

(1) establish a bioscience research program to advance the development of standard reference materials and measurements and to create new data tools, techniques, and processes necessary to advance engineering biology and biomanufacturing;

(2) provide access to user facilities with advanced or unique equipment, services, materials, and other resources to industry, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to perform research and testing; and

(3) provide technical expertise to inform the potential development of guidelines or safeguards for new products, processes, and systems of engineering biology.

(c) **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.**—As part of the Initiative, the Secretary of Energy shall—

(1) conduct and support research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities in engineering biology, including in the areas of synthetic biology, advanced biofuel development, biobased materials, and environmental remediation;

(2) support the development, optimization and validation of novel, scalable tools and technologies to enable the dynamic study of molecular processes in situ; and

(3) provide access to user facilities with advanced or unique equipment, services, materials, and other resources, as appropriate, to industry, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to perform research and testing.

(d) **NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.**—As part of the Initiative, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall—

(1) conduct and support basic and applied research in engineering biology, including in synthetic biology, and related to Earth and space sciences, aeronautics, space technology, and space exploration and experimentation, consistent with the priorities established in the National Academies’ decadal surveys; and

(2) award grants, on a competitive basis, that enable institutions to support graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who perform some of their engineering biology research in an industry setting.

(e) **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.**—As part of the Initiative, the Environmental Protection Agency shall support research on how products, processes, and systems of engineering biology will affect or can protect the environment.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 4373, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4373, the Engineering Biology Research and Development Act of 2019.

I want to thank Ranking Member LUCAS for joining me in introducing this legislation.

The term “engineering biology” means the application of engineering

design, principles, and practices to biological systems to advance fundamental understanding of complex natural systems and to enable novel functions and capabilities.

Engineering biology research is used in microbes and plants to grow food more resilient to climate change, reduce our dependency on fossil fuels, and make more effective drugs to treat human diseases. Some researchers are even engineering microbes for environmental cleanup. These are some of our Nation's and world's greatest challenges, and engineering biology is one of our greatest tools.

The economy of the 21st century will be driven by the bioeconomy. Other countries are making significant investments in engineering biology research and development. We must recognize that U.S. leadership is not just about growing our economy and ensuring that our Nation benefits from the products of engineering biology; it is also about leading responsibly.

As China accelerates its own investments and the tools of engineering biology are increasingly cheap and accessible to individuals everywhere, we must also be mindful of the security implications. The potential for misuse of this technology to cause harm makes more urgent our need to invest strategically in engineering biology research today.

Along with authorizing a Federal engineering biology research initiative, this bill would also establish a framework for greater coordination of Federal investments in engineering biology; require a national strategy for those investments; expand public-private partnerships; focus on the education and training for the next generation of engineering biology researchers; and address any potential ethical, security, and societal issues associated with engineering biology research.

It is past time for the United States to recognize the significance of this emerging research area to our economic and national security.

I was disappointed by the lack of such recognition in this administration's last budget request but hopeful to see the tide turning with the convening of a recent White House summit on the bioeconomy.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and with the administration to ensure that the United States will not lose its leadership position in this area.

H.R. 4373 is an important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4373, the Engineering Biology Research and Development Act of 2019.

I was proud to join Chairwoman JOHNSON, as well as Representatives JIM SENSENBRENNER and ZOE LOFGREN, in introducing this bill.

The U.S. was a key driver in biological innovation in the 20th century, but there is increasing global competition. Other countries recognize the benefits of biotech technology and are striving to capture its potential through new investments and friendly regulations.

H.R. 4373 promotes a national research strategy around engineering biology to ensure that the U.S. remains the global leader in biology and biotechnology.

New gene editing techniques like CRISPR and the advancement of rapid gene sequencing are driving innovation in agriculture, medicine, energy, and manufacturing. We must keep pace and set a research and regulatory framework that supports innovation and creates a marketplace for new ideas and projects, while setting the safety and ethical standards for the world to follow.

H.R. 4373 establishes a national engineering biology research and development initiative to provide interagency research coordination and develop a 3-year strategic plan.

The bill also authorizes research at the agencies under the Science Committee's jurisdiction, including the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Energy.

Last month, the White House convened a summit with the Nation's foremost bioeconomy leaders from industry, academia, and government to discuss how to maintain America's leadership in biology for our economic and national security. I hope that summit, along with this legislation, will build momentum for a serious national public-private effort to advance and protect the U.S. bioeconomy.

I urge my colleagues to support this good, bipartisan bill.

I would note to the chairwoman that I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and if the gentleman is ready to close, then I reserve the balance of my time.

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

In both the Agriculture Committee and the Science Committee, we have discussed biotechnology research and regulation for years, but I can't remember a more exciting or challenging time for the field than today. H.R. 4373 will set a national agenda to advance innovation and help us meet those challenges.

I appreciate the chairwoman and her staff for working with us and the biology stakeholder community to produce a good, bipartisan bill. I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

I wish to express my appreciation for Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. LUCAS, Ms. LOFGREN, and myself, and I have no further requests for time.

I would simply urge the passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4373, 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.

SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2051) to provide for Federal coordination of activities supporting sustainable chemistry, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2051

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 "Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Congress recognized the importance and value of sustainable chemistry and the role of the Federal Government in section 114 of the American Innovation and Competitive-ness Act (Public Law 114-329);

(2) sustainable chemistry and materials transformation is a key value contributor to business competitiveness across many industrial and consumer sectors;

(3) companies across hundreds of supply chains critical to the American economy are seeking to reduce costs and open new markets through innovations in manufacturing and materials, and are in need of new innovations in chemistry, including sustainable chemistry;

(4) sustainable chemistry can improve the efficiency with which natural resources are used to meet human needs for chemical products while avoiding environmental harm, reduce or eliminate the emissions of and exposures to hazardous substances, minimize the use of resources, and benefit the economy, people, and the environment; and

(5) a recent report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO-18-307) found that the Federal Government could play an important role in helping realize the full innovation and market potential of sustainable chemistry technologies, including through a coordinated national effort on sustainable chemistry and standardized tools and definitions to support sustainable chemistry research, development, demonstration, and commercialization.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL COORDINATING ENTITY FOR SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall convene an interagency entity (referred to in this Act as the "Entity") under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to coordinate Federal programs and activities in support of sustainable chemistry, including those described in sections 5 and 6.

(b) COORDINATION WITH EXISTING GROUPS.—In convening the Entity, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall consider overlap and possible coordination with existing committees, subcommittees, or other groups of the National Science and Technology Council, such as—

- (1) the Committee on Environment;
- (2) the Committee on Technology;
- (3) the Committee on Science; or
- (4) related groups or subcommittees.

(c) CO-CHAIRS.—The Entity shall be co-chaired by the Office of Science and Technology Policy and a representative from the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Science Foundation, or the Department of Energy, as selected by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(d) AGENCY PARTICIPATION.—The Entity shall include representatives, including subject matter experts, from the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the Office of Management and Budget, and other related Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(e) TERMINATION.—The Entity shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. ROADMAP FOR SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.

(a) ROADMAP.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Entity shall—

(1) consult with relevant stakeholders including representatives from industry, academia, the Federal Government, and international entities to develop and update as needed a consensus definition of “sustainable chemistry” to guide the activities under this Act;

(2) develop a working framework of attributes characterizing and metrics for assessing sustainable chemistry, as described in subsection (b);

(3) assess the state of sustainable chemistry in the United States as a key benchmark from which progress under the activities described in this Act can be measured, including assessing key sectors of the United States economy, key technology platforms, commercial priorities, and barriers to innovation;

(4) coordinate and support Federal research, development, demonstration, technology transfer, commercialization, education, and training efforts in sustainable chemistry, including budget coordination and support for public-private partnerships, as appropriate;

(5) identify methods by which the Federal agencies can facilitate the development of incentives for development, consideration and use of sustainable chemistry processes and products, including innovative financing mechanisms;

(6) identify major scientific challenges, roadblocks, or hurdles to transformational progress in improving the sustainability of the chemical sciences; and

(7) identify other opportunities for expanding Federal efforts in support of sustainable chemistry.

(b) CHARACTERIZING AND ASSESSING SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.—The Entity shall develop a working framework of attributes characterizing and metrics for assessing sustainable chemistry for the purposes of carrying out the Act. In developing this framework, the Entity shall—

(1) seek advice and input from stakeholders as described in subsection (c);

(2) consider existing definitions of or frameworks characterizing and metrics for assessing sustainable chemistry already in use at Federal agencies;

(3) consider existing definitions of or frameworks characterizing and metrics for assessing sustainable chemistry already in use by international organizations of which the United States is a member, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and

(4) consider any other appropriate existing definitions of or frameworks characterizing and metrics for assessing sustainable chemistry.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the duties described in subsections (a) and (b), the Entity shall consult with stakeholders qualified to provide advice and information to guide Federal activities related to sustainable chemistry through workshops, requests for information, and other mechanisms as necessary. The stakeholders shall include representatives from—

(1) business and industry (including trade associations and small- and medium-sized enterprises from across the value chain);

(2) the scientific community (including the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, scientific professional societies, and academia);

(3) the defense community;

(4) State, tribal, and local governments, including nonregulatory State or regional sustainable chemistry programs, as appropriate;

(5) nongovernmental organizations; and

(6) other appropriate organizations.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Entity shall submit a report to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives. In addition to the elements described in subsections (a) and (b), the report shall include—

(A) a summary of federally funded, sustainable chemistry research, development, demonstration, technology transfer, commercialization, education, and training activities;

(B) a summary of the financial resources allocated to sustainable chemistry initiatives;

(C) an assessment of the current state of sustainable chemistry in the United States, including the role that Federal agencies are playing in supporting it;

(D) an analysis of the progress made toward achieving the goals and priorities of this Act, and recommendations for future program activities;

(E) an assessment of the benefits of expanding existing, federally supported, regional innovation and manufacturing hubs, centers, and institutes to include sustainable chemistry and the value of directing the creation of 1 or more dedicated sustainable chemistry centers of excellence, hubs, or institutes; and

(F) an evaluation of steps taken and future strategies to avoid duplication of efforts, streamline interagency coordination, facilitate information sharing, and spread best practices among participating agencies.

(2) SUBMISSION TO GAO.—The Entity shall also submit the report described in paragraph (1) to the Comptroller General of the United States for consideration in future Congressional inquiries.

SEC. 5. AGENCY ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The agencies participating in the Entity shall carry out activities in support of sustainable chemistry, as appropriate to the specific mission and programs of each agency.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities described in subsection (a) shall—

(1) incorporate sustainable chemistry into existing research, development, demonstration, technology transfer, commercialization, education, and training programs, that the agency determines to be relevant, including consideration of—

(A) merit-based competitive grants to individual investigators and teams of investigators, including, to the extent practicable, early career investigators for research and development;

(B) grants to fund collaborative research and development partnerships among universities, industry, and nonprofit organizations;

(C) coordination of sustainable chemistry research, development, demonstration, and technology transfer conducted at Federal laboratories and agencies;

(D) incentive prize competitions and challenges in coordination with such existing Federal agency programs; and

(E) grants, loans, and loan guarantees to aid in the technology transfer and commercialization of sustainable chemicals, materials, processes, and products;

(2) collect and disseminate information on sustainable chemistry research, development, technology transfer, and commercialization, including information on accomplishments and best practices;

(3) raise awareness of sustainable chemistry concepts through public outreach activities;

(4) expand the education and training of students at all levels of education, professional scientists and engineers, and other professionals involved in all aspects of sustainable chemistry and engineering appropriate to that level of education and training, including through—

(A) partnerships with industry as described in section 6;

(B) support for the integration of sustainable chemistry principles into elementary, secondary, undergraduate, and graduate chemistry and chemical engineering curriculum and research training, as appropriate to that level of education and training; and

(C) support for integration of sustainable chemistry principles into existing or new professional development opportunities for professionals including teachers, faculty, and individuals involved in laboratory research, (product development, materials specification and testing, life cycle analysis, and management);

(5) as relevant to an agency's programs, examine methods by which the Federal agencies, in collaboration and consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, may facilitate the development or recognition of validated, standardized tools for performing sustainability assessments of chemistry processes or products;

(6) through programs identified by an agency, support (including through technical assistance, participation, financial support, communications tools, awards, or other forms of support) outreach and dissemination of sustainable chemistry advances such as non-Federal symposia, forums, conferences, and publications in collaboration with, as appropriate, industry, academia, scientific and professional societies, and other relevant groups;

(7) provide for public input and outreach to be integrated into the activities described in

this section by the convening of public discussions, through mechanisms such as public meetings, consensus conferences, and educational events, as appropriate;

(8) within each agency, develop metrics to track the outputs and outcomes of the programs supported by that agency; and

(9) incentivize or recognize actions that advance sustainable chemistry products, processes, or initiatives, including through the establishment of a nationally recognized awards program through the Environmental Protection Agency to identify, publicize, and celebrate innovations in sustainable chemistry and chemical technologies.

(c) **LIMITATIONS.**—Financial support provided under this section shall—

(1) be available only for pre-competitive activities; and

(2) not be used to promote the sale of a specific product, process, or technology, or to disparage a specific product, process, or technology.

(d) **AGENCY BUDGET REPORT.**—For each of fiscal years 2021 through 2030, not later than 90 days after submission of the President's annual budget request, the Entity shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that includes a summarized agency budget in support of the activities under this Act for the fiscal year to which such budget request applies, and for the then current fiscal year, including a breakout of spending for each agency participating in such activities.

SEC. 6. PARTNERSHIPS IN SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The agencies participating in the Entity may facilitate and support, through financial, technical, or other assistance, the creation of partnerships between institutions of higher education, nongovernmental organizations, consortia, or companies across the value chain in the chemical industry, including small- and medium-sized enterprises, to—

(1) create collaborative sustainable chemistry research, development, demonstration, technology transfer, and commercialization programs; and

(2) train students and retrain professional scientists, engineers, and others involved in materials specification on the use of sustainable chemistry concepts and strategies by methods, including—

(A) developing or recognizing curricular materials and courses for undergraduate and graduate levels and for the professional development of scientists, engineers, and others involved in materials specification; and

(B) publicizing the availability of professional development courses in sustainable chemistry and recruiting professionals to pursue such courses.

(b) **PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION.**—To be eligible for support under this section, a partnership in sustainable chemistry shall include at least one private sector organization.

(c) **SELECTION OF PARTNERSHIPS.**—In selecting partnerships for support under this section, the agencies participating in the Entity shall also consider the extent to which the applicants are willing and able to demonstrate evidence of support for, and commitment to, the goals outlined in the roadmap and report described in section 4.

(d) **PROHIBITED USE OF FUNDS.**—Financial support provided under this section may not be used—

(1) to support or expand a regulatory chemical management program at an implementing agency under a State law;

(2) to construct or renovate a building or structure; or

(3) to promote the sale of a specific product, process, or technology, or to disparage a specific product, process, or technology.

SEC. 7. PRIORITIZATION.

In carrying out this Act, the Entity shall focus its support for sustainable chemistry activities on those that achieve, to the highest extent practicable, the goals outlined in the Act.

SEC. 8. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to alter or amend any State law or action with regard to sustainable chemistry, as defined by the State.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 2051, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2051, the Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2019.

I want to thank Representatives LIPINSKI and MOOLENAAR for introducing this good, bipartisan bill.

Chemistry touches every aspect of modern society. As the chemical industry continues to innovate to make our lives easier, we must do more to minimize the risks to the environment and to public health. Sustainable chemistry practices and principles, once widely adopted, will provide the private sector with tools to meet societal needs while mitigating negative impacts on the health and safety of future generations.

Unfortunately, progress in adopting this approach has been slow. As we learned during the Science Committee hearing on this topic earlier this year, the key challenges include a lack of research, a lack of Federal coordination, a lack of consensus regarding how sustainability should be measured and assessed, and a need for improved sustainable chemistry education.

This legislation establishes the framework for Federal leadership to advance sustainable chemistry. Specifically, the bill provides for improved coordination of Federal activities, including research and development of more sustainable chemicals, processes, and systems.

The bill also supports improved education in sustainable chemistry and expands opportunities for the Federal

Government to partner with industry to bring innovations to market.

When the Federal science agencies support our Nation's scientists and engineers to come up with better solutions to real-world problems, our brightest minds will always rise to the challenge.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2051, the Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2019.

H.R. 2051 provides for Federal coordination of research and development for new innovations in chemistry, manufacturing, and materials. This bill continues the Science Committee's bipartisan commitment to prioritizing fundamental research that leads to new technologies that will drive the American economy into the future.

Chemistry is essential to our economy and plays a vital role in helping solve the biggest challenges facing the Nation and our world. From farming to medicine, chemical manufacturing touches our lives every day.

There is market demand for chemical products that use resources more efficiently and are safer for both humans and the environment. Consumers also want these products to be just as effective, or more effective, than the traditional chemical products. H.R. 2051 will help support the research, training, and standards needed to meet these demands.

It is rare that a bill has the fundamental endorsement of both chemical companies and environmental advocates.

I thank the bill's sponsors, Representative DAN LIPINSKI and Representative JOHN MOOLENAAR, for their leadership on this issue and for developing a good consensus bill. I encourage my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR), who has been a pleasure to work with, both on scientific matters and on a variety of financial service interests, too.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman DAN LIPINSKI for his leadership on this legislation. As always, I have enjoyed working with him and serving with him as the founding co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Chemistry Caucus here in the House.

Chemistry has improved the daily lives of every American, and I want to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS for their leadership working together to bring the Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2019 to the floor this year. This legislation will further the incredible progress chemistry has already

made in the daily lives of people around the world, with new and exciting products and lifesaving cures and innovations.

Chemistry also employs hundreds of thousands of people in good-paying jobs and has made the country the world leader in an endless list of industries and fields. Today's legislation will help that progress continue by directing the Federal Government to improve its coordination of sustainable chemistry research.

The Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2019 will bring together the Federal Government, the private sector, and the scientific community to support groundbreaking research in chemistry and keep our Nation at the forefront of innovation.

I thank my colleagues for their support.

□ 1530

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, to ensure the continued leadership of the United States in science and technology, we must invest in research that will lead to the industries of the future. The Sustainable Chemistry Act of 2019 will keep our country at the forefront of chemistry innovation and help create new products that will benefit all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2051, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I simply wish to thank our authors and our staff, and I urge passage of this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2051, 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.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF STEM ACT

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 737) to direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM education research focused on early childhood.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 737

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 "Building Blocks of STEM Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The National Science Foundation is a large investor in STEM education and plays

a key role in setting research and policy agendas.

(2) While studies have found that children who engage in scientific activities from an early age develop positive attitudes toward science and are more likely to pursue STEM expertise and careers later on, the majority of current research focuses on increasing STEM opportunities for middle school-aged children and older.

(3) Women remain widely underrepresented in the STEM workforce, and this disparity extends down through all levels of education.

SEC. 3. SUPPORTING EARLY CHILDHOOD AND ELEMENTARY STEM EDUCATION RESEARCH.

In awarding grants under the Discovery Research PreK–12 program, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall consider the age distribution of a STEM education research and development project to improve the focus of research and development on elementary and prekindergarten education.

SEC. 4. SUPPORTING FEMALE STUDENTS IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN STEM EDUCATION.

Section 305(d) of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s–5(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3) RESEARCH.—As a component of improving participation of women in STEM fields, research funded by a grant under this subsection may include research on—

"(A) the role of teacher training and professional development, including effective incentive structures to encourage teachers to participate in such training and professional development, in encouraging or discouraging female students in prekindergarten through elementary school from participating in STEM activities;

"(B) the role of teachers in shaping perceptions of STEM in female students in prekindergarten through elementary school and discouraging such students from participating in STEM activities;

"(C) the role of other facets of the learning environment on the willingness of female students in prekindergarten through elementary school to participate in STEM activities, including learning materials and textbooks, seating arrangements, use of media and technology, classroom culture, and composition of students during group work;

"(D) the role of parents and other caregivers in encouraging or discouraging female students in prekindergarten through elementary school from participating in STEM activities;

"(E) the types of STEM activities that encourage greater participation by female students in prekindergarten through elementary school;

"(F) the role of mentorship and best practices in finding and utilizing mentors; and

"(G) the role of informal and after-school STEM learning opportunities on the perception of and participation in STEM activities of female students in prekindergarten through elementary school."

SEC. 5. SUPPORTING FEMALE STUDENTS IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION.

Section 310(b) of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s–7(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3) USES OF FUNDS.—The tools and models described in paragraph (2)(C) may include—

"(A) offering training and professional development programs, including summer or academic year institutes or workshops, designed to strengthen the capabilities of prekindergarten and elementary school teachers and to familiarize such teachers with the

role of bias against female students in the classroom;

"(B) offering innovative pre-service and in-service programs that instruct teachers on female-inclusive practices for teaching computing concepts;

"(C) developing distance learning programs for teachers or students, including developing curricular materials, play-based computing activities, and other resources for the in-service professional development of teachers that are made available to teachers through the Internet;

"(D) developing or adapting prekindergarten and elementary school computer science curricular materials that incorporate contemporary research on the science of learning, particularly with respect to female inclusion;

"(E) developing and offering female-inclusive computer science enrichment programs for students, including after-school and summer programs;

"(F) providing mentors for female students in prekindergarten through elementary school to support such students in participating in computer science activities;

"(G) engaging female students in prekindergarten through elementary school, and their guardians (if such communication takes place on school premises during otherwise-scheduled conferences or formal conversations between teachers and guardians) about—

"(i) the difficulties faced by female students with regard to maintaining an interest in participating in computer science activities; and

"(ii) the potential positive career benefits of engaging in such activities;

"(H) acquainting female students in prekindergarten through elementary school with careers in computer science and encouraging such students to consider careers in the computer science field; and

"(I) developing tools to evaluate activities conducted under this subsection, including reports for evaluating the effectiveness of activities under this section."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 737, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 737, the Building Blocks of STEM Act.

The demand for computer science skills is on the rise across all sectors of the economy. To ensure that we have the capacity to meet that demand, we must attract more students to study computer science. A major challenge for increasing the number of computer science graduates is the low participation of women.

Even as access to high school computer science courses increases, female participation remains low. At high schools offering advanced placement courses in computer science, only 23 percent of the students taking the exam are girls.

Research shows us that interventions at the high school level may come too late. Girls as young as 6 years old are internalizing gender-based stereotypes that discourage them from engaging in STEM activities, including computer science.

The Building Blocks of STEM Act directs the National Science Foundation to support research into factors that contribute to the early adoption of these stereotypes. The bill also directs the National Science Foundation to support the development of models for intervention to prevent or reverse the effects of these negative and false stereotypes.

I thank my colleagues Representatives STEVENS and BAIRD and Senators ROSEN and CAPITO for their leadership on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

How appropriate that today the House is taking up S. 737, the Building Blocks of STEM Act, just as the Nation kicks off a celebration of Computer Science Education Week.

S. 737, the Building Blocks of STEM Act, is important, bipartisan legislation to improve science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science, or STEM, education. It directs the National Science Foundation to support STEM research focused on early childhood education and to award grants to encourage young girls to pursue computer science learning. Studies have found that children who engage in scientific activities from an early age develop positive attitudes toward science and are more likely to pursue STEM expertise and careers.

Across the country, the share of STEM jobs has expanded significantly, with STEM employment nearly doubling over the last 30 years. Currently, there are over half a million open computing jobs in the United States, in every industry and in every State. This demand is projected to grow at twice the rate of any other field, and America is failing to meet it.

We can succeed, though, and we can do it by encouraging children, particularly young girls, in STEM in early childhood and sustaining that interest as they grow.

More students with STEM degrees means more advanced American technologies and a more robust economy. But it is not just about the economy. STEM graduates have the potential to develop technologies that can save thousands of lives, jump-start a new industry, or even discover new worlds.

It has been shown that female students who learn computer science be-

fore college are 10 times more likely to major in it. By supporting more hands-on STEM engagement at younger ages, we are supporting and investing in America's future.

I thank Representative BAIRD and Representative STEVENS for their leadership on this bill. The House previously passed this legislation in July and sent it to the Senate for consideration. We are considering it again today with some minor changes from our Senate colleagues.

I encourage my colleagues to again support this legislation and send it to the President's desk for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, the love of learning starts young, and the Building Blocks of STEM bill promotes this by prioritizing a focus on early childhood STEM education. It gives us the opportunity to encourage girls to get involved and stay engaged in STEM, helping us improve our educational programs and diversify the STEM workforce.

Again, I thank Representative BAIRD and Representative STEVENS for leading this bipartisan bill. As the House did in July, I encourage this body to again support and unanimously pass this legislation and send it to the President's desk for his signature.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation for the leadership of Representatives STEVENS and BAIRD; Senators ROSEN and CAPITO; and the ranking member, Mr. LUCAS. I urge that we pass this important piece of legislation.

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 737, the Building Blocks of STEM Act.

I was proud to join my colleague, the Chair of the Research and Technology Subcommittee, Representative Haley Stevens in introducing the House version of this legislation, which unanimously passed this Chamber in July, and am pleased to be speaking today on the nearly identical Senate version of the bill.

As one of only two members of Congress with a PhD in science, I understand the importance of teaching STEM concepts and principles at an early age.

Fostering the natural curiosity that children possess is critical to expanding their interests in science, technology, engineering, and math. Research confirms that kids as young as one, two, or three are capable of absorbing STEM concepts.

Equally important is ensuring that we get more girls involved in the STEM fields, so that we have as many people as possible contributing to the knowledge base of our society.

Like the House version, S. 737 directs NSF to fund research and grants that focus on early childhood and young women in STEM at the K through 12 level.

This bill helps ensure we are preparing our future workforce to fill the jobs of the future.

By passing this important legislation we will continue America's global leadership in science and technology.

I ask my colleagues to support the bill and send it to the President's desk for his signature.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 737.

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.

IDENTIFYING OUTPUTS OF GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORKS ACT

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4355) to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4355

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 "Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act" or the "IOGAN Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Research gaps currently exist on the underlying technology needed to develop tools to identify authentic videos, voice reproduction, or photos from manipulated or synthesized content, including those generated by generative adversarial networks.

(2) The National Science Foundation's focus to support research in artificial intelligence through computer and information science and engineering, cognitive science and psychology, economics and game theory, control theory, linguistics, mathematics, and philosophy, is building a better understanding of how new technologies are shaping the society and economy of the United States.

(3) The National Science Foundation has identified the "10 Big Ideas for NSF Future Investment" including "Harnessing the Data Revolution" and the "Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier", in which artificial intelligence is a critical component.

(4) The outputs generated by generative adversarial networks should be included under the umbrella of research described in paragraph (3) given the grave national security and societal impact potential of such networks.

(5) Generative adversarial networks are not likely to be utilized as the sole technique of artificial intelligence or machine learning capable of creating credible deepfakes and other comparable techniques may be developed in the future to produce similar outputs.

SEC. 3. NSF SUPPORT OF RESEARCH ON MANIPULATED OR SYNTHESIZED CONTENT AND INFORMATION SECURITY.

The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies, shall support merit-reviewed and competitively awarded research on manipulated or synthesized content and information authenticity, which may include—

(1) fundamental research on digital forensic tools or other technologies for verifying the authenticity of information and detection of manipulated or synthesized content, including content generated by generative adversarial networks;

(2) fundamental research on technical tools for identifying manipulated or synthesized content, such as watermarking systems for generated media;

(3) social and behavioral research related to manipulated or synthesized content, including the ethics of the technology and human engagement with the content;

(4) research on public understanding and awareness of manipulated and synthesized content, including research on best practices for educating the public to discern authenticity of digital content; and

(5) research awards coordinated with other federal agencies and programs including the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Agency.

SEC. 4. NIST SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND STANDARDS ON GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORKS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall support research for the development of measurements and standards necessary to accelerate the development of the technological tools to examine the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

(b) *OUTREACH.*—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall conduct outreach—

(1) to receive input from private, public, and academic stakeholders on fundamental measurements and standards research necessary to examine the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks; and

(2) to consider the feasibility of an ongoing public and private sector engagement to develop voluntary standards for the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO DETECT MANIPULATED OR SYNTHESIZED CONTENT.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall jointly submit to the Committee on Space, Science, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation a report containing—

(1) the Directors' findings with respect to the feasibility for research opportunities with the private sector, including digital media companies to detect the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content; and

(2) any policy recommendations of the Directors that could facilitate and improve communication and coordination between the private sector, the National Science Foundation, and relevant Federal agencies through the implementation of innovative approaches to detect digital content produced by generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

SEC. 6. GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORK DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “generative adversarial network” means, with respect to artificial intelligence, the machine learning process of attempting to cause a generator artificial neural network (referred to in this paragraph as the “generator”) and a discriminator artificial neural network (referred to in this paragraph as a

“discriminator”) to compete against each other to become more accurate in their function and outputs, through which the generator and discriminator create a feedback loop, causing the generator to produce increasingly higher-quality artificial outputs and the discriminator to increasingly improve in detecting such artificial outputs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4355, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4355, the Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act.

Deepfake technology, which manipulates photos, videos, or audio clips to produce content that seems real but is not, has become increasingly commonplace in recent years. This increase in prevalence has been spurred, in part, by increases in computing power, widespread availability of images and other data, and the use of artificial intelligence.

In many cases, the applications of this technology may be benign, but bad actors can also use this technology to spread disinformation and cause great harm to individuals, organizations, and society as a whole.

During the Science, Space, and Technology Committee hearing on online imposters and disinformation earlier this year, one of the witnesses showed us a demonstration of a deepfake video in which he swapped the likenesses of two Members of Congress at the hearing.

Despite the spread and potential harm of deepfake technology, there are currently no sure-fire methods of identifying and distinguishing manipulated content from authentic content. The ability to differentiate between manipulated and authentic content is essential to maintaining our national and economic security and protecting against malicious use of these technologies.

H.R. 4355 leverages the strengths of the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology by directing these agencies to support research on manipulated or synthesized content in order to help develop the standards and other tools necessary to detect this content.

I commend my colleagues Representatives GONZALEZ, STEVENS, and BAIRD

for their excellent leadership on this bipartisan legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to join in passing this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4355, the Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act introduced by Representative ANTHONY GONZALEZ. This bill addresses the underlying technologies for digital content commonly referred to as “deepfakes.” This technology uses machine learning to manipulate videos and other digital content to produce misleading and false products.

These technologies are becoming more sophisticated and, in the wrong hands, present a serious security threat. As we know, bad actors are already using disinformation to disrupt civil society and try to sow divisions among Americans.

H.R. 4355 supports the fundamental research necessary to better understand the underlying technology, to develop tools to identify manipulated content, and to better understand how humans interact with this generated content.

The bill also tasks the National Institute of Standards and Technology with bringing together the private sector and government agencies to discuss how to advance innovation in this area responsibly.

I applaud Mr. GONZALEZ' bipartisan work on this bill and his leadership on the issue of technology and security.

I thank the chairwoman and her staff for moving H.R. 4355 forward. There is a lot of fundamental research that needs to be done to better understand the technologies driving deepfakes and their impact on society. H.R. 4355 will help support that research.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation for all the Members who have been working on this very important bipartisan legislation. I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1545

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4355, 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.

VIRGINIA BEACH STRONG ACT

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4566) to accelerate

the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the families of victims of the mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 31, 2019.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4566

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 “Virginia Beach Strong Act”.

SEC. 2. SPECIAL RULES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RELIEF OF THE FAMILIES OF THE MASS SHOOTING IN VIRGINIA BEACH.

(a) CLARIFICATION THAT CONTRIBUTION WILL NOT FAIL TO QUALIFY AS A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION.—A cash contribution made for the relief of the families of the dead or wounded victims of the mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 31, 2019, shall not fail to be treated as a charitable contribution for purposes of section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 merely because such contribution is for the exclusive benefit of such families. The preceding sentence shall apply to contributions made on or after May 31, 2019.

(b) CLARIFICATION THAT PAYMENTS BY CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS TO FAMILIES TREATED AS EXEMPT PAYMENTS.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, payments made on or after May 31, 2019, and on or before June 1, 2021, to the spouse or any dependent (as defined in section 152 of such Code) of the dead or wounded victims of the mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 31, 2019, by an organization which (determined without regard to any such payments) would be an organization exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code shall—

(1) be treated as related to the purpose or function constituting the basis for such organization’s exemption under such section; and

(2) shall not be treated as inuring to the benefit of any private individual,

if such payments are made in good faith using a reasonable and objective formula which is consistently applied with respect to such victims.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. 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 gentlewoman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Virginia Beach Strong Act, a bill authored by my friend and colleague from Virginia, Congresswoman ELAINE LURIA, to ensure that donations to the victims of the Vir-

ginia Beach shooting are tax deductible.

Mr. Speaker, the Virginia Beach community experienced unspeakable tragedy earlier this year when a mass shooting at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center resulted in the deaths of 12 people.

In the face of this terrible tragedy, leaders throughout the city came together and quickly established a fund to support victims, survivors, and their families. The outpouring of support from the community was profound, with over \$4 million in donations to the fund.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, these donations are arguably not considered tax deductible charitable contributions because they are divided among specified individuals rather than an organization. A technical fix in the Tax Code would address this issue. This legislation before us today would fix this issue for the Virginia Beach Tragedy Fund and ensure that these donations are tax deductible.

While nothing can reverse the pain of this terrible tragedy, the bipartisan, commonsense bill before us today is an important step toward helping the victims and their families and incentivizing further contributions to the fund. I am proud to stand with the Virginia Beach community in support of this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as we know, a senseless act of violence struck the Virginia Beach community on May 31 of this year. A disgruntled city employee, for no apparent reason other than he may have been offended by some negative reviews of his job performance, walked into a public works building in Virginia Beach an hour before closing and opened fire on innocent and defenseless people, killing 12 and injuring 6 others.

These kinds of events are hard to understand, but it is great to see the community reach out and help. We know that there are always many folks who help around these communities when it is so obvious, and, when confronted with tragedy, they always respond with bravery and generosity.

In acknowledging the bravery of helpers, we would be remiss if we do not honor the first police officers who arrived on the scene, who ran toward danger instead of away from it. They took down the mass murderer before he could cause even more bloodshed. In the process, one of their own was injured in the firefight, his life spared only by a bulletproof vest.

The bill we are considering and, hopefully, passing today is about another set of those who helped, those who also responded with generosity.

As was the case with many other tragic events in our history, a special

fund was set up to help the victims of the May 31 shooting. Under normal tax rules, a special fund like this raises at least three questions:

First, are the payments to these victims from the special fund subject to taxes?

Second, since charities are not supposed to operate for the benefit of special individuals, would payments to a relatively small number of individuals destroy the tax-exempt status of any charity or foundation administering the victims’ fund?

And third, are donations to the special fund for victims eligible for a charitable tax deduction?

The Virginia Beach Strong Act ensures the answers to these questions match what common sense tells us they should be:

No, victims of the Virginia Beach shooting and their families will not be taxed on these payments to provide some financial relief for the harm caused by horrors they suffered.

No, these payments will not threaten the tax-exempt status of organizations which make the payments to victims and their families.

And, lastly, yes, donations to the Virginia Beach Tragedy Fund will be eligible for the charitable tax deduction.

Mr. Speaker, this is our opportunity to be assisting those who need help, as well as by clarifying the tax questions of victims, donors, and charitable organizations. This should be actually considered as a no-brainer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Virginia Beach Strong Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA).

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of my bipartisan and bicameral bill, H.R. 4566, the Virginia Beach Strong Act.

Just over 6 months ago, our Virginia Beach community suffered a devastating tragedy. On May 31, 12 wonderful people lost their lives in a mass shooting in the Virginia Beach Municipal Center.

During our great city’s darkest hour, we showed the world the strength and resolve that makes us Virginia Beach Strong. We saw first responders heroically running into building 2, sacrificing their safety to save others; doctors working long hours to provide victims with expert care; and many other displays of courage.

May 31, 2019, was a day that will change Virginia Beach forever. We will always remember the 12 individuals we lost that day and their irreplaceable contributions to our Virginia Beach Strong community. My heart continues to grieve for those who lost their lives, their families, and everyone who loved them.

Today, many families of the victims are still facing financial hardships related to the shooting, in addition to the unfathomable loss of a loved one.

In the aftermath of May 31, the city of Virginia Beach established a fund to help victims, survivors, and their families. Unfortunately, a technicality in the Tax Code means that these donations will likely not be considered tax deductible. That is why I introduced the Virginia Beach Strong Act.

The Virginia Beach Strong Act would make it easier to help bring urgently needed support to our community's grieving families. This bipartisan bill would ensure that all donations made to immediate family members of the victims on or after May 31 will be considered tax deductible. It is narrowly written so it does not make any broader changes to our Tax Code or to the nonprofit status.

Today, we all have the opportunity to make a profound difference for the families that have been through unimaginable pain following the Virginia Beach mass shooting.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues in the Virginia delegation for their support, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4566, the Virginia Beach Strong Act.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, just to add emphasis to the reason why we are here: We appreciate those around the community and, actually, probably around the country who want to help, certainly, victims in need, and I would hope that we would adjust our tax policy accordingly, certainly to perhaps meet expectations that could not otherwise be met, but also to encourage others to contribute as well.

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in closing, we must take action to fix the tax deductibility of these donations to the Virginia Beach Tragedy Fund, which has done so much to help the community recover from this unspeakable tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my profound condolences and also congratulate Mrs. LURIA on this wonderful piece of legislation that will truly benefit those who were tragically lost and their families, as well as first responders.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member to support this important legislation. It is truly bicameral and bipartisan and deserves to pass. I support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4566.

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.

□ 1600

COVERT TESTING AND RISK MITIGATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3469) to direct the Transportation Security Administration to carry out covert testing and risk mitigation improvement of aviation security operations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3469

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 "Covert Testing and Risk Mitigation Improvement Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. TSA COVERT TESTING AND RISK MITIGATION IMPROVEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall implement the following:

(1) A system for conducting risk-informed headquarters-based covert tests of aviation security operations, including relating to airport passenger and baggage security screening operations, that can yield statistically valid data that can be used to identify and assess the nature and extent of vulnerabilities to such operations that are not mitigated by current security practices. The Administrator shall execute annually not fewer than three risk-informed covert testing projects designed to identify systemic vulnerabilities in the transportation security system, and shall document the assumptions and rationale guiding the selection of such projects.

(2) A long-term headquarters-based covert testing program, employing static but risk-informed threat vectors, designed to assess changes in overall screening effectiveness.

(b) MITIGATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall establish a system to address and mitigate the vulnerabilities identified and assessed pursuant to the testing conducted under subsection (a).

(2) ANALYSIS.—Not later than 60 days after the identification of any such vulnerability, the Administrator shall ensure a vulnerability described in paragraph (1) is analyzed to determine root causes.

(3) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 120 days after the identification of any such vulnerability, the Administrator shall make a determination regarding whether or not to mitigate such vulnerability. The Administrator shall prioritize mitigating vulnerabilities based on their ability to reduce risk. If the Administrator determines—

(A) to not mitigate such vulnerability, the Administrator shall document the reasons for the decision; or

(B) to mitigate such vulnerability, the Administrator shall establish and document—

(i) key milestones appropriate for the level of effort required to so mitigate such vulnerability; and

(ii) a date by which measures to so mitigate such vulnerability shall be implemented by the Transportation Security Administration.

(4) RETESTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which measures to mitigate a vulnerability are completed by the Trans-

portation Security Administration pursuant to paragraph (3)(B)(ii), the Administrator shall conduct a covert test in accordance with subsection (a) of the aviation security operation with respect to which such vulnerability was identified to assess the effectiveness of such measures to mitigate such vulnerability.

(c) COMPILATION OF LISTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after completing a covert testing protocol under subsection (a), the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall compile a list (including a classified annex if necessary) of the vulnerabilities identified and assessed pursuant to such testing. Each such list shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

(A) A brief description of the nature of each vulnerability so identified and assessed.

(B) The date on which each vulnerability was so identified and assessed.

(C) Key milestones appropriate for the level of effort required to mitigate each vulnerability, as well as an indication of whether each such milestone has been met.

(D) An indication of whether each vulnerability has been mitigated or reduced and, if so, the date on which each such vulnerability was so mitigated or reduced.

(E) If a vulnerability has not been fully mitigated, the date by which the Administrator shall so mitigate such vulnerability or a determination that it is not possible to fully mitigate such vulnerability.

(F) The results of any subsequent covert testing undertaken to assess whether mitigation efforts have eliminated or reduced each vulnerability.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a comprehensive document tracking the status of the information required under paragraph (1) together with the Transportation Security Administration's annual budget request.

(d) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall review and submit to the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the effectiveness of the Transportation Security Administration's processes for conducting covert testing projects that yield statistically valid data that can be used to assess the nature and extent of vulnerabilities to aviation security operations that are not effectively mitigated by current security operations.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3469, the Covert Testing and Risk Mitigation Improvement Act of 2019.

Before I begin, I would like to take a moment to recognize my dear friend and colleague, Chairman Elijah Cummings, who sponsored this legislation. Less than 2 months ago, the House lost a great leader. Chairman Cummings dedicated his life to fighting for justice and democracy for his constituents in his native city of Baltimore and for the American people.

Today, the House will honor his legacy in the best way we can: by passing a bill he wrote to ensure that TSA does effective oversight of its airport screening operations that are essential to protecting American lives.

Mr. Speaker, the Transportation Security Administration faces serious challenges in identifying and resolving security vulnerabilities in its airport security operations. Specifically, in April 2019, the Government Accountability Office found that TSA was not conducting its covert testing of screening operations in a risk-informed way and that TSA has limited assurance that its tests were targeted at the most likely threats.

H.R. 3469 seeks to make major improvements to TSA's covert testing processes by requiring TSA to identify, document, and mitigate security vulnerabilities found through these tests.

It requires TSA to develop a risk-informed process for its covert testing program and conduct at least three tests a year to identify vulnerabilities in the transportation security system.

Importantly, H.R. 3469 requires TSA to document all vulnerabilities it identifies and how it plans to mitigate them.

Finally, it requires GAO to submit a report on the effectiveness of TSA's covert testing program within 3 years of enactment.

Simply put, H.R. 3469 seeks to enhance TSA's capacity to identify and mitigate vulnerabilities to the security of our transportation systems.

I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, sponsored by our beloved, departed colleague, to help ensure our transportation security systems are as effective as they can be.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3469, the Covert Testing and Risk Mitigation Improvement Act of 2019, sponsored by our late colleague, the greatly admired Elijah Cummings.

H.R. 3469 responds to identified gaps in the covert testing conducted by the Transportation Security Administration on aviation security concerns. It is critical that our bipartisan congressional oversight be aimed at improving

the security of the traveling public and the effectiveness of TSA operations.

This legislation not only requires TSA to develop a system for conducting risk-informed covert tests but also holds TSA accountable for retesting and risk mitigation efforts. The traveling public deserves the most effective security, and I support the efforts of H.R. 3469 to improve the public's confidence in aviation security.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and honor the legacy of leadership left by Chairman Cummings.

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from Louisiana closes.

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the congresswoman from New York, my colleague, aware that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the threats to our Nation's transportation security are real. We also know that, as the main Federal agency responsible for the security of our transportation system, TSA has a critical mission for identifying and mitigating such threats. To be effective, TSA must have a risk-informed covert testing regime that allows it to do effective oversight of its security operations.

H.R. 3469 would improve TSA's testing programs to ensure they can identify vulnerabilities to the transportation system and properly address them to keep our Nation safe.

Mr. Speaker, as such, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, H.R. 3469, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3469.

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.

DHS OPIOID DETECTION RESILIENCE ACT OF 2019

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4761

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 "DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. STRATEGY TO ENSURE DETECTION OF ALL OPIOID PURITY LEVELS AT PORTS OF ENTRY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shall—

(1) implement a strategy to ensure deployed chemical screening devices are able to identify in an operational environment narcotics at purity levels less than or equal to 10 percent, or provide ports of entry with an alternate method for identifying narcotics at lower purity levels; and

(2) require testing of any new chemical screening devices to understand the abilities and limitations of such devices relating to identifying narcotics at various purity levels before CBP commits to the acquisition of such devices.

SEC. 3. PLAN TO ENSURE OPIOID DETECTION EQUIPMENT RESILIENCY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall implement a plan for the long-term development of a centralized spectral database for chemical screening devices. Such plan shall address the following:

(1) How newly identified spectra will be collected, stored, and distributed to such devices in their operational environment, including at ports of entry.

(2) Identification of parties responsible for updates and maintenance of such database.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, every American community, in one way or another, has been impacted by the opioid crisis. This crisis, already two decades old, continues to grow and evolve.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 28,000 people in the United States overdosed or died from synthetic opioids in 2017 alone. Virtually all types of opioids, whether finished heroin or potent synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, cross our borders through our ports of entry.

Transnational criminal organizations hide illicit narcotics in legitimate

cross-border cargo, making detection a significant challenge. The potency of these narcotics also varies by the method used to smuggle it into the country.

With fentanyl, we now know that shipments coming through our international mail system often have higher purity levels than those smuggled in cargo crossing our land borders. Often, the majority of fentanyl and other opioids seized at land ports of entry have a purity level of less than 10 percent, making it possible to sell these drugs in our communities faster.

Fighting back against this tactic requires U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, to have adequate detection technology to interject these opioids before they reach our communities.

However, in September of 2019, the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, Office of Inspector General reported that CBP purchased technology to screen for synthetic opioids that was unable to identify fentanyl and other synthetic opioids with purity levels below 10 percent.

H.R. 4761, the DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019, is a bipartisan bill meant to address this capability gap. It requires CBP to implement a strategy to ensure its chemical screening devices can identify narcotics, including opioids and synthetic opioids, that are less than 10 percent in concentration.

The bill also requires that CBP follow best practices and good government standards by testing new devices to understand their capabilities and limitations prior to deployment.

Recognizing that drug traffickers change their tactics and the chemicals used as precursors, H.R. 4761 also requires DHS to take steps toward developing a centralized database for chemical screening devices. This would mean that, as new chemicals are identified, their specific signatures will be more readily detected by the screening devices used by CBP's frontline personnel.

DHS must continually adapt and stay ahead of the criminal organizations seeking to exploit our systems. An effective and enhanced detection capability is a critical tool to accomplishing that mission.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, November 20, 2019.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 4761, the DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019, the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over

the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letter on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 4761.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, November 21, 2019.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4761, the "DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019." The Committee on Homeland Security recognizes that the Committee on Ways and Means has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 4761, and I appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

I concur with you that forgoing action on the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 4761 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, U.S. Customs and Border Protection law enforcement officers are the first line of defense in preventing the illicit flow of drugs and contraband from entering our country.

I walked the border with my brothers and sisters of the thin blue line, and I have seen what CBP is up against. I can tell you firsthand that our cartel adversaries are ruthless and steadfast in their determination to exploit our laws and poison our communities.

Transnational drug traffickers operate like a business, always looking to capitalize on products high in demand and high with profit margin. Today, their focus is fentanyl, a drug 100 times more powerful than morphine. Just 2 milligrams are enough to be lethal.

Fentanyl and its analogs are being produced mostly in China, but also increasingly in Mexico. Illicit opioids enter the United States through the mail, concealed within vehicles or cargo coming through the ports of entry, and in backpacks of cartel drug runners.

Initially, Chinese drug traffickers were so confident that fentanyl would not be interdicted they sent stacks of

it through the mail. The CBP improved, their targeting improved, and cartels were forced to change their approach, sending smaller quantities and rerouting packages through freight forwarders and other countries to mask their point of origin.

The 2018 DEA threat assessment stated that the purity level of the fentanyl coming across the land border is, on average, less than 10 percent pure. However, a recent DHS Office of Inspector General report found that the CBP's small-scale chemical screening devices cannot identify fentanyl purity levels of 10 percent or less. This is crucial.

The IG also found that there was no policy or centralized database in place to ensure chemical screening devices had up-to-date spectral libraries essential to ensuring all analogs and new opioid forms can be detected. That is why I am pleased to see the House take up my bill, H.R. 4761, the DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019.

My bill addresses the gaps in CBP's opioid detection capability by requiring the Customs and Border Protection commissioner to implement a strategy to ensure chemical screening devices can identify narcotics in an operational environment with low purity levels.

H.R. 4761 also requires DHS to develop a centralized spectral database for chemical screening devices to ensure unity of effort across all components they encounter when opioids cross the field.

□ 1615

CBP works tirelessly to prevent this poison from reaching American communities, and this bill helps law enforcement carry out that mission.

I thank Congresswoman CLARKE and Congressmen ROGERS, MCCAUL, KING, ROSE, KATKO, and JOYCE for signing on as original cosponsors and for their support of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the gentlewoman aware that I have no further speakers and that I am prepared to close.

I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4761 is a bipartisan measure that received the full support of the Committee on Homeland Security to address a capability need identified by the DHS inspector general. The DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019 seeks to ensure that CBP personnel have the best and most up-to-date technology to detect and prevent opioids from entering the country and our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 4761, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4761.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. 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.

SYNTHETIC OPIOID EXPOSURE PREVENTION AND TRAINING ACT

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4739

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 “Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act”.

SEC. 2. PROTECTION AGAINST POTENTIAL SYNTHETIC OPIOID EXPOSURE WITHIN U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 415 the following new section:

“SEC. 416. PROTECTION AGAINST POTENTIAL SYNTHETIC OPIOID EXPOSURE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall issue a policy that specifies effective protocols and procedures for the safe handling of potential synthetic opioids, including fentanyl, by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, other personnel, and canines, and to reduce the risk of injury or death resulting from accidental exposure and enhance post-exposure management.

“(b) TRAINING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Together with the issuance of the policy described in subsection (a), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall require mandatory and recurrent training on the following:

“(A) The potential risk of opioid exposure and safe handling procedures for potential synthetic opioids, including precautionary measures such as the use of personal protective equipment during such handling.

“(B) How to access and administer opioid receptor antagonists, including naloxone, post-exposure to potential synthetic opioids.

“(2) INTEGRATION.—The training described in paragraph (1) may be integrated into existing training under section 411(l) for U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, and other personnel.

“(c) PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND OPIOID RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS.—Together with the issuance of the policy described in subsection (a), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall ensure the availability of personal protective equipment and opioid receptor antagonists, including naloxone, to all U.S. Customs and

Border Protection officers, agents, other personnel, and canines at risk of accidental exposure to synthetic opioids.

“(d) OVERSIGHT.—To ensure effectiveness of the policy described in subsection (a)—

“(1) the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall regularly monitor the efficacy of the implementation of such policy and adjust protocols and procedures, as necessary; and

“(2) the Inspector General of the Department shall audit compliance with the requirements of this section not less than once each year for the five years after the date of the enactment of this section.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 415 the following new item:

“Sec. 416. Protection against potential synthetic opioid exposure.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be speaking on behalf of my bill, the Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act.

We are at a crucial time in our fight against the opioid crisis in our Nation. Less expensive and extremely lethal synthetic, chemically laced, and derived drugs, rather than first-generation opioid pharmaceuticals, now drive the addiction and overdoses that cripple and break the hearts of the neighbors and families of our communities.

We must respond to this changed dynamic in the ongoing opioid crisis with legislation targeted at reducing harm and saving lives.

Most of these deadly synthetics, such as fentanyl, are imported into our country. This bill addresses a specific threat by seeking to eliminate the risk of accidental exposure to synthetics for the workers screening packages and cargo entering our country.

Much of this screening occurs only a few miles from the neighborhoods I represent in New York’s seaports and at the JFK International Airport’s International Mail Facility, the largest mail-screening facility in America, where, every day, we are finding fentanyl hidden in packages from places like China.

Whether cargo and packages are screened by CBP personnel near my district or thousands of miles away, this bill is directly relevant to the

lives of my constituents. Unfortunately, these dangerous and illegally manufactured substances get distributed in communities like mine. This is, of course, true for every district across this country.

The universal threat posed by synthetic opioids is reflected by my Democratic and Republican colleagues joining together as cosponsors of this bill. I am grateful for their support and hope that we can continue to fight the opioid crisis as a united and determined legislative body.

While there is much left to do on this front, H.R. 4739 takes crucial steps toward enhancing our ability to shut down the importation of synthetic opioids. It requires that training for CBP personnel on synthetics be regularly reviewed and updated to respond to the developing threat environment. This includes making sure workers know how to properly handle synthetic opioids and how to administer the reversal drugs, which can save lives if accidental exposure occurs.

Furthermore, my bill requires CBP to ensure that these reversal drugs are in hand at facilities where opioid screenings happen. Fentanyl, according to the CDC, is up to 100 times more potent than morphine or even heroin. Even the smallest dose can kill unless drugs like naloxone are available and quickly administered.

If the workers screening packages for substances like fentanyl don’t have the training and tools they need to be confident they can do their job safely, more of these deadly opioids will make their way into our communities, and more families will be added to the opioid crisis list of victims.

I ask each of my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, the Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,

Washington, DC, November 20, 2019.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 4739, the Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act, the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of

letter on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 4739.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, November 21, 2019.

Hon. RICHARD NEAL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4739, the "Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act." The Committee on Homeland Security recognizes that the Committee on Ways and Means has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 4739, and I appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

I concur with you that forgoing action on the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 4739 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4739 because of the valuable impact it will have on Customs and Border Protection officer safety.

The opioid epidemic continues to wreak havoc on communities across the Nation. It touches people from every age group, race, class, gender, and background. Parents are losing their children; children are losing their parents. It is devastating.

Illegally manufactured opioids from China and Mexico are pouring into the United States through our mail system and across our borders. The first line of defense against these illicit substances is the brave men and women of Customs and Border Protection. They work tirelessly every day to protect us, and we must make sure they have the equipment and training they need to do it safely.

The safe handling of opioids by CBP law enforcement officers is crucial, as just 2 milligrams can be lethal. H.R. 4739 requires the Commissioner of CBP to establish and regularly update a policy for the safe handling of synthetic opioids by officers, agents, canines, and other personnel.

The bill also requires that protective equipment and opioid receptor antagonists be made available for all relevant CBP employees and canines. When it comes to officer safety, we should never consider ourselves too careful.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the Congresswoman aware that I have no further speakers on this bill, and I am prepared to close.

I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, transnational criminal organizations are constantly developing new forms of synthetic opioids and new methods for smuggling these drugs into our country. To combat such activity, Congress must ensure that CBP officers serving on the front lines are protected from accidental exposure.

This bill is one step of many that must be taken to slow the opioid crisis and end the devastation brought to our communities by this epidemic. By protecting the CBP officers and agents who operate as our frontline defenders against the importation of synthetics, this bill ensures that they will remain safe and equipped to respond to the constantly changing threat posed by synthetic opioids.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4739, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4739.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. 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.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MENTOR-PROTEGE PROGRAM ACT OF 2019

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4727) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a mentor-protégé program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4727

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 "Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protégé Program Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MENTOR-PROTEGE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle H of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 890B. MENTOR-PROTEGE PROGRAM.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a mentor-protégé program (in this section referred to as the 'Program') under which a mentor firm enters into an agreement with a protégé firm for the purpose of assisting the protégé firm to compete for prime contracts and subcontracts of the Department.

"(b) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall establish criteria for mentor firms and protégé firms to be eligible to participate in the Program, including a requirement that a firm is not included on any list maintained by the Federal Government of contractors that have been suspended or debarred.

"(c) PROGRAM APPLICATION AND APPROVAL.—

"(1) APPLICATION.—The Secretary, acting through the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization of the Department, shall establish a process for submission of an application jointly by a mentor firm and the protégé firm selected by the mentor firm. The application shall include each of the following:

"(A) A description of the assistance to be provided by the mentor firm, including, to the extent available, the number and a brief description of each anticipated subcontract to be awarded to the protégé firm.

"(B) A schedule with milestones for achieving the assistance to be provided over the period of participation in the Program.

"(C) An estimate of the costs to be incurred by the mentor firm for providing assistance under the Program.

"(D) Attestation that Program participants will submit to the Secretary reports at times specified by the Secretary to assist the Secretary in evaluating the protégé firm's developmental progress.

"(E) Attestations that Program participants will inform the Secretary in the event of change in eligibility or voluntary withdrawal from the Program.

"(2) APPROVAL.—Not later than 60 days after receipt of an application pursuant to paragraph (1), the head of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization shall notify applicants of approval or, in the case of disapproval, the process for resubmitting an application for reconsideration.

"(3) RESCISSION.—The head of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization may rescind the approval of an application under this subsection if it determines that such action is in the best interest of the Department.

"(d) PROGRAM DURATION.—A mentor firm and protégé firm approved under subsection (c) shall enter into an agreement to participate in the Program for a period of not less than 36 months.

"(e) PROGRAM BENEFITS.—A mentor firm and protégé firm that enter into an agreement under subsection (d) may receive the following Program benefits:

"(1) With respect to an award of a contract that requires a subcontracting plan, a mentor firm may receive evaluation credit for participating in the Program.

"(2) With respect to an award of a contract that requires a subcontracting plan, a mentor firm may receive credit for a protégé firm performing as a first tier subcontractor or a subcontractor at any tier in an amount equal to the total dollar value of any subcontracts awarded to such protégé firm.

"(3) A protégé firm may receive technical, managerial, financial, or any other mutually agreed upon benefit from a mentor firm, including a subcontract award.

"(4) Any other benefits identified by the Secretary.

"(f) REPORTING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the head of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization shall submit to the Committees on Homeland Security and Small Business of the House of Representatives a report that—

"(1) identifies each agreement between a mentor firm and a protégé firm entered into under this section, including number of protégé firm participants that are—

"(A) small business concerns;

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

“(C) small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans;

“(D) qualified HUBZone small business concerns;

“(E) small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals;

“(F) women-owned small business concerns;

“(G) historically Black colleges and universities; and

“(H) minority institutions of higher education;

“(2) describes the type of assistance provided by mentor firms to protégé firms;

“(3) identifies contracts within the Department in which a mentor firm serving as the prime contractor provided subcontracts to a protégé firm under the Program; and

“(4) assesses the degree to which there has been—

“(A) an increase in the technical capabilities of protégé firms; and

“(B) an increase in the quantity and estimated value of prime contract and subcontract awards to protégé firms for the period covered by the report.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term ‘historically Black college or university’ means any of the historically Black colleges and universities referred to in section 2323 of title 10, United States Code, as in effect on March 1, 2018.

“(2) MENTOR FIRM.—The term ‘mentor firm’ means a for-profit business concern that is not a small business concern that—

“(A) has the ability to assist and commits to assisting a protégé to compete for Federal prime contracts and subcontracts; and

“(B) satisfies any other requirements imposed by the Secretary.

“(3) MINORITY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘minority institution of higher education’ means an institution of higher education with a student body that reflects the composition specified in section 312(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(b)).

“(4) PROTÉGÉ FIRM.—The term ‘protégé firm’ means a small business concern, a historically Black college or university, or a minority institution of higher education that—

“(A) is eligible to enter into a prime contract or subcontract with the Department; and

“(B) satisfies any other requirements imposed by the Secretary.

“(5) SMALL BUSINESS ACT DEFINITIONS.—The terms ‘small business concern’, ‘small business concern owned and controlled by veterans’, ‘small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans’, ‘qualified HUBZone small business concern’, and ‘small business concern owned and controlled by women’ have the meaning given such terms, respectively, under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632). The term ‘small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals’ has the meaning given such term in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C)).”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 890A the following new item:

“Sec. 890B. Mentor-protégé program.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4727, the Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protege Program Act of 2019.

Since the very earliest days of the Department of Homeland Security, it has operated a mentor-protege program to encourage large businesses to help small businesses build their capacity to compete for government contracts. However, this important program was never codified into law. H.R. 4727 not only authorizes the existing program but improves it.

Small businesses, including women-, veteran-, and minority-owned firms, are the backbone of our economy, but far too often, complex Federal contracting requirements shut them out of the Federal marketplace.

Building and sustaining a reliable pool of small business vendors is critical to ensuring that DHS and its ever-evolving contracting needs are met and that America's security is enhanced. H.R. 4727 seeks to build and sustain this pool by incentivizing large businesses to provide technical, managerial, financial assistance, and subcontracting opportunities to small businesses. This bill requires participating businesses to commit to a mentor-protege relationship for 3 years to help establish long-term relationships between large and small contractors.

Additionally, to ensure that Congress can monitor the effectiveness of the program in an ongoing way, it requires DHS to annually report on program participation and the benefits conferred upon small businesses.

Enactment of H.R. 4727 will ensure the continued and lasting success of the mentor-protege program, a vital small business program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this commonsense legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4727, the Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protege Program Act of 2019.

The Department of Homeland Security has an important mission to protect this Nation, but they cannot do it on their own. For many functions, DHS relies on contractors to get the job done.

H.R. 4727 would expand the contractor pool that DHS relies on by cre-

ating a mentor-protege program to help small businesses grow their technical capabilities.

□ 1630

I support the legislation and the creation of this program at DHS, modeled after a similar one at the Department of Defense. Under the program, larger contractors would develop agreements with smaller firms to provide assistance and to potentially involve the smaller firm in DHS contracts at a subcontractor level.

To provide transparency into this program, the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will report annually to Congress. This will allow us to evaluate the benefit of this program and its progress in developing the contractor base.

I would like to thank Representative MCEACHIN for introducing H.R. 4727 and for his work to grow the capability of small businesses that contract for the DHS.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I do urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, formally authorizing the Department of Homeland Security's mentor-protege program will ensure the continued success of this important small business program.

DHS is to be commended in its earliest days for setting this program up.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN) for introducing this bill to help grow partnerships between small businesses and DHS.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4727, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4727.

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.

EMERGING TRANSPORTATION SECURITY THREATS ACT OF 2019

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3318) to require the Transportation Security Administration to establish a task force to conduct an analysis of emerging and potential future threats to transportation security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3318

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 “Emerging Transportation Security Threats Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. EMERGING AND FUTURE THREATS TASK FORCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and the intelligence community (as such term is defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))) and the heads of other Federal agencies, as determined appropriate by the Administrator, shall establish a task force to conduct an analysis of emerging and potential future threats to transportation security.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The task force established under subsection (a) shall be comprised of employees of the Department of Homeland Security who, in carrying out the analysis required under such subsection, shall consult with the Director of National Intelligence and the intelligence community and the heads of Federal agencies, as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(c) **DEADLINE.**—Not later than 270 days after the Administrator establishes the task force under subsection (a), the task force shall submit to the Administrator the analysis required under such subsection.

(d) **ELEMENTS.**—The analysis required under subsection (a) shall include emerging and potential future threats posed by the following:

(1) Evolving tactics by terrorist organizations that may pose a catastrophic risk to an aviation or surface transportation entity.

(2) Explosive and explosive devices or attacks involving the use of explosives that may cause catastrophic damage to an aviation or surface transportation system.

(3) Chemical or biological agents being released in either aviation or surface transportation systems.

(4) Cyberthreat actors seeking to undermine confidence in transportation systems or cause service disruptions that jeopardize transportation security.

(5) Unmanned aerial systems with the capability of inflicting harm on transportation targets.

(6) Individuals or groups seeking to attack soft targets, public areas, or crowded spaces of transportation systems, including attacks against Transportation Security Administration employees and other security personnel.

(7) Foreign actors seeking to exploit vulnerabilities posed by the inconsistent or inadequate security screening protocols at last point of departure airports with direct flights to the United States.

(8) Information sharing challenges within the Federal Government and among partner governments.

(9) Information sharing challenges between the Administration or other relevant Federal agencies and transportation stakeholders, including air carriers, airport operators, surface transportation operators, and State and local law enforcement.

(10) Growth in passenger volume in both the aviation and surface transportation sectors.

(e) **MITIGATION.**—Not later than 120 days after the completion of the analysis required under subsection (a), the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall develop, as appropriate, a threat mitigation strategy for each of the threats examined in such analysis, and—

(1) assign appropriate resources of the Administration to address such threats, based on calculated risk; or

(2) provide recommendations through the Department of Homeland Security to the appropriate Federal department or agency responsible for addressing such threats.

(f) **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.**—When carrying out the analysis required under subsection (a), the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall engage transportation stakeholders referred to in subsection

(b)(9) and account for security concerns of transportation operators by—

(1) convening not fewer than three industry day events for such transportation stakeholders to hear from relevant public and private sector security partners and provide feedback on threats such transportation stakeholders identify as emerging;

(2) developing strategies to solicit feedback on a consistent basis from such transportation stakeholders across all modes of transportation and providing consistent responses to stakeholder concerns;

(3) improving the quality, timeliness, and relevancy of information sharing products disseminated by the Administration to such transportation stakeholders, including classified information sharing products;

(4) coordinating security incident response and communications drills, including tabletop exercises, to improve incident preparedness and response capabilities across transportation modes and among transportation systems;

(5) encouraging regular communication between Federal Security Directors, Field Intelligence Officers, Federal Air Marshal Special Agents in Charge, and such transportation stakeholders;

(6) establishing regular opportunities for senior Administration leadership to engage with such transportation stakeholders regarding changes in the threat environment and how the Administration can offer security support to address such changes; and

(7) briefing the Aviation Security Advisory Committee and the Surface Transportation Security Advisory Committee on the efforts of the task force established pursuant to subsection (a).

(g) **BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.**—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the results of the analysis required under subsection (a) and relevant mitigation strategies developed in accordance with subsection (c).

(h) **NON-APPLICABILITY OF FACA AND PRA.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) shall not apply to the task force established under subsection (a).

SEC. 3. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the feasibility, risks, costs, and potential threat mitigation benefits of the Transportation Security Administration deploying the agency's passenger and property screening assets to conduct screening in areas or facilities prior to passenger arrival at airport terminals.

(b) **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.**—In conducting the review required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall consult with the Transportation Security Administration, airport operators, air carriers, businesses that operate in airports, labor groups representing the Transportation Security Administration and transportation sector personnel, and other stakeholders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

clude extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3318, the Emerging Transportation Security Threats Act of 2019.

Millions of people travel every day and rely on a secure transportation system to get them to their destination safely. Terrorists and other nefarious actors are constantly looking for new ways to attack and disrupt our Nation's transportation systems. All it takes is one successful attack for the public to lose confidence in the system as a whole.

We must ensure that our security systems remain one step ahead of nefarious actors and that all entities responsible for transportation security are collaborating and sharing information in an effective manner to help prevent an attack. This bill is a good step in this direction.

Importantly, it requires the TSA, in consultation with the intelligence community and other relevant Federal agencies, to establish a task force to analyze emerging and future threats to transportation security. Having individuals from across the Federal Government work together to assess emerging threats will help promote collaboration and efficiency across the agencies.

After the analysis is complete, H.R. 3318 requires TSA to develop a threat mitigation strategy for each threat the task force identifies. These mitigation strategies will be important tools for TSA as they consider how best to prevent potential threats from occurring.

Finally, the bill requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a review to determine the costs and benefits of conducting screening prior to passenger arrival at an airport terminal.

Mr. Speaker, we must do all that we can to prevent an attack on our transportation systems. This bill promotes collaboration to put our security agencies in a better position to identify and mitigate threats.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3318, the Emerging Transportation Security Threats Act of 2019, sponsored by my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

This legislation establishes a task force aimed at improving the security of the traveling public by bringing together relevant Federal authorities and transportation security stakeholders.

The task force established by this legislation will look at emerging and

potential future threats to transportation security from a number of threat vectors, including cybersecurity, explosives, public area security, and evolving terrorist attacks.

This bill also directs the Administrator of the TSA to develop relevant threat mitigation plans in close coordination with transportation security stakeholders and appropriate Federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this issue.

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from Louisiana closes.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 3318, the Emerging Transportation Security Threats Act of 2019. This legislation will ensure that Homeland Security is forward-looking in regard to threats facing America's transportation systems.

My district, Pennsylvania's 13th, is home to the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County, which serves as a stark reminder of the heroism of ordinary Americans and why, as a Congress, we must act to protect our Nation against threats to the homeland.

Oftentimes, the Transportation Security Administration faces criticism from Congress, stakeholders, and the traveling public that the agency is too reactionary to evolving threats and not proactive enough in mitigating emerging threats to transportation.

H.R. 3318 seeks to improve collaboration among the TSA, the intelligence community, other Federal agencies, and transportation security stakeholders by creating a task force to conduct an analysis of emerging threats to transportation security. Once established, this task force will examine threats posed by evolving terrorist tactics, explosive devices, chemical and biological agents, cyber actors, unmanned aerial systems, and inadequate information sharing, among other security challenges.

For each threat examined by the task force established in this legislation, the TSA is directed to develop a mitigation strategy to protect the traveling public and identify needed security enhancements. This bill ensures that each of these efforts will include close collaboration with transportation stakeholders on the development of security strategies, improved information sharing practices, and regular interactions with senior TSA leadership on security matters.

Finally, this legislation requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a review ensuring that the TSA effectively implements the bill's requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana, CLAY HIGGINS, for his support of this bill and for working to bring it to the floor today. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, securing our Nation's transportation systems from successful attack requires the collaboration of all stakeholders responsible for transportation security.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for bringing this legislation forward, and I urge passage of H.R. 3318.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3318, 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.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES AUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4713) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4713

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 "Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Authorization Act".

SEC. 2. OFFICER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 705 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 345) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "ESTABLISHMENT OF"; and

(2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following new subsections:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Department an Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. The head of such Office is the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, who shall report directly to the Secretary.

"(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties shall carry out the following responsibilities:

"(1) Oversee compliance with constitutional, statutory, regulatory, policy, and other requirements relating to the civil rights and civil liberties of individuals affected by the programs and activities of the Department.

"(2) Integrate civil rights and civil liberties protections into all programs and activities of the Department.

"(3) Conduct civil rights and civil liberties impact assessments, as appropriate, including prior to the implementation of new Department regulations, initiatives, programs, or policies.

"(4) Conduct periodic reviews of policies, procedures, and activities of the Department relating to civil rights and civil liberties.

"(5) Provide policy advice, recommendations, and other technical assistance relating to civil rights and civil liberties to the Secretary and to heads of components, directorates, and offices and other personnel within the Department.

"(6) Review, assess, and investigate complaints, including complaints filed by members of the public, and information indicating possible abuses of civil rights or civil liberties at the Department, unless the Inspector General of the Department determines that any such complaint should be investigated by the Inspector General.

"(7) Initiate reviews, investigations, and assessments of the administration of the programs and activities by the Department relating to civil rights and civil liberties, as the Officer determines necessary.

"(8) Coordinate with the Privacy Officer to ensure that—

"(A) programs, policies, and procedures involving civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy considerations are addressed in an integrated and comprehensive manner; and

"(B) Congress receives appropriate reports regarding such programs, policies, and procedures.

"(9) Lead the equal employment opportunity programs of the Department, including complaint management and adjudication, workforce diversity, and promotion of the merit system principles.

"(10) Make publicly available through accessible communications channels, including the website of the Department—

"(A) information on the responsibilities and functions of, and how to contact, the Office; and

"(B) summary of reports of investigations that result in final recommendations that are issued by the Officer upon completion of investigations carried out pursuant to paragraph (6); and

"(C) summaries of impact assessments issued by the Officer and carried out pursuant to paragraph (3) or (7).

"(11) Engage with individuals and communities whose civil rights and civil liberties may be affected by programs and activities of the Department, including by informing such individuals and communities about report and redress processes and advising the Secretary and heads of components, directorates, offices, and other personnel within the Department of concerns raised by such individuals and communities.

"(c) COORDINATION WITH INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

"(1) AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE ABUSES.—The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties may investigate any matter referred to in paragraph (6) or (7) of subsection (b) after fulfilling the coordination requirements under paragraph (2) with respect to such matter.

"(2) COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS.—

"(A) REFERRAL OF MATTERS TO INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Before initiating any investigation described under paragraph (1), the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties shall refer the matter and all related complaints to the Inspector General of the Department.

"(B) INSPECTOR GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(i) DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 5 business days after the receipt of a matter referred under subparagraph (A), the Inspector General shall—

“(I) make a determination regarding whether the Inspector General intends to initiate an audit or investigation of the matter referred under subparagraph (A); and

“(II) notify the Officer of such determination.

“(ii) AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—If the Inspector General notifies the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties that the Inspector General intends to initiate an audit or investigation, the Inspector General shall—

“(I) initiate such audit or investigate by not later than 90 days after providing such notification; or

“(II) not later than three days after the end of the 90-day period specified in subclause (I), notify the Officer that such audit or investigation was not initiated.

“(C) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—At the request of the Inspector General, the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties may provide assistance to the Inspector General on any investigation or audit initiated by the Inspector General based on a referral under subparagraph (A).

“(D) INVESTIGATION BY OFFICER.—The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties may investigate a matter referred to the Inspector General under subparagraph (A) only if—

“(i) the Inspector General notifies the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties that the Inspector General does not intend to initiate an audit or investigation relating to that matter; or

“(ii) the Inspector General provides notification under subparagraph (B)(ii)(II) that an audit or investigation was not initiated.

“(d) TRANSPARENCY.—

“(1) COMPLAINTS.—In the case of a complaint made concerning allegations of abuses of civil rights and civil liberties under paragraph (6) of subsection (b), the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties shall—

“(A) provide to the individual who made the complaint notice of the receipt of such complaint within 30 days of receiving the complaint; and

“(B) inform the complainant of the determination of the Officer regarding the initiation of a review, assessment, or investigation within the Office, a referral to the Inspector General of the Department, or any other action taken.

“(2) INVESTIGATIONS.—In the case of an investigation initiated by the Officer pursuant to paragraph (6) or (7) of subsection (b), upon the conclusion of the investigation, the Officer shall produce a report on the investigation which—

“(A) shall include the findings and recommendations of the Officer;

“(B) a summary of which shall be made publicly available;

“(C) shall not include any personally identifiable information related to any individual involved in such investigation; and

“(D) may include a classified appendix, as the Officer determines appropriate.

“(3) SUBMITTAL TO HEADS OF OPERATIONAL COMPONENTS.—The Officer shall transmit a copy of each report produced under paragraph (2) to the Secretary and to the relevant head of each relevant operational component of the Department.

“(4) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Upon the conclusion of any investigation conducted by the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties under paragraph (6) or (7) of subsection (b), the Officer shall submit to Congress a report on the investigation, which shall be prepared and submitted without any prior comment or amendment by the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, or any other officer or em-

ployee of the Department, unless the Officer seeks such comment.

“(e) COMPONENT CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OFFICER.—The head of each of the operational components of the Department shall designate a career appointee (as such term is defined in section 3132 of title 5, United States Code) from such component as the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of that component. The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of each such component shall coordinate with and provide information to the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department on matters related to civil rights and civil liberties within the components.

“(f) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department—

“(1) shall have access to all records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, and other materials available to the Department that relate to programs and operations with respect to the responsibilities of the Officer under subsection (b); and

“(2) may, to the extent the Officer determines necessary, and subject to the approval of the Secretary—

“(A) issue a subpoena to require the production, by any person other than a Federal agency, of all information, documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, papers, and other documentary evidence necessary in the performance of the responsibilities of the Officer under this section; and

“(B) administer to or take from any person an oath, affirmation, or affidavit, whenever necessary in the performance of the responsibilities of the Officer under this section.

“(g) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than March 31 of each year, the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department shall submit directly to the President, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate committees and subcommittees of Congress, a report on the implementation of this section during the year preceding the year during which the report is submitted. Each such report shall include, for the year covered by the report—

“(1) any allegations of abuse described under subsection (b)(6) and any actions by the Department or a component, directorate, or office of the Department that the Officer identifies as responsive to such allegations;

“(2) a list of Department programs and activities for which civil rights and civil liberties impact assessments were conducted, or policy advice, recommendations, or other technical assistance was provided;

“(3) any recommendations issued by the Officer to the Secretary or the head of a component, directorate, or office, together with information on the status of the implementation of such recommendations;

“(4) information on the diversity and equal employment opportunity activities of the Department, including information on complaint management and adjudication of equal employment opportunity complaints and efforts to ensure compliance throughout the Department with equal employment opportunity requirements;

“(5) a description of any efforts to engage with individuals and communities whose civil rights and civil liberties may be affected by activities carried out by the Department, including public meetings; and

“(6) information on total staffing for the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including—

“(A) the number of full-time, part-time and contract support personnel; and

“(B) information on the number of employees whose primary responsibilities include

supporting the Officer in carrying out paragraph (9) of subsection (b).”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 705 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 705. OFFICER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.”

SEC. 3. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on subsection (b)(11) of section 705 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 345), as amended by section 2.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4713, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Authorization Act.

The Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, which I will call CRCL, is the primary office responsible for integrating civil rights and civil liberties protections into DHS policies, programs, and procedures.

Every day, DHS personnel interact with millions of people from across the country and around the world. For this reason, it is imperative that the Department's CRCL officer has the authority to ensure that DHS pursues policies and programs that are in line with constitutionally protected civil rights and civil liberties.

Under current law, the CRCL officer is authorized to assist the leaders throughout the Department in appropriately incorporating civil rights and civil liberties in DHS policies and procedures. However, there have been instances where CRCL was not afforded the opportunity to weigh in on DHS programs and policies that clearly impact individuals' and communities' civil rights and civil liberties.

For example, it has been reported that CRCL was not consulted when the Trump administration instituted the family separation policy at the southern border. It has also been reported that the Office was not consulted prior to the January 2017 travel ban that barred individuals from Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States.

The bill before us today seeks to ensure that CRCL has a seat at the table

when new programs and policies are being considered within DHS.

H.R. 4713, which was introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), promotes the involvement of CRCL early in the policymaking process and ensures the Office is empowered, when necessary, to prevent DHS from pursuing policies that violate individuals' civil rights and civil liberties.

To strengthen the integration of civil rights and civil liberties across the Department, H.R. 4713 requires the designation of CRCL officers within each DHS component.

Additionally, H.R. 4713 would confer the CRCL officer the same authorities that currently rest with the DHS privacy officer to carry out its responsibilities.

For instance, today, DHS components are not required to provide information to the CRCL officer that may be needed for a civil liberties investigation. Under H.R. 4713, the CRCL officer would have the authority to access all Department records necessary to carry out its work, including investigations.

The CRCL officer would also have the authority, with the support of the DHS Secretary, to subpoena non-Federal entities to acquire information, documents, reports, and other materials necessary to carry out CRCL investigations.

Lastly, the bill would increase transparency and accountability within the Department. Specifically, H.R. 4713 makes CRCL more responsive and accessible to members of the public who file complaints by requiring the Office to provide individuals with notices of receipt within 30 days of a complaint.

The bill also requires CRCL to make publicly available its reports and reviews of Department programs and submit those reports to Congress.

We know that the CRCL does important work and that caseload is growing. This year alone, the Office reviewed DHS policies relating to the humanitarian crisis at the border, disaster assistance, and a Department-wide antiharassment policy, just to name a few items.

Given Congress' strong interest in the work of the Department's CRCL officer, it is troubling that the last annual report that we have received here in Congress was for fiscal year 2017. Increased public reporting will allow us to work together to improve accountability of the Department.

I appreciate that the Committee on Homeland Security came together on a bipartisan basis to support this measure, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 4713, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Authorization Act.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will give the Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties more tools to conduct its investigations.

The bill does not significantly broaden the authority of CRCL; it is intended to grant CRCL the authorities necessary to conduct meaningful inquiries into allegations of abuse of civil rights and civil liberties within DHS.

The bill specifically outlines mechanisms to ensure that there is coordination with other entities at DHS who conduct investigations of violations of civil rights. DHS already has numerous officers engaged in investigating such violations, and we want to ensure that the new authority granted to CRCL is not used to engage in duplicative activities or investigations.

H.R. 4713 also grants CRCL access to DHS documents on programs and operations, provides it with subpoena powers and the authority to administer an oath or take an affidavit. These authorities should be exercised only in the rarest of the circumstances and only after approval by the Secretary.

DHS and its components should view cooperation with CRCL as standard operating procedure and provide relevant documents when requested. However, in utilizing the authority provided, CRCL must also respect generally accepted exceptions to document production.

Finally, the bill requires the issuance of a report after an investigation. Although not required, I expect CRCL to seek the guidance of the Secretary and the components whenever possible during an investigation to ensure that it is conducted in a fair and equitable manner.

We have made some changes to the bill at the request of DHS. To the extent that DHS continues to have concerns, I encourage the majority to work with the Department as this bill moves to the Senate to address outstanding issues.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time and for her outstanding service as a member of this august body. I would also like to thank my friend from Louisiana, my home State, for his outstanding presentation as it relates to this piece of legislation.

Seated next to the gentleman from Louisiana is our dear friend, who is co-sponsoring this piece of legislation, Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. TAYLOR for all that he has done to bring this to fruition. And, of course, we could not do this without saying a word about the chairperson of the full committee, Mr. THOMPSON. I want to thank Mr. THOMPSON for not only bringing this legislation to my attention but, also, allowing it to get to the

floor, such that we might have this opportunity for passage.

I would like to address immediately the concern that my friend raised about this piece of legislation not being perfect, and I confess that it isn't. I do think it is good legislation, but I want to allay any consternation that Members may have.

Mr. Speaker, I have already spoken to staff, and I have agreed that we should be flexible in trying to work to make sure that what we present to the Senate and what we ultimately get from the Senate will be something that we can all agree to. Just as we have been able to bring this to the floor with bipartisan support, I would like to see bicameral support and continue this bipartisan relationship. I think it is an imperative for us if we are going to do this in an effective way.

One thing to talk about very briefly, of course, is the subpoena power. I think this is a thing that some people are afraid might somehow be abused. I am concerned. I believe that this type of authority should be handled with the greatest degree of sensitivity.

Mr. Speaker, we pledge to you to do all that we can to make sure that, as we move forward, that level of sensitivity is something that we embrace in a holistic way so that all parties concerned will ultimately conclude that we have come up with the perfect formula to get this to the President for his signature.

I would like to say this, finally: This piece of legislation is something that I think is sorely needed. What it does is it will confer upon the CRCL officer the same authorities granted to DHS privacy officers. That same level of authority is something that I believe would be of great benefit to the Department and to the people that the Department will embrace by way of their services.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my friends and colleagues, and I am going to be as pithy as I can be and simply say "amen" to what has been said.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TAYLOR), my friend.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas' Ninth District for his work on this piece of legislation.

I rise in support of H.R. 4713, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Authorization Act.

Every day millions of Americans interact with officials and representatives of the Department of Homeland Security, most frequently at airports across this country. In fact, the Transportation Security Administration screens approximately 2.2 million passengers every single day. Last year, TSA screened over 813 million individuals.

With more than 240,000 dedicated DHS employees working hard every single day—and I mean every single

day; they do not take a day off, the Department of Homeland Security—they are keeping our Nation safe. While there is no doubt that this is a massive undertaking, we must also work to ensure the civil rights and liberties of every single American are upheld by the Department of Homeland Security.

H.R. 4713, the bill before us today, safeguards the civil rights of Americans by increasing accountability and transparency. Just as the dedicated men and women who work to protect our homeland, ensuring the constitutional rights of all Americans are protected is critically important for us to maintain a free society.

Increasing transparency and accountability is not a partisan issue, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 4713.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not also take just a half a second to urge the Department of Homeland Security, in crafting their budget request for next cycle, to provide adequate resources for the CRCL to ensure that the office can do its work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the rest of my colleagues to join by passing H.R. 4713, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4713, 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.

INLAND WATERS SECURITY REVIEW ACT

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4402) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct an inland waters threat analysis, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4402

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 “Inland Waters Security Review Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) **INLAND WATERS.**—The term “inland waters” has the meaning given such term in section 83.03 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 3. INLAND WATERS THREAT ANALYSIS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an inland waters threat analysis that includes an identification and description of the following:

(1) Current and potential terrorism and criminal threats posed by individuals and groups seeking to—

(A) enter the United States through inland waters; or

(B) exploit security vulnerabilities on inland waters.

(2) Security challenges at United States inland waters ports regarding—

(A) terrorism and instruments of terror entering the United States; and

(B) criminal activity, as measured by the total flow of illegal goods and illicit drugs, related to the inland waters.

(3) Security mitigation efforts with respect to the inland waters to—

(A) prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States; and

(B) reduce criminal activity related to the inland waters.

(4) Vulnerabilities related to cooperation between State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement, or international agreements, that hinder effective security, counterterrorism, anti-trafficking efforts, and the flow of legitimate trade with respect to inland waters.

(5) Metrics and performance measures used by the Department of Homeland Security to evaluate inland waters security, as appropriate.

(b) **ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS.**—In preparing the threat analysis required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider and examine the following:

(1) Technology needs and challenges.

(2) Personnel needs and challenges.

(3) The roles of State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement, as well as private sector partners and the public, relating to inland waters security.

(4) The need for cooperation among Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial, and international partner law enforcement, as well as private sector partners and the public, relating to inland waters security.

(5) The challenges posed by geography with respect to inland waters security.

(c) **CLASSIFIED THREAT ANALYSIS.**—To the extent possible, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit the threat analysis required under subsection (a) in unclassified form. The Secretary may submit a portion of the threat analysis in classified form if the Secretary determines that such is appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

clude extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4402, the Inland Waters Security Review Act. This one is very close to my heart.

Maritime security is an integral part of our homeland security; however, most terrorism assessments related to maritime security have focused on the risks of terrorism on the high seas or on coastal areas.

In the United States, we have massive inland water systems that present unique security challenges. In Michigan, for instance, from where I hail, we have 3,288 miles of coastline, second only to Alaska—take that, California and Florida—so inland waters are a big deal to us. Maritime security is not just for our oceans but also for our Great Lakes, which represent a huge part of our U.S.-Canada border.

As a Michigander who came to Congress to protect the Great Lakes, I am pleased to support this legislation, which requires the Department of Homeland Security to take a good, hard look at security threats to these vital waterways.

Specifically, H.R. 4402 would require DHS to submit an analysis of the current and potential terrorism and criminal threats, as well as security challenges, with respect to our Nation's inland waters.

In producing this assessment, DHS must consider technology, personnel, law enforcement cooperation, public-private partnerships, and challenges posed by geography. This assessment will provide Congress and the public with vital information regarding the threats facing our inland waters.

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 4402, a bipartisan bill that was reported out of committee by unanimous consent. I thank my colleague on the Homeland Security committee, Mrs. LESKO, for her leadership on this bill.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4402, the Inland Waters Security Review Act sponsored by my friend and colleague, the ranking member of the Transportation and Maritime Security Subcommittee, Representative DEBBIE LESKO.

H.R. 4402 will improve the security awareness of the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Coast Guard for threats and vulnerabilities on America's inland water systems. These important arteries for commerce face unique challenges related to illegal drugs and smuggling. It

is important that the Coast Guard continues to work diligently with relevant stakeholders to address these challenges.

This legislation would also ensure that Federal authorities are working in close partnership with their State, local, Tribal, territorial, and private sector partners to identify and address security issues related to America's inland waters.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative LESKO for her leadership on this bipartisan legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the bill; I urge adoption of the bill; and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, America is home to over 3 million miles of lakes, rivers, and streams, including more than 25,000 miles of navigable waters.

It is critically important that we have a complete picture of the security and criminal threats that inland waters face. H.R. 4402 would do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Arizona for introducing this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4402.

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.

WEATHERIZING INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE NORTH AND TERRORISM EMERGENCY READINESS ACT OF 2019

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3669) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a collective response to a terrorism exercise that includes the management of cascading effects on critical infrastructure during times of extreme cold weather, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3669

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 "Weatherizing Infrastructure in the North and Terrorism Emergency Readiness Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. EXERCISE ON TERRORIST ATTACK DURING EXTREME COLD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to, or as part of exercise programs currently carried out by the Department of Homeland Security, to enhance domestic preparedness for terrorism, promote the dissemination of homeland security information, and test the homeland security posture of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through appropriate offices and components of the Department, shall develop and

conduct a collective response to terrorism exercise that includes management of cascading effects on critical infrastructure (as such term is defined in section 1016(e) of Public Law 107-56 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e))), such as an extreme cold weather event caused by a polar vortex.

(b) EXERCISE REQUIREMENTS.—The exercise required under subsection (a) shall include a scenario involving the following:

(1) An extreme cold weather event, such as an event caused by a polar vortex, with respect to access to critical services.

(2) Any cascading effects on critical infrastructure.

(3) How the effects of a successful terrorist attack against critical infrastructure could be mitigated by emergency managers, State officials, and appropriate private sector and community stakeholders.

(4) How the resilience of communities that could be impacted by such an attack could be bolstered.

(5) Coordination with appropriate Federal departments and agencies, and State, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies.

(6) Coordination with appropriate private sector and community stakeholders.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the completion of the exercise required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, consistent with the protection of classified information, submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an after-action report presenting the initial findings of such exercise, any immediate and longer-term plans for incorporating lessons learned into future operations of the Department of Homeland Security, and any proposed legislative changes informed by such exercise.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

□ 1700

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my own bill, H.R. 3669, the Weatherizing Infrastructure in the North and Terrorism Emergency Readiness Act of 2019 or, as we like to call it, the WINTER Act.

Terrorism is a persistent threat to the United States. We need to be prepared to confront terrorism in all situations, even during extreme weather events. As climate change continues to change weather patterns, extreme winter storms will become more common.

The effects of climate change produce more snowfall during winter storms as a warmer planet evaporates more water into the atmosphere, and that moisture means heavier snowfall and worse storms.

Given what we know, we must make sure we are prepared to act if a terrorist attack were to take place during an extreme cold event. This is why I introduced H.R. 3669, the WINTER Act.

In recent years, the Nation has experienced several extreme cold weather events, such as the polar vortex during the winter of 2019. This one was very specific and personal to the State of Michigan.

Last winter, in my State, temperatures reached as low as negative 43 degrees Fahrenheit during the polar vortex. During that time we had a fire, an accidental fire at one of our gas facilities, causing it to shut down, and resulting in a gas shortage in our State. As a result, our Governor had to go on television and ask all Michiganders to turn down their thermostats below 65 degrees to ensure that we didn't lose power across the State and were able to keep our warming stations, our hospitals, our homeless shelters open.

The dangers that result from cold weather aren't unique to Michigan. Across the U.S., over 6,000 people died from hypothermia or exposure to cold between 2006 and 2010, equating to over 1,000 deaths per year.

During these extreme cold weather events, infrastructure and emergency services are critical, and any disruption poses a serious threat to the health and safety of Americans in the affected area.

Last winter's events made me realize that if we had a critical infrastructure attack in the middle of winter, particularly in places in the northern half of the country, we would be extremely vulnerable. If terrorists choose to take advantage of any of these circumstances to amplify the deadly impacts of an attack, our elderly, our families, and our first responders could be put in the most danger.

This bipartisan bill directs the Department of Homeland Security to develop and conduct a terrorism training exercise that addresses the effects of a successful terrorist attack on critical infrastructure during extreme cold weather.

This exercise will help determine the best way for emergency managers, State and local officials, and community stakeholders to mitigate the impacts of such an attack and help keep people safe.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 3669, the Weatherizing Infrastructure in the North and Terrorism Emergency Readiness Act—the WINTER Act—of 2019.

This legislation seeks to better position the United States government and relevant State, local, and private sector agencies to be able to respond to a terrorist attack during an extreme cold weather event.

An extreme weather event, such as a polar vortex, has the potential to severely impact our daily lives, damage

our critical infrastructure, and leave America incredibly vulnerable to terrorist attack.

H.R. 3669 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and conduct an exercise to respond to terrorism during extreme weather events.

The bill also requires the Secretary to produce an after-action report to Congress, presenting the findings of the exercise and plans for quickly incorporating those lessons learned for future operations of the Department.

As the threat of terrorism continues to evolve, we must be prepared to respond to any scenario.

I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for her leadership on this bill. I urge all Members to join me in supporting the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from Louisiana closes.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like the Congresswoman to be aware that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The passage of the WINTER Act would ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is doing its part to improve preparedness and response to terrorism in the event of extreme cold.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 3669; winter is coming; and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3669.

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.

ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 256) to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 256

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 “Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 803C of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2991b-3) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(7)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “10” and inserting “5”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “15” and inserting “10”; and

(2) in subsection (e)(2)—

(A) by striking “or 3-year basis” and inserting “3-year, 4-year, or 5-year basis”; and

(B) by inserting “, 4-year, or 5-year” after “on a 3-year”.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 816(e) of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2992d(e)) is amended by striking “such sums” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “\$13,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 816 of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2992d) is amended in subsections (a) and (b) by striking “subsection (e)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (d)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support S. 256, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act.

The United States has a trust responsibility to support indigenous peoples in this country. The survival of indigenous peoples' languages is fundamental to the success of Native communities and the survival of traditional Native cultures.

The history of the United States tells us about the deliberate efforts to eliminate indigenous peoples' languages and cultures through forced assimilation, boarding school forced attendance, treaties that have not been honored, and promises not kept.

According to UNESCO, 74 Native languages stand to disappear within the next decade. Scholars project that only 20 Native languages will be spoken by the year 2050. The linguistic and cultural genocide is real and demands action.

The Esther Martinez language program has been a tool that was created to address this stark reality. This language program is named in honor of a New Mexico Tewa teacher and storyteller, Esther Martinez, who is known and honored for her dedication and efforts in revitalizing her people's language.

The Esther Martinez Initiative funds immersion programs that are success-

ful in preserving and revitalizing Native languages, both to indigenous communities, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students.

Today, grants provided under Esther Martinez' program have empowered Native communities to establish language immersion programs that are successfully reviving Native languages and improving Native economies.

This grant has been used to develop curriculums rooted in Native language based on traditional values and beliefs in subject areas that obviously include language, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Esther Martinez grants also support children's books in Native languages, the development of language assessment tools, and the intergenerational programs to support regular use of Native language with children at home.

Importantly, they also provide funding to train Native language teachers to use the language immersion curriculum developed by the Tribe and/or school.

The powerful link between language and identity for Native people is essential in the development of successful students and communities. These language immersion programs have proven to be the best model for developing fluent speakers and successful students.

S. 256 reauthorizes the Esther Martinez program for \$13 million annually, increases the maximum duration of the grant, and reduces the number of program enrollees needed to qualify for a grant.

The survival of Native languages is fundamental to the success of Native communities and the survival of traditional Native cultures.

I would like to thank my colleagues Representative LUJÁN and Senator UDALL for leading the effort, and for the support of Representative HAALAND.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 256, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Greetings, my relative, in Lakota is “How mitakuye.”

I am honored to join the chairman, my colleague from Arizona, to usher this important legislation through the House after its passage through the Senate.

Now, South Dakota and Arizona both have rich Native American history and culture, and we are here tonight to celebrate, to cherish, and, yes, to sustain that culture.

The Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act was introduced in 2006 by my friend Heather Wilson, who was a Congresswoman from New Mexico before she moved to South Dakota. This reauthorization of her bill will empower

Native American Tribes to continue teaching languages like Lakota and Dakota to future generations.

Let there be no mistake. There is pressing need for this work. Fewer than 1 percent of Lakota and Dakota Native Americans are fluent in either of those languages. That means there are just 2,000 Lakota and Dakota fluent speakers in the world. We are losing those speakers too quickly because of old age, and their ranks have declined by 65 percent in the last 15 years.

Unfortunately, it is not just Lakota and Dakota that are threatened. There are 175 Native languages spoken in this country today, and there are estimates that, 30 years from now, fewer than 20 will be spoken.

Why does this matter? Why do we care? Why are we gathered here tonight for such a just cause?

It is because, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, language is the lifeblood of culture. Language opens a doorway for all of us, a doorway into understanding of peoples, into understanding their past, and maybe, most interestingly, understanding their future. That is powerful insight.

Now, for example, Lakota-speaking Native Americans may say, “mitakuye oyasin,” which means, we are all related. But this, to me, is the most fascinating part about this, Mr. Speaker, you wouldn’t just say that when you are around people with whom you are related. You would say that in a broader group of people, to demonstrate an interconnectedness, part of a larger family, that we have similar values and dreams and fears; there is a human condition.

Now, English doesn’t quite have a phrase like that. The fact that Lakota does tells us a lot about the Lakota people.

This program, these dollars, are having an impact in Indian Country. For years, Lakota was, along with dozens of other Native languages, designated as “severely threatened.” Its status was recently changed to a “reawakening language.”

That is an acknowledgment that projects funded by this program, projects that are working today in communities in South Dakota like Eagle Butte and Porcupine, are making a difference.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would say thank you, “pilamaye yelo.”

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), a leader in this effort on this legislation.

□ 1715

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act.

With the passage of this legislation, Congress has made monumental progress to affirm Native communities honoring their heritage by speaking

the languages gifted to them by their creators.

Today, we recognize the only existing Federal Native language education grant programs. These programs give our first Americans crucial support to protect their languages from extinction.

Today is a historic moment, a blessing, and I want to offer thanks to the people who made this achievement possible.

We owe our deepest gratitude to Esther Martinez of Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, who ensured Tewa is spoken across New Mexico. Her passion for her culture and tradition is what brought us together today.

To the educators who work every day to ensure Native languages are here for future generations, thank you.

I thank my colleague Senator TOM UDALL, who has made reauthorization of these programs a top priority for more than a decade and successfully secured passage of the legislation in the U.S. Senate.

I would also like to recognize Congressman GRIJALVA, Mr. Speaker, for his leadership on behalf of Tribes and Native peoples.

I am deeply grateful for my colleagues Congresswomen HAALAND and TORRES SMALL, Chairmen YOUNG and COLE, Congresswomen MCCOLLUM and GABBARD, and Chairman SCOTT for joining together to ensure this legislation had its day on the House floor.

I thank and recognize all the Pueblo, Apache, and Navajo leaders from New Mexico, including those in the gallery today.

With the permission of her family, I am honored to celebrate the legacy that Esther Martinez and her Pueblo have shared with the world.

New Mexico boasts a rich history and diversity that includes 23 Native Nations and seven indigenous language groups found nowhere else on Earth. Esther Martinez, a master educator and linguist, dedicated her life to the Tewa language, which today is spoken across six northern Pueblos in my district and in Hopi-Tewa in Arizona.

As a child whose first language was Tewa, Mrs. Martinez attended a government-run Indian boarding school where nearly everything that made her a Pueblo woman was banned, including her language.

Her experience is not unique. Generations of Native families had their children torn from their arms, bound for schools that forced English and Western education on Native students.

Despite living through a period of overt racism with Federal policies aimed at exterminating Native culture, Mrs. Martinez defied the odds by returning to Ohkay Owingeh. She raised her children and family to speak the Tewa dialect. Esther went on to teach many more as a linguist, a schoolteacher, and the director of bilingual education for her Pueblo.

Her legacy lives on in the sounds of Tewa being spoken in her community.

Her son Tony and daughters Marie and Josephine are raising their children and grandchildren with Tewa in their homes. Her daughter Mercedes is a regular attendee at adult language classes taught by one of Esther Martinez’ proteges.

Esther Martinez’ grandson, former Lieutenant Governor Matthew Martinez, a doctor of American studies and American Indian studies, advances his culture at Santa Fe’s Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. He is also teaching Tewa to his youngest son.

Today, we pass this legislation knowing that it will help Native communities protect their languages for generations to come. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from referencing occupants of the gallery.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, for 46 years, the 120,000 Alaskan Natives in our country have had a champion working for them, fighting for them, advocating for them. He is the dean of this House and the former chairman of the Indian Affairs Subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG.)

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

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. Mr. JOHNSON has done a great job. That was a great presentation. I am very proud of him.

Each person who has spoken on this legislation really put it in context about the Esther Martinez program started in 2006. I happened to be a cosponsor of that bill. I watched it pass and become a reality, and it has worked.

What we are doing is reauthorizing a program that allows a culture to be retained through languages. In Alaska, we have 20 Native languages and 40-some dialects.

As the gentleman said, we lost that for a long period of time. Language is what keeps the culture together. It is important for the past, important for the present, and important for the future.

The University of Alaska has a program, the Alaska Native Language Center, which has worked very well since the 1970s. We were well ahead with this program, and we want to continue it.

We have an innovative Alaska Native Cultural Charter School in Anchorage that teaches Yupik to all the students so there is an exchange, not just Native, but between other races, so they understand the language.

I believe this is one of the best programs that we are able to achieve. The funding probably is still inadequate, but it is a continuation of good work by this Congress.

I thank each one of you who has been participating in this, especially Representative LUJÁN. I am a little bit

concerned, if I may. I don't want to speak about the other body, but we know who it is. They have taken Mr. LUJAN's bill and sort of put their name on it, but we will forgive them because we will get it done.

This is good legislation. I also would like to thank Representative PRICE, who co-chairs the American Languages Caucus with me.

Again, congratulations. This is good legislation. The chairman has done well, and let's continue to act.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 256, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act.

There are many critical needs in Indian Country, and the Federal Government has an obligation to fulfill our trust and Tribal responsibilities. This commitment includes reauthorizing the Esther Martinez Immersion grants so that Congress ensures Indian students have the opportunity to study, learn, and speak their Tribal languages.

The National Congress of American Indians says it best: A language "encompasses and expresses a worldview shaped by centuries, in some cases tens of thousands of years of experience, knowledge, practices, spiritual beliefs, and relationships between a people, its neighbors, and its environment, which cannot be replicated in any other tongue."

Language is paramount to one's identity. The gift of language allows a person to carry their culture from their ancestors to the present and on to the next generation to come.

Esther Martinez grants have empowered Tribes to establish immersion programs, making it possible for more Tribal communities to maintain their Native languages and pass along centuries-old cultural heritage.

These grants will benefit not only Native American Tribal Nations across the country but also Native Hawaiians, Native Alaskans, and Pacific Islander communities, giving them the ability to protect and rejuvenate indigenous languages.

Without urgent action to reauthorize these grants, too many communities risk losing the Native languages of their ancestors.

As chair emeritus of the Native American Caucus, I have worked to increase funding for Esther Martinez programs, and I will continue to make Native languages and their preservation and education a priority.

Mr. Speaker, as the 116th Congress moves forward, we must prioritize our Federal trust and treaty obligations. We must do so in a way that respects Native culture and strengthens Native communities. Reauthorizing the Esther Martinez Native American Language Preservation Act brings us one step closer to this goal.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation,

and in the words of the Ojibwe, "miigwech."

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

We are not here in this body to reauthorize feel-good programs. We are gathered here tonight not to reauthorize a feel-good program but to authorize a program that works, that makes a difference.

The evidence is clear. Students who participate in these programs, they do learn language skills. They also are more likely to graduate high school. They are more likely to have high academic achievement. They are more likely to be successful in their communities. That is what the data tells us. We cannot let up now.

These programs are working in a variety of States and a variety of communities. If we want a robust and healthy Native American culture in this country, we need to have a healthy and robust Native American language environment in this country. The Esther Martinez Native American Language Preservation Act is important, a critical component of that framework, of that environment.

I ask my colleagues, I beseech them tonight, to reauthorize this program that is doing so much good throughout our country. I urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

My Speaker, I thank my colleagues across the aisle and, in particular, Mr. YOUNG, my friend from the committee.

When I first came to Congress, this is one of the first bills that he sponsored. I was very proud to vote for it then, and I encourage all of my colleagues today to be very proud to vote for it now.

The reauthorization is \$13 million, and it is an amount of money that goes very far in Indian Country, an amount of money that many could argue should be more, but the point today is to reauthorize.

By reauthorization and seed money, which is so important to the Native youth and children, I think we make a statement as a Congress that we, too, join in reaffirming the revitalization, the preservation of both language and culture among the first Americans in this country. We say to them that what they bring as persons, as a Tribe, as a people is vital, too, and enriches the fabric of this Nation of ours.

I am proud to be here. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill. It is a good piece of legislation that does good work and will continue to do good work. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 256.

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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETERS) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 729, TRIBAL COASTAL RESILIENCY ACT

Mr. MORELLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-330) on the resolution (H. Res. 748) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 729) to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize grants to Indian Tribes to further achievement of Tribal coastal zone objectives, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 4761, and

H.R. 4739; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

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

DHS OPIOID DETECTION RESILIENCE ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 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, 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 gentlewoman from New York (Ms.

CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 1, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 655]

YEAS—393

Abraham	Dean	Johnson (OH)
Adams	DeFazio	Johnson (SD)
Aguilar	DeGette	Johnson (TX)
Allen	DeLauro	Jordan
Allred	DelBene	Joyce (OH)
Amodei	Delgado	Joyce (PA)
Armstrong	Demings	Kaptur
Arrington	DeSaulnier	Katko
Axne	DesJarlais	Keller
Babin	Deutch	Kelly (IL)
Bacon	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (MS)
Baird	Dingell	Kelly (PA)
Balderson	Doggett	Khanna
Banks	Doyle, Michael	Kildee
Barr	F.	Kilmer
Barragán	Duncan	Kim
Bass	Dunn	King (IA)
Beatty	Engel	Kinzinger
Bera	Escobar	Kirkpatrick
Bergman	Eshoo	Krishnamoorthi
Beyer	Españillat	Kuster (NH)
Biggs	Estes	Kustoff (TN)
Bilirakis	Evans	LaHood
Bishop (GA)	Ferguson	Lamb
Bishop (NC)	Finkenauer	Langevin
Bishop (UT)	Fitzpatrick	Larsen (WA)
Blumenauer	Fleischmann	Larson (CT)
Blunt Rochester	Fletcher	Latta
Bonamici	Flores	Lawrence
Bost	Fortenberry	Lee (CA)
Boyle, Brendan	Foster	Lee (NV)
F.	Foxx (NC)	Lesko
Brady	Frankel	Levin (CA)
Brindisi	Fudge	Levin (MI)
Brooks (AL)	Fulcher	Lewis
Brown (MD)	Gaetz	Lipinski
Brownley (CA)	Gallagher	Lofgren
Buchanan	Gallego	Long
Buck	Garamendi	Loudermilk
Bucshon	Garcia (IL)	Lowenthal
Budd	Garcia (TX)	Lowe
Burchett	Gianforte	Lucas
Burgess	Gibbs	Luján
Bustos	Gohmert	Luria
Butterfield	Golden	Malinowski
Byrne	Gomez	Maloney
Calvert	Gonzalez (OH)	Carolyn B.
Carbajal	Gonzalez (TX)	Maloney, Sean
Cárdenas	Gosar	Marshall
Carson (IN)	Gottheimer	Massie
Carter (GA)	Granger	Mast
Cartwright	Graves (GA)	Matsui
Case	Graves (LA)	McAdams
Casten (IL)	Graves (MO)	McBath
Castor (FL)	Green (TN)	McCarthy
Castro (TX)	Green, Al (TX)	McCaul
Chabot	Griffith	McClintock
Cheney	Grijalva	McCollum
Chu, Judy	Grothman	McGovern
Cicilline	Guest	McHenry
Cisneros	Guthrie	McKinley
Clark (MA)	Haaland	Meadows
Clarke (NY)	Hagedorn	Meuser
Clay	Harder (CA)	Miller
Cleaver	Harris	Mitchell
Cline	Hastings	Moolenaar
Cloud	Hayes	Mooney (WV)
Cohen	Heck	Moore
Cole	Hern, Kevin	Morelle
Collins (GA)	Herrera Beutler	Moulton
Comer	Hice (GA)	Mucarsel-Powell
Conaway	Higgins (LA)	Mullin
Connolly	Higgins (NY)	Murphy (FL)
Cook	Hill (AR)	Murphy (NC)
Cooper	Himes	Nadler
Correa	Holding	Napolitano
Costa	Hollingsworth	Neal
Courtney	Horn, Kendra S.	Neguse
Cox (CA)	Horsford	Newhouse
Craig	Houlahan	Norcross
Crenshaw	Hoyer	Norman
Crist	Hudson	Nunes
Crow	Huffman	O'Halleran
Cuellar	Huizenga	Ocasio-Cortez
Cunningham	Hurd (TX)	Olson
Curtis	Jackson Lee	Omar
Davids (KS)	Jayapal	Pallone
Davidson (OH)	Jeffries	Palmer
Davis (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Panetta
Davis, Rodney	Johnson (LA)	Pappas

Pascarell	Schneider	Tonko
Payne	Schrader	Torres (CA)
Pence	Schrier	Torres Small
Perlmutter	Schweikert	(NM)
Perry	Scott (VA)	Trahan
Peters	Scott, Austin	Trone
Peterson	Scott, David	Turner
Phillips	Sensenbrenner	Underwood
Pingree	Sewell (AL)	Upton
Pocan	Shalala	Van Drew
Porter	Sherman	Vargas
Posey	Sherrill	Veasey
Pressley	Shimkus	Vela
Price (NC)	Simpson	Velázquez
Quigley	Sires	Visclosky
Raskin	Slotkin	Wagner
Ratcliffe	Smith (MO)	Walberg
Reed	Smith (NE)	Walden
Reschenthaler	Smith (NJ)	Walker
Rice (NY)	Smith (WA)	Walorski
Rice (SC)	Smucker	Waltz
Richmond	Spanberger	Wasserman
Riggleman	Spano	Schultz
Roby	Speier	Waters
Rodgers (WA)	Stanton	Watkins
Roe, David P.	Stauber	Watson Coleman
Rogers (AL)	Stefanik	Weber (TX)
Rogers (KY)	Steil	Webster (FL)
Rose (NY)	Steube	Welch
Rose, John W.	Stevens	Westrup
Rouda	Stivers	Westerman
Rouzer	Suozzi	Wexton
Roy	Swailwell (CA)	Wild
Roybal-Allard	Takano	Williams
Ruiz	Taylor	Wilson (SC)
Ruppersberger	Thompson (CA)	Wittman
Ryan	Thompson (MS)	Womack
Sánchez	Thompson (PA)	Woodall
Sarbanes	Thornberry	Wright
Scalise	Timmons	Yarmuth
Scanlon	Tipton	Young
Schakowsky	Titus	Zeldin
Schiff	Tlaib	

NAYS—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—36

Aderholt	Kennedy	McNerney
Brooks (IN)	Kind	Meeks
Carter (TX)	King (NY)	Meng
Clyburn	LaMalfa	Palazzo
Crawford	Lamborn	Rooney (FL)
Davis, Danny K.	Lawson (FL)	Rush
Emmer	Lieu, Ted	Rutherford
Gabbard	Loeback	Serrano
Gooden	Luetkemeyer	Soto
Hartzler	Lynch	Stewart
Hunter	Marchant	Wilson (FL)
Keating	McEachin	Yoho

□ 1900

Mr. ARRINGTON changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SYNTHETIC OPIOID EXPOSURE PREVENTION AND TRAINING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 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, 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 gentlewoman from New York (Ms.

CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 0, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 656]

YEAS—393

Abraham	Davidson (OH)	Hurd (TX)
Adams	Davis (CA)	Jackson Lee
Aguilar	Davis, Rodney	Jayapal
Allen	Dean	Jeffries
Allred	DeFazio	Johnson (GA)
Amash	DeGette	Johnson (LA)
Amodei	DeLauro	Johnson (OH)
Armstrong	DelBene	Johnson (SD)
Arrington	Delgado	Johnson (TX)
Axne	Demings	Jordan
Babin	DeSaulnier	Joyce (OH)
Bacon	DesJarlais	Joyce (PA)
Baird	Deutch	Kaptur
Balderson	Diaz-Balart	Katko
Banks	Dingell	Keller
Barr	Doggett	Kelly (IL)
Barragán	Doyle, Michael	Kelly (MS)
Bass	F.	Kelly (PA)
Beatty	Duncan	Khanna
Bera	Dunn	Kildee
Bergman	Emmer	Kilmer
Beyer	Engel	Kim
Biggs	Escobar	King (IA)
Bilirakis	Eshoo	Kinzing
Bishop (GA)	Españillat	Kirkpatrick
Bishop (NC)	Estes	Krishnamoorthi
Bishop (UT)	Evans	Kuster (NH)
Blumenauer	Ferguson	Kustoff (TN)
Blunt Rochester	Finkenauer	LaHood
Bonamici	Fitzpatrick	Lamb
Bost	Fleischmann	Langevin
Boyle, Brendan	Fletcher	Larsen (WA)
F.	Flores	Larson (CT)
Brady	Fortenberry	Latta
Brindisi	Foster	Lawrence
Brooks (AL)	Foxx (NC)	Lee (CA)
Brown (MD)	Frankel	Lee (NV)
Brownley (CA)	Fudge	Lesko
Buchanan	Fulcher	Levin (CA)
Buck	Gaetz	Levin (MI)
Bucshon	Gallagher	Lewis
Budd	Gallego	Lipinski
Burchett	Garamendi	Lofgren
Burgess	Garcia (IL)	Long
Bustos	Garcia (TX)	Loudermilk
Butterfield	Gianforte	Lowenthal
Byrne	Gibbs	Lowe
Calvert	Gohmert	Lucas
Carbajal	Golden	Luján
Cárdenas	Gomez	Luria
Carson (IN)	Gonzalez (OH)	Malinowski
Carter (GA)	Gonzalez (TX)	Maloney
Cartwright	Gosar	Carolyn B.
Case	Gottheimer	Maloney, Sean
Casten (IL)	Granger	Marshall
Castor (FL)	Graves (GA)	Massie
Castro (TX)	Graves (LA)	Mast
Chabot	Graves (MO)	Matsui
Cheney	Green (TN)	McAdams
Chu, Judy	Green, Al (TX)	McBath
Cicilline	Griffith	McCarthy
Cisneros	Grijalva	McCaul
Clark (MA)	Grothman	McClintock
Clarke (NY)	Guest	McCollum
Clay	Guthrie	McGovern
Cleaver	Haaland	McHenry
Cline	Hagedorn	McKinley
Cloud	Harder (CA)	Meuser
Cohen	Harris	Miller
Cole	Hastings	Mitchell
Collins (GA)	Hayes	Moolenaar
Comer	Heck	Mooney (WV)
Conaway	Hern, Kevin	Moore
Connolly	Herrera Beutler	Morelle
Cook	Hice (GA)	Moulton
Cooper	Higgins (LA)	Mucarsel-Powell
Correa	Higgins (NY)	Mullin
Costa	Hill (AR)	Murphy (FL)
Courtney	Himes	Murphy (NC)
Cox (CA)	Holding	Nadler
Craig	Hollingsworth	Napolitano
Crenshaw	Horn, Kendra S.	Neal
Crist	Horsford	Neguse
Crow	Houlahan	Newhouse
Cuellar	Hoyer	Norcross
Cunningham	Hudson	Norman
Curtis	Huffman	Nunes
Davids (KS)	Huizenga	O'Halleran

Ocasio-Cortez	Sarbanes	Tipton
Olson	Scalise	Titus
Omar	Scanlon	Tlaib
Pallone	Schakowsky	Tonko
Palmer	Schiff	Torres Small
Panetta	Schneider	(NM)
Pappas	Schrader	Trahan
Pascarell	Schrier	Trone
Payne	Schweikert	Turner
Pence	Scott (VA)	Underwood
Perlmutter	Scott, Austin	Upton
Perry	Scott, David	Van Drew
Peters	Sensenbrenner	Vargas
Peterson	Sewell (AL)	Veasey
Phillips	Shalala	Vela
Pingree	Sherman	Velázquez
Pocan	Sherrill	Visclosky
Porter	Shimkus	Wagner
Posey	Simpson	Walberg
Pressley	Sires	Walden
Price (NC)	Slotkin	Walker
Quigley	Smith (MO)	Walorski
Raskin	Smith (NE)	Waltz
Ratcliffe	Smith (NJ)	Wasserman
Reed	Smith (WA)	Schultz
Reschenthaler	Smucker	Waters
Rice (NY)	Spanberger	Watkins
Rice (SC)	Spano	Watson Coleman
Richmond	Speier	Weber (TX)
Riggleman	Stanton	Webster (FL)
Roby	Stauber	Welch
Rodgers (WA)	Stefanik	Wenstrup
Roe, David P.	Stell	Westerman
Rogers (AL)	Steube	Wexton
Rogers (KY)	Stevens	Wild
Rose (NY)	Stivers	Williams
Rose, John W.	Suozzi	Wilson (SC)
Rouda	Swalwell (CA)	Wittman
Rouzer	Takano	Womack
Roy	Taylor	Woodall
Roybal-Allard	Thompson (CA)	Wright
Ruiz	Thompson (MS)	Yarmuth
Ruppersberger	Thompson (PA)	Young
Ryan	Thornberry	Zeldin
Sánchez	Timmons	

NOT VOTING—37

Aderholt	King (NY)	Meng
Brooks (IN)	LaMalfa	Palazzo
Carter (TX)	Lamborn	Rooney (FL)
Clyburn	Lawson (FL)	Rush
Crawford	Lieu, Ted	Rutherford
Davis, Danny K.	Loebach	Serrano
Gabbard	Luetkemeyer	Soto
Gooden	Lynch	Stewart
Hartzler	Marchant	Torres (CA)
Hunter	McEachin	Wilson (FL)
Keating	McNerney	Yoho
Kennedy	Meadows	
Kind	Meeks	

□ 1909

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

□ 1915

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING THE LIVES AND MEMORY OF THREE BRAVE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARDSMEN

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

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, on December 5, Minnesotans learned of the disappearance of a Minnesota National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter carrying three National Guardsmen during a maintenance test flight.

Unfortunately, this fateful flight, which originated from St. Cloud, Minnesota, saw the lives of Chief Warrant Officer 2 James A. Rogers, Jr., Chief Warrant Officer 2 Charles P. Nord, and Sergeant Kort M. Plantenberg all tragically lost that day.

Today my colleagues and I join together to honor the memories of these brave Minnesotans and to send our deepest sympathies to their families and loved ones.

Whether deployed overseas or training here at home, members of our Armed Forces routinely put their lives at risk to ensure the safety and security of our Nation.

We pray these families are able to find some peace and comfort during this tragic time and that they know that their fellow Minnesotans and their Nation mourn with them.

We are eternally grateful for their loved ones' sacrifice and service to our great State of Minnesota and to the Nation. Their memories and legacies will never be forgotten.

In honor of James A. Rogers, Jr., Charles P. Nord, and Kort M. Plantenberg, I ask that all Members and guests in the gallery rise for a moment of silence to honor these heroes.

HONORING QUILLA TALMADGE

(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 East Orange City Councilwoman Quilla Talmadge. Councilwoman Talmadge has served the citizens of East Orange with distinction for 30 years.

Her political career started as president of her third ward neighborhood. It continued with her active leadership as a member of her local Parent Teacher Association, local NAACP, and the National Council of Negro Women, among many others.

She has won numerous awards for her community and church involvement.

Recently, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities inducted her into the Elected Officials Hall of Fame.

Councilwoman Talmadge is retiring from the city council this year, but she has left a legacy that will be remembered for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the residents of East Orange in commending her service to her community.

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE

(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, this past weekend, we remembered and reflected on the 78th anniversary of the devastating naval base attack in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This act of war against our Nation prompted our entry into World War II.

The surprise attack by the Japanese on the morning of December 7, 1941, left 2,403 people dead. Among them were members of the U.S. Navy, Army, Marines, as well as civilians.

It was one of the deadliest attacks in U.S. history. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt described it as a "date which will live in infamy."

Madam Speaker, let us honor the lives of those brave Americans who perished on that day 78 years ago.

As President Roosevelt said: "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory."

And we did.

May God bless all of our Pearl Harbor victims and survivors.

12 DAYS OF SALT

(Ms. SHERRILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, on this fourth day of SALT, my constituents have said to me that the SALT cap has impacted their ability to engage in charitable giving.

Capping SALT deductions will substantially reduce the number of itemizers and, therefore, will reduce the number of households that will benefit from the tax incentive for charitable giving.

The Tax Policy Center estimates that only 8 percent of all households will take the charitable gift deduction in 2018, compared to 21 percent in 2017.

While people give generously to charities for many reasons, studies clearly show a positive relationship between the existence of a tax incentive and the amount donated.

The reductions in giving that will result from this bill will be devastating to charities and to the people, communities, and causes that depend on them.

New Jersey's charities and nonprofit organizations provide critical services to our community that range from providing support services to individuals suffering from addiction to providing shelter for battered women and their children and providing disaster relief.

Additionally, New Jersey charities employ almost 10 percent of the State's private workforce.

The programs, services, and economic benefits provided by nonprofits are critical factors in making New Jersey an attractive place to live, work, or start a business. The SALT cap puts all of this at risk.

SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM FOR THE PEOPLE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of democracy and freedom for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the importance of protecting religious minorities in the region.

In August, the Indian Government rescinded article 370 of their Constitution, repealing autonomy of the region; and, since then, it has been cut off through widespread communications blackouts. There have been curfews, and some 4,000 people have been detained, which includes children as young as 9 years old. There have been reported human rights abuses and deaths resulting from inaccessibility to healthcare.

Madam Speaker, this situation cannot stand, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 745, which urges the Indian Government to uphold the democratic values upon which it was founded.

MASS SHOOTING AT THE NAVAL AIR STATION IN PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

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

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, last week, the Sunshine State was devastated by the 393rd mass shooting of 2019.

On December 6, a gunman opened fire at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida, killing three and wounding eight. One of the victims is Pinellas County's very own Mohammed Haitham.

Nineteen-year-old Mo, as he was known to his family and friends, was a track star at Lakewood High School in St. Petersburg and a shining example of all the best our community has to offer.

He joined the Navy to serve his country shortly after finishing high school, with a dream of graduating from flight school.

Our Nation was robbed of a sailor, and a St. Pete family was robbed of a son.

My heart goes out to Mo's family and loved ones as they try to make sense of the senseless.

Madam Speaker, we stand with the Haitham family. The entire community is behind them.

I pray for all those affected in Pensacola, and I pray for Congress to take action on gun violence.

CONGRATULATING ST. TERESA'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Brad Dalton and the St. Teresa volleyball team on their first IHSA volleyball championship.

Last month, the Bulldogs played the Breese Mater Dei Knights for the Class 2A title and won the championship in two sets.

Although it was St. Teresa's fourth time competing in the State tournament, this was their best finish ever. The Bulldogs earned the school's first ever State championship title in volleyball—and first in Macon County history.

Offensively, the Bulldogs pulled off 21 kills and 3 aces in the first set, with an equally intimidating defense that racked up 32 digs, total.

In the second set, the teams tied 11 times, but an ace by senior Abby Robinson followed by a remarkable dig finished the match 26–24.

Coach Dalton said: "We fought and we fought. This is a big win for everybody in our program."

A historic win to cap off a whirlwind of a season. Congratulations to Coach Dalton and the entire Bulldog team.

RURAL GREEN PARTNERSHIP

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with you a framework of principles to give rural America a seat at the table as we work to combat climate change. I call it the Rural Green Partnership.

For generations, farm families in Illinois have worked hard to provide food for our country and for the world, but this year has brought a challenging growing season. Farmers have seen shifting weather patterns and severe flooding delay and even prevent planting and harvesting.

Rural economies in Illinois and across the country depend on a stable climate to survive. Weather chaos means it is more difficult to grow our crops and put food on the table.

I am proud to put forward the Rural Green Partnership, and if we follow the principles in this plan, we can lower greenhouse gas emissions and spur economic growth.

Madam Speaker, I say to my colleagues: It is our moral and economic imperative to address this climate crisis and its impact on rural America.

I urge them to join me in enacting the policies outlined in the Rural Green Partnership so we can provide our farming communities with more than just a path forward but, also, an opportunity to prosper.

RECOGNIZING VETERAN OF THE MONTH JOHN THIES

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to 30-year U.S. Army veteran Sergeant Major John Thies.

During his three decades of service to our Nation, mostly as a Special Forces Green Beret, he faced combat operations in Panama, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Among the many highlights of his illustrious career was his participation with the third Operational Detachment Alpha to infiltrate Afghanistan following the attacks on September 11, 2001.

As a servicemember in all of these conflicts, John and his fellow warriors helped to bring down dictators, defeat insurgencies, and create conditions for the establishment of democracy. More importantly, his sacrifices brought hope to the suffering and peace to those in need of relief.

I believe Sergeant Major Thies' former commanders and peers summarized his career and impact well in sharing that he was one of the finest noncommissioned officers they had ever served with. That is high praise from our Nation's finest.

Madam Speaker, I thank John. I thank him for putting us before himself. We and our families slept better knowing he was on alert.

LIFT THE CAP ON THE STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTION

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the taxpayers in my district and urge my colleagues to quickly pass bipartisan legislation to lift the cap on the State and local tax deduction.

Capping the deduction hurts homeowners and undermines State and local efforts to invest in our roads, schools, teachers, and first responders.

Setting the cap at \$10,000 for both individuals and joint filers unfairly punishes married couples.

Richard from Walnut wrote that while he and his wife are trying to plan for their retirement, "the net result of the cap was less money in my pocket."

Kyle from Yorba Linda wrote to me: "This new marriage penalty is a slap in the face to those of us who are trying to grow our roots in your district."

I introduced bipartisan legislation with my colleagues, Representative SHERRILL from New Jersey along with Republican Representatives PETER KING and ELISE STEFANIK.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this legislation before the year's end.

□ 1930

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PENN STATE CREW TEAM

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, this month, Penn State celebrates its 25th anniversary. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate them on their rich history of success.

The crew team at Penn State started with humble beginnings in the winter of 1994. While they had no equipment, the team possessed a passion for the sport and a will to do whatever was necessary to make the team successful.

In an example we can all be proud of, Penn State crew's first Schoenbrod was borrowed from Bucknell University, another great institution of higher education in Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District.

Later, through hard work at fundraising by selling concessions at football games, cleaning Beaver Stadium, and selling crew apparel, the team was finally able to purchase its own equipment in the fall of 1995. From there, the program has never looked back.

Penn State crew men's and women's teams have had a proud record of achievement that should make them very proud: sweeping podiums and inspiring a new generation of crew participants from experienced rowers to novices.

Again, Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate Penn State crew on celebrating their 25th anniversary.

PUERTO RICAN ACTION COMMITTEE

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to acknowledge the Puerto Rican Action Committee of southern New Jersey, an organization dedicated to supporting the Hispanic community in our area.

PRAC was originally created in 1971 to promote economic opportunities for agricultural workers and has since expanded its vision to encourage social, cultural, and economic actions that better the lives of Hispanic individuals. The organization has several programs in place to celebrate the vibrant culture of these people and to provide educational opportunity for the surrounding communities.

The PRAC of southern New Jersey has implemented Hispanic culture, arts, heritage, entertainment, and sporting initiatives to bring people together and to foster a sense of good community. Among all Hispanic individuals in south Jersey, community is so important.

The group also offers cultural diversity training programs to local companies in order to encourage a diverse workforce and to open job opportunities for minorities across the entire region.

PRAC has been fundamental in lifting up the Hispanic members of our community, and we thank them for the great work they do to make south Jersey an inclusive and prosperous place.

CONGRATULATING FRISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(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 with my fellow Texan, Dr. BURGESS, to congratulate the Frisco Chamber of Commerce on earning a 5-star accreditation from the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Frisco is home to some of the most innovative and booming businesses in Texas and throughout the entire country. Partnering with approximately 1,300 member businesses who represent more than 75,000 employees, the Frisco Chamber of Commerce goes above and beyond to provide the business community with a powerful voice through its advocacy efforts and partnerships.

The Frisco Chamber of Commerce received the highest accreditation awarded by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as a result of their effective organizational procedures and community involvement.

After earning this accreditation, the Frisco Chamber of Commerce is now among the top 2 percent of chambers in the Nation to receive this prestigious designation.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Frisco Chamber of Commerce on this tremendous achievement.

HONORING DAVID MIXNER

(Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, David Mixner, the legendary civil rights activist, best-selling author, and humanitarian known throughout the world for championing LGBT equality, healthcare, non-violence, and human rights for nearly 60 years.

I had the privilege of working and learning from David, an experience I will never forget, when I worked as White House staff secretary to President Bill Clinton. In the mode of our own JOHN LEWIS, David inspired a generation of us with his pioneering work for equality and documented those struggles in his seminal autobiography, "Stranger Among Friends."

David's leadership and wisdom shaped—indeed, made possible—my career and the careers of so many of us. He taught us to never tire of the fight and to always wage it with love.

From his early work with Harvey Milk defeating discriminatory laws

against LGBT teachers, to demanding real action in funding to combat the AIDS epidemic when our government was failing our community, David changed our Nation for the better. I know I speak for an entire LGBT community and our many allies in thanking David for his decades of activism.

At this very moment, he is giving what may be his final public performance in New York City before beginning his retirement. While I so wish I could be there tonight, my presence here, in this Chamber, in many ways is itself a tribute to David's lifetime of work.

And while the public phase of David's career may be drawing to a close, I know David's words and deeds will live on for many generations to come. He represents the best of America. He is a true patriot and a stranger no more.

U.S. NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this Friday is the 383rd birthday of the U.S. National Guard. Established in 1636, the National Guard is the oldest military organization in America. Its members served during times of war and emergency to keep American families safe and secure.

This anniversary allows us to come together to honor those who have risked their lives to protect our freedom. These sacrifices show that freedom is not free.

South Carolina is fortunate for the service of Adjutant General Van McCarty appointed by Governor Henry McMaster in the tradition of retiring Adjutant General Bob Livingston.

As a veteran of the Army National Guard and the father of three Army National Guardsmen who have served in Iraq, Egypt, and Afghanistan, I appreciate servicemembers, veterans, and military families. I am grateful for the resolve our servicemembers have to protect American families. I am thankful to celebrate this birthday of the militia filled with brave, self-sacrificing men and women.

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

CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, today, the House passed a bipartisan bill that Mr. MOOLENAAR joined me in introducing, H.R. 2051, the Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act.

Chemical products are part of our everyday lives, from toothpaste, to shampoo, cosmetics, dish soap, clothing, and

even Legos. Because these products are all around us, we need to prioritize the development of chemicals that are affordable, meet our needs, and are green, meaning that they protect our health and the environment.

By supporting research and educational efforts in green chemistry, my bill will ensure that American companies have the workforce and tools they need to create safer and more environmentally friendly products, while creating new American jobs.

H.R. 2051 is commonsense legislation that is a win for American workers and our health and environment.

Madam Speaker, I urge the Senate to act quickly and pass this bill.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HAYES). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9445(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy:

Ms. SPEIER, California

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2125

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LANGEVIN) at 9 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1790, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (S. 1790) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 9, 2019, published in Book II.)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's

table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 743. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as "Merrill's Marauders", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II; to the Committee on Financial Services; in addition, to the Committee on House Administration 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3223. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (18-4) [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2018-0697; FRL-10002-30] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received December 3, 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.

3224. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (18-2) [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2018-0649; FRL-10001-47] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received December 3, 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.

3225. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fenpyroximate; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0162; FRL-10002-00] received December 3, 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.

3226. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Findings of Failure To Submit a Clean Air Act Section 110 State Implementation Plan for Interstate Transport for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) [EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0603; FRL-10002-78-OAR] received December 3, 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.

3227. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule — Propamocarb; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0623; FRL-10000-33] received December 3, 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.

3228. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (18-3) [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2018-0650; FRL-10001-94] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received December 3, 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.

3229. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Sulfur Dioxide [EPA-R05-OAR-2018-0072; FRL-10002-81-Region 5] received December 3, 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.

3230. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Revisions to Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Annual Trading Program and Rescission of Clean Air Interstate Rule [EPA-R07-OAR-2019-0337; FRL-10000-20-Region 7] received December 3, 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.

3231. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Title V Operation Permit Program [EPA-R05-OAR-2018-0285; FRL-10002-80-Region 5] received December 3, 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.

3232. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Etoxazole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0644; FRL-10000-97] received December 3, 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.

3233. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; ID; Update to CRB Fee Billing Procedures [EPA-R10-OAR-2019-0403; FRL-10002-75-Region 10] received December 3, 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.

3234. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 20-0A, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3235. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 18-083, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3236. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 19-056, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3237. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 19-070, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3238. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of Strategic Operations and

Regulatory Affairs, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major notice — Medicare Program; CY 2020 Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Services Coinsurance Amounts [CMS-8071-N] (RIN: 0938-AT76) received December 4, 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.

3239. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major notice — Medicare Program; CY 2020 Part A Premiums for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement [CMS-8072-N] (RIN: 0938-AT77) received December 4, 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.

3240. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting a report; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs.

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. SCOTT of Virginia: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 3. A bill to establish a fair price negotiation program, protect the Medicare program from excessive price increases, and establish an out-of-pocket maximum for Medicare part D enrollees, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-324, Pt. 3). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5038. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-328, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 5035. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-329). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MORELLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 748. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 729) to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize grants to Indian Tribes to further achievement of Tribal coastal zone objectives, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-330). Referred to the House Calendar.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3621. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to remove adverse information for certain defaulted or delinquent private education loan borrowers who demonstrate a history of loan repayment, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-331). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2328. A bill to reauthorize and extend funding for community health centers and the National Health Service Corps; with amendments (Rept. 116-332, Pt. 1). Ordered to the printed.

Mr. SMITH of Washington: Committee of Conference. Conference report on S. 1790. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-333). Ordered to be printed.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and Labor, and Financial Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5038 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

REPORTED BILL SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Under clause 2 of rule XII, bills and reports were delivered to the Clerk for printing, and bills referred as follows:

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2328. A bill to reauthorize and extend funding for community health centers and the National Health Service Corps, with an amendment; referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for a period ending not later than January 29, 2020, for consideration of such provisions of the bill as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(r) of rule X.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. BRADY, Ms. FOXX of North Carolina, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. NUNES, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. SEN-SENBRENNER, Mr. SCALISE, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. UPTON, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. OLSON, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LONG, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. FLORES, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. PALMER, Mr. COLE, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. KELLER, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PENCE, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mrs. MILLER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BANKS, Mr. COMER, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. BUDD, Mr. COOK, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. STEIL, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr.

GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. MARCHANT, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. ESTES, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. TURNER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. GUEST, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. WRIGHT, and Mr. GIBBS);

H.R. 19. A bill to provide for certain reforms with respect to the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, the Medicaid program under title XIX of such Act, the Food and Drug Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and 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 Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 5360. A bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to collect more data on race and wealth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington):

H.R. 5361. A bill to improve and coordinate interagency Federal actions and provide assistance to States for responding to public health challenges posed by emerging contaminants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GABBARD (for herself and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 5362. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to authorize spittlebug research and extension grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 5363. A bill to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. BROWN of Maryland):

H.R. 5364. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an annual reference price for insulin products for purposes of Federal health programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, Oversight and Reform, and Natural Resources, 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. FLORES (for himself, Mr. LONG, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 5365. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to approve or deny a license transfer application within 180 days of submission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 5366. A bill to require the Secretary of the Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to provide grants supporting research on the conservation, restoration, or management of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 5367. A bill to prohibit the provision of foreign assistance to border countries that are not taking adequate measures to stop child pornography from entering the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 5368. A bill to provide for secure disclosure of tax-return information to carry out the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 5369. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to combat corruption and human rights violations perpetrated by officials in the Mexican Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself and Mr. STANTON):

H.R. 5370. A bill to require the General Services Administration to remove a deed restriction on property located in Prescott, Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5371. A bill to authorize grantees of Department of Justice grants to set up task forces on policing in local communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 5372. A bill to clarify that employees of safety net health plans are eligible for loan forgiveness under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 5373. A bill to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. AXNE (for herself, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. BACON, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H. Res. 749. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of Taco John's and celebrating the contributions the company and its franchise owners provide to local communities across the country; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. NUNES):

H. Res. 750. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that individual choice in health insurance should be protected; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in

each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 751. A resolution reaffirming the partnership between the United States and the African Union and recognizing the importance of diplomatic, security, and trade relations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H. Res. 752. A resolution supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. HECK):

H. Res. 753. A resolution commemorating the life of William D. Ruckelshaus; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. SIREs (for himself, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. COSTA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. McCaul, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. GUEST, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H. Res. 754. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should continue to support the people of Nicaragua in their peaceful efforts to promote democracy and human rights, and use the tools under United States law to increase political and financial pressure on the government of Daniel Ortega; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 19.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 5360.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 5361.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 5362.

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

The United States Constitution including Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 5363.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 5364.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 5365.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BROWN:

H.R. 5366.

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

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 5367.

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

Article IV,

Section 3, Clause 2. The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 5368.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 5369.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5370.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause).

Under this clause, Congress has the power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States. By virtue of this enumerated power, Congress has government authority over the lands, territories, or other property of the United States—and with this authority Congress is vested with the power to all owners in fee, the ability to sell, lease dispose, exchange, convey, or simply preserve land. The Supreme Court has described the enumerated grant as one “without limitation” *Kleppe v New Mexico*, 426 U.S. 529, 542–543 (1976) (“And while the furthest reaches of the power granted by the Property Clause have not been definitely resolved, we have repeatedly observed that the power over the public land thus entrusted to Congress is without limitation.”) The conveyance codified by this legislation is thus constitutional.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5371.

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

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH:

H.R. 5372.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18. 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. THOMPSON:

H.R. 5373.

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

Article I

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 33: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 141: Mr. CASTRO of Texas and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
 H.R. 208: Mr. CASE and Ms. GABBARD.
 H.R. 218: Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina and Mr. ROUZER.
 H.R. 344: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. WITTMAN.
 H.R. 570: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 571: Mr. GALLAGHER.
 H.R. 649: Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, and Mr. GOODEN.
 H.R. 808: Mr. GUEST.
 H.R. 895: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 912: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Ms. PLASKETT.
 H.R. 935: Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 1002: Ms. HOULAHAN and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 1043: Ms. BASS.
 H.R. 1139: Mr. BEYER.
 H.R. 1173: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
 H.R. 1175: Ms. DEAN and Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.
 H.R. 1179: Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 1220: Mr. LEWIS.
 H.R. 1227: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 1301: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 1367: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
 H.R. 1379: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
 H.R. 1400: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 1435: Mr. COX of California.
 H.R. 1528: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 1530: Mr. TRONE.
 H.R. 1542: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 1597: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mrs. LURIA.
 H.R. 1695: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. TAKANO.
 H.R. 1754: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. ADAMS.
 H.R. 1784: Ms. SHALALA.
 H.R. 1786: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 1814: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. PAYNE.
 H.R. 1840: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 1873: Mr. SERRANO.
 H.R. 1901: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 1943: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 1948: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. PLASKETT.
 H.R. 1975: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 1987: Mr. LIPINSKI.
 H.R. 2000: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 2137: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
 H.R. 2222: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2258: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.R. 2283: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 2300: Ms. SCANLON.
 H.R. 2301: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 2349: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 2374: Mr. POSEY.
 H.R. 2411: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 2431: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 2466: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 2482: Ms. TLAIB and Mr. KATKO.
 H.R. 2568: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 2584: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 2599: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
 H.R. 2653: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H.R. 2668: Ms. SPANBERGER.
 H.R. 2731: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington and Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 2732: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 2742: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.R. 2802: Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. AXNE, and Ms. SLOTKIN.
 H.R. 2858: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 2895: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
 H.R. 2896: Mr. CONNOLLY.
 H.R. 2897: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 2990: Mr. THORNBERRY.
 H.R. 3073: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 3082: Ms. HAALAND.
 H.R. 3107: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. KIM.
 H.R. 3113: Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BASS, and Mr. YARMUTH.
 H.R. 3373: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 3415: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
 H.R. 3503: Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 3517: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
 H.R. 3524: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
 H.R. 3561: Mr. HILL of Arkansas and Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 3584: Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 3598: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
 H.R. 3645: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
 H.R. 3693: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 3927: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 3937: Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 3956: Mr. RUSH and Mr. HARRIS.
 H.R. 3961: Mr. CISNEROS.
 H.R. 4069: Mr. WALKER.
 H.R. 4142: Mr. BEYER.
 H.R. 4194: Miss RICE of New York, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. LAMBORN.
 H.R. 4227: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. HURD of Texas.
 H.R. 4228: Mrs. MCBATH.

H.R. 4229: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 4232: Mr. BERA.
 H.R. 4278: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 4283: Ms. CRAIG.
 H.R. 4404: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 4429: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.
 H.R. 4464: Mr. HIMES.
 H.R. 4508: Mr. TURNER.
 H.R. 4512: Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 4527: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 4589: Mr. GOLDEN.
 H.R. 4794: Ms. STEFANK.
 H.R. 4817: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
 H.R. 4821: Mr. MCADAMS and Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 4864: Mrs. LURIA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. CASE.
 H.R. 4881: Mr. KING of Iowa and Mrs. ROBY.
 H.R. 4900: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
 H.R. 4996: Mr. CUNNINGHAM.
 H.R. 5004: Mr. NADLER.
 H.R. 5038: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. KIND, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. BASS, and Mr. O'HALLERAN.
 H.R. 5044: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
 H.R. 5048: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
 H.R. 5063: Mr. SOTO and Mrs. LURIA.
 H.R. 5082: Mr. CLINE.
 H.R. 5127: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 5170: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
 H.R. 5185: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 5191: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 5199: Ms. SCHRIER.
 H.R. 5221: Mr. SIRE.
 H.R. 5260: Mr. CROW.
 H.R. 5289: Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
 H.R. 5294: Mr. CLEAVER.
 H.R. 5297: Mr. BALDERSON and Mr. VELA.
 H.R. 5299: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. MALINOWSKI.
 H.R. 5306: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
 H.R. 5309: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. MCEACHIN.
 H.R. 5315: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 5340: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 5343: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H. Con. Res. 27: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
 H. Con. Res. 50: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. WRIGHT.
 H. Con. Res. 68: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
 H. Res. 91: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H. Res. 214: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H. Res. 299: Ms. MATSUI.
 H. Res. 452: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. LANGEVIN.
 H. Res. 527: Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Mr. SHERMAN.
 H. Res. 727: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H. Res. 732: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H. Res. 736: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.
 H. Res. 742: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

NOTICE

For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 9, 2019, published in Book II.



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019

No. 196

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Mighty God, we thank You for all the marvelous things You have already done for our Nation and world. Marvelous are Your works. We are grateful for the beauty of the Earth and the glories of the skies. We praise You for the love that surrounds us and for Your mercies that are new each day.

Lord, guide our Senators. May they continue to look to You as their helper, defender, and friend. Inspire them to always trust in Your unfailing love as they depend on You to do for them what they can't accomplish with their strength alone.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

S. 2543

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I and my friend Senator WYDEN released an updated version of our bipartisan Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act. This bill will now deliver even more savings for seniors and Americans with

disabilities. When I say "more," it will be more than the bill that was voted out of the Senate Committee on Finance on a 19-to-9 vote during the last week of July. The bill will also help pay for critical health programs. Billions of dollars saved in out-of-pocket costs are also a result of the bill and billions of dollars allocated for healthcare programs that tens of millions of Americans rely upon.

What I just said will be accomplished all without spending a dime more of taxpayer dollars. That is because Big Pharma, our pharmaceutical industry of the United States, will finally be held accountable. Taxpayers shouldn't be put on the hook for unlimited subsidies from the Federal Treasury to big companies that make billions in profits.

I don't often quote the Washington Post about legislation I put in, but the Washington Post recently wrote that our bill was the "drug pricing bill with the best chances of passing Congress."

Over the weekend, President Trump applauded the work my friend Senator WYDEN and I have done to improve our bipartisan legislation. The President was very supportive of it even before we made these changes. That is because, in the Congress of the United States today, it is the only significant bipartisan legislation that exists to address the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs.

The Senate must demonstrate courage and finally pass this very important bill because very few Members of Congress can miss the cry of their citizens that drug pricing is too high, and they expect Congress to do something about it. This bill answers that cry and should soon get a vote.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. 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.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as the end of the year approaches and the House Democratic majority continues to pour its time and attention into impeaching the President, a number of key legislative items remain outstanding.

For weeks, my Republican colleagues have been pleading with our Democratic friends in Congress to put aside their impeachment obsession long enough to complete some basic work for the American people.

We have explained that American families cannot afford for Washington Democrats to obsess over impeachment and obstruct the things we absolutely have to do.

So I am pleased that the last several days have brought at least some initial conversations that sanity and progress may be breaking through. We are still a long way from the finish line, but this week begins on a cautiously optimistic note. It appears that Democrats' willingness to block these basic governing items may be finally giving way.

The National Defense Authorization Act is our annual must-pass vehicle laying out Congress's plan for addressing military funding and meeting the needs of our servicemembers. It is a responsibility that this body has discharged in a bipartisan manner every year, without fail, for 58 years.

That is why it was so disheartening that Democratic leadership in both the

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



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S6897

House and the Senate broke with tradition and used this year's NDAA process to insist on all manner of partisan items, including nongermane domestic policy changes. This partisan approach left the future of the Pentagon's most urgent missions in the lurch.

So I am encouraged that bicameral negotiations, with participation from the White House, reached a conclusion last week. Most of the partisan demands predictably fell away. The result is not either side's ideal bill, but it is one that should be able to pass both Chambers under the circumstances. I hope the bipartisan conference report will be signed and moved quickly through each Chamber so Congress can finally fulfill our responsibility to America's Armed Forces for another year.

Then there is the appropriations process—another fundamental responsibility which, for the good of the Nation, is historically approached with a bipartisan willingness to find common ground.

It seemed like that might again be the case when a bicameral, bipartisan deal was struck by the President and the Speaker of the House back in July, but then, when negotiations resumed in earnest back in September, some of our Democratic colleagues realized they weren't really ready to part with partisan poison pills. They ignored their own agreement and months of stalemate ensued.

Fortunately, our appropriators are working hard to salvage the process. Last month, Chairman SHELBY and Chairwoman LOWEY and our other colleagues reached a deal on subcommittee allocations. I understand their hard work continued in earnest over this past weekend, with the goal of producing bills that both Chambers could consider before the end of this year.

I am grateful to colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their hard work. I hope this progress continues, and we can consider appropriations measures this month.

Now, there is still one more major piece of bipartisan legislation awaiting action by House Democrats. For months, Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats have been slow-walking President Trump's landmark trade agreement with Mexico and Canada. Month after month, House Democrats kept 176,000 new American jobs in limbo, but, finally, after weeks of a full-court press from Republicans in the House and the Senate, we are seeing hopeful signals that Speaker PELOSI's months-long stalling campaign may at long last be coming to an end. Reports suggest the Speaker may finally allow the House to vote in the near future. For our country's sake, I certainly hope so.

So what has been true for months is especially true now that time is short—it is going to take bipartisan collaboration and hard work for any of these outstanding legislative priorities to become law.

Even if House Democrats do finally relent and allow these key priorities to move forward, it is now the eleventh hour, and it will require consent and cooperation for the Senate to consider legislation in a timely fashion.

I ask for that collaborative spirit from my colleagues on both sides in the Senate as we move forward. We Republicans have been ready and eager for weeks to legislate on these key priorities. I hope these reports are accurate that leading Democrats may finally—finally—be willing to let Congress govern, and I hope we can move forward at a brisk pace and in a bipartisan way.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The bill clerk read the nomination of Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—CALENDAR NO. 535

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Halpern nomination, 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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

E-CIGARETTES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, after months of headlines about the dangers of vaping and a litany of mysterious medical conditions, we hit a pretty concerning milestone last week—vaping-related lung injuries have now been reported in all 50 States.

Alaska became State No. 50 with the identification of a teen suffering from these illnesses. I said a teen. The teen

reported regularly vaping both nicotine and THC products, and while I am glad to hear the patient is recovering, it highlights the need for immediate action to this public health emergency.

Nationwide, nearly 28 percent of high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students are using e-cigarettes. That is just to the best of our knowledge.

Folks at home are struggling to respond to these growing numbers, and parents and teachers and others are trying to figure out how to get their arms around this problem.

Last year, 19 percent of Texas high school students had used an e-cigarette in the last 30 days, and all of these recent cases lead me to believe that this number has gone up and gone up significantly.

It is, I believe, a growing epidemic, but folks in North Texas are bearing the brunt of it. More than half of all the vaping-related injuries at home occurred in North Texas. It is also home to the first vaping-related death in the State.

Last Friday, I visited the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth to learn more about the dangers of e-cigarettes and the community-led efforts to curb their use.

Let me be clear. When we are talking about adults making choices on what to put in their body, I will leave those choices to the individual adult, but if we are talking about children exposing themselves to a chemical that is addictive, which may lead to a life—even if they avoid some of the immediate public health consequences, it may lead to a lifetime of addiction and worse.

We heard from a pulmonary specialist that a lot of kids she talks to don't understand the risk of e-cigarettes. They think that because these devices aren't subject to the same regulations and restrictions as traditional cigarettes, they are somehow different and safer.

We got to hear from a teen who certainly had that mindset. Sixteen-year-old high school junior Anna Carey is one of the many students in her high school using e-cigarettes, and she admits to becoming rather quickly addicted to the nicotine.

She said she began to display symptoms like those we have seen across the country. She was extremely lethargic and would experience random and severe pains in her chest.

Two initial x rays came back clear. So her doctors released her, but her symptoms continued. Eventually, she was admitted to the Cook Children's Hospital and diagnosed with chemical-induced pneumonia in both lungs. That, Anna told us, was her wake-up call.

I am glad to report that Anna has fully recovered and is using her story to help educate and alert her fellow teens from going down the same path.

Everyone who participated in our discussion in Fort Worth last Friday

agreed that there is no single action or initiative that can put this outbreak to rest. We need to work together, not only the Federal Government but State and local governments, parents, teachers, and communities, to combat this crisis from every angle.

During our conversations we talked about the need for action by the Food and Drug Administration, something our colleagues on the HELP Committee have been examining. We also talked about the need to do more to educate our kids about the risks of e-cigarette use to stop them from picking up these devices in the first place.

One of the easiest ways we can do that is to make it more difficult for children to purchase vaping devices from online retailers, but, unfortunately, our current laws make that difficult to enforce. We are not talking about changing the age restrictions to purchase these devices, but merely the manner in which these devices are purchased in a way that avoids the age restrictions on their consumption.

For traditional cigarettes, consumers are able to make purchases online, but there are clear guardrails in place to prevent children from skirting the age restrictions. At the time of the delivery, the buyer has to sign and show an ID proving that they are an adult. That just makes common sense. You have to show an ID when you purchase cigarettes at a gas station or convenience store, and it shouldn't be any different when you purchase these devices online.

But e-cigarettes are on a different playing field. As often is the case, developments in the real world can outpace Congress's ability to respond, and this is, perhaps, a prime example of that.

Anyone, no matter how old or young, can go online and buy e-cigarettes and have them delivered to their front door—no questions asked, no age verification, no ID, no nothing—and that is wrong.

Kids can be resourceful, you better believe, in taking advantage of this loophole. In fact, a recent survey found that a third of underage e-cigarette users bought them online.

There is no reason why e-cigarettes should be subject to lesser restrictions than traditional cigarettes. They are just as addictive and dangerous. After hearing from a number of constituents who share my concerns about teen vaping, I introduced legislation to make it more difficult for our children to get their hands on these devices.

The Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act would put in place the same safeguards for e-cigarettes as traditional cigarettes purchased online.

Just to be clear, we are talking about protecting children. We are not talking about limiting adults' rights to use these devices.

This bill would require online retailers to verify the age of a customer, release deliveries only to an adult show-

ing a proper ID, and to comply with all State and local tobacco taxes.

These are commonsense reforms, and they have garnered broad bipartisan support. More than a quarter of the Senators in this body are cosponsors of this bill, and it recently passed by voice vote in the House of Representatives. When we are talking about passing consensus legislation that makes just common sense, well, this is as easy as it comes.

We need to do everything in our power to turn the tide on this wave of addiction to protect our children from these dangerous substances.

I appreciate Dr. Michael Williams and the folks at the UNT Health Science Center for hosting such an important discussion and for their work to educate the public on e-cigarettes and the dangers associated with their use, particularly by minor children.

I want to thank my colleagues who have thrown their support behind this legislation. It is a bipartisan bill, as demonstrated by the chief cosponsors on the other side, Senators FEINSTEIN and VAN HOLLEN.

I can't imagine why anybody would want to hold such a commonsense bill up, and I hope we will be able to send it to the President before we head home for the holidays.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

WYOMING WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE DAY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today I would like to speak on a topic very important to my wife Diana, to me, and, for that matter, to all of Wyoming, and it should be important to all of America. It is a topic of great importance in Wyoming. It is a topic at the core of what makes Wyoming the Equality State. It is Wyoming Women's Suffrage Day tomorrow.

I recently had the pleasure of introducing and, along with my friend Senator BARRASSO, passing S. Res. 430, which recognizes tomorrow, December 10, 2019, as Wyoming Women's Suffrage Day.

Wyoming Women's Suffrage Day celebrates the contribution of women to our great State and Wyoming's place in history as the trailblazer for women's suffrage. One hundred and fifty years ago, on December 10, 1869, the Wyoming territory approved the first law in legislative history recognizing women's inherent right to vote and to hold public office—50 years before the enactment of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920.

This historic step even preceded Wyoming statehood. The young territory granted women the right to vote 20 years before becoming the 44th State admitted to the Union.

In fact, when Congress invited Wyoming to join the Union, they demanded that women's suffrage be revoked, and the Wyoming legislature—an all-men's legislature—said: "We will remain out of the Union 100 years rather than come in without the women." This pioneering spirit is truly remarkable and something I keep in front of my mind every day as I continue my work in the Senate.

Wyoming was not going to allow the acknowledgement of women's right to vote to be ceremonial or artificial. In fact, 1 short year after recognizing women's right to vote, women began holding public office throughout Wyoming, serving as the first women in the United States to do so.

In 1870, Esther Hobart Morris became the first female justice of the peace, serving in South Pass City, WY. That year, Wyoming also saw the country's first all-female jury and the first woman bailiff in the room, Martha Symon Boies. Later, in 1894, Estelle Reel Meyer became Wyoming's superintendent of public instruction—the first female in the country to be elected to a statewide position. From 1920 to 1921, Jackson, WY, was the first town in the United States governed completely by women. These trailblazing women embodied the cowboy values we hold dear and showed that Wyoming truly has earned its title as an Equality State.

Just as they did in 1869, women's voices and their votes continue to help build our economy and guide our democracy. Throughout history, Wyoming has been home to many remarkable women and today still recognizes how important women are to the success of the State. This continued dedication to being the Equality State has made Wyoming home to trailblazing women's organizations, such as the Wyoming Women's Legislative Caucus, a nonpartisan caucus that advocates for the support and leadership of women in all levels of government, and Climb Wyoming, which helps single mothers transition to long-term self-sufficiency through better paying jobs, including nontraditional jobs. That is the key to Wyoming's economy. Climb Wyoming does this through innovative programming that goes far beyond just job training. The Wyoming Women's Business Center supports aspiring female entrepreneurs and business owners through educational tools to help them plan, start, and grow successful businesses. As a former small business owner myself, I know how important these businesses are to the fabric of our great State.

Wyoming Women's Suffrage Day is a testament to the contributions women make and have made and will continue to make in Wyoming and the values that make our State stand out as an example to the rest of the country. I look forward to working with Senator BARRASSO and Congresswoman CHENEY to ensure Wyoming continues to do things the cowboy way, striving to

hold the tradition of excellence and equity and equality well into the future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

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 Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Tom Cotton, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Chuck Grassley, Jerry Moran, Kevin Cramer, John Barrasso, Mike Braun, Joni Ernst, Pat Roberts, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Lindsey Graham, Roger F. Wicker.

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 Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, 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 Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 386 Ex.]

YEAS—47

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—12

Alexander	Klobuchar	Sanders
Bennet	Risch	Sasse
Booker	Rounds	Scott (SC)
Harris	Rubio	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from North Carolina.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the postcloture time on the Bumatay nomination expire at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, and that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

I further ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the cloture vote on the VanDyke nomination, the Senate proceed to legislative session and to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 290, S. 2740. I further ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided between the leaders and their designees, and that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on the passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate and that the Senate then resume executive session.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that at 12 noon, on Wednesday, December 11, the Senate proceed to legislative session and to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2333, which was received from the House, and that the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on its passage with no intervening action or debate.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

S. 2942

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to say how pleased I am to join with the Senator from New Hampshire in introducing S. 2942, a bill to revise the tax treatment of certain contributions to the capital of corporations.

S. 2942 corrects a provision in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that disqualified government grants to corporations from treatment as tax-free contributions to capital. The provision resulted in the imposition of income tax on all such grants. At the same time, a companion provision in the act imposed income tax on "contributions in aid of construction," CIAC, to regulated water utilities, reversing a long-standing rule of prior law that shielded regulated water utilities from tax on such payments. The term CIAC refers to payments—from either governmental sources or other sources that are used by a utility to expand its physical plant.

Our bill corrects the TCJA, first, by restoring the tax exemption for CIAC received by water utilities. That change will ensure that Alaskans, along with all water utility customers around the country, who make payments to a water utility to help the utility expand its service territory or otherwise improve its physical plant will not thereby saddle the utility with a tax charge that could translate into an increase in rates for water service or that, alternatively, could be passed back to the payer of the CIAC.

There is no plausible basis for taxing CIAC received by water utilities and thereby saddling the utility and its customers with the tax charge. CIAC does not at all resemble normal taxable income received by a business in exchange for goods or services. In fact, our bill specifically precludes the utility from including CIAC in its rate base and thereby earning a return on it.

The treatment of CIAC as taxable income might not matter if water utilities could expense the cost of the capital improvements funded through CIAC. The expensing deduction would offset the income. But under the TCJA, regulated utilities do not qualify for expensing. Thus, they incur the tax on the receipt of CIAC and pass the tax on to the payer of the CIAC.

One unintended consequence of the taxability of CIAC, coupled with the ineligibility of regulated utilities for expensing, is the creation of an unjustifiable incentive for the development of water infrastructure outside regulated utilities—i.e. outside the companies that are best equipped to build and manage the infrastructure. The incentive exists because non-utility corporations, unlike regulated utilities, qualify for expensing and can thus eliminate the tax on the receipt of CIAC. Our bill eliminates the incentive by restoring the tax exemption for CIAC received by regulated water utilities.

The other correction our bill makes in the TCJA is to reverse the rule in the act that treats all government grants to corporations as taxable income. Under prior law, government grants that were not in the nature of ordinary purchases of goods or services could qualify as tax-free contributions of capital.

The TCJA failed to distinguish among different types of government grants in writing the new rule. For example, there is no apparent reason why government grants made to spur investment in rural broadband infrastructure should be taxable. The effect of the tax is to reduce the value and effectiveness of the grants. Nor should tax logically be imposed on grants intended to spur investment that would protect the environment or public health, including Investment in water infrastructure.

There are, of course, types of government grants that could probably be taxed without adverse consequences. One example would be grants made to influence corporate decisions on the location of corporate headquarters or facilities.

To create a simple starting point, our bill simply eliminates the TCJA rule taxing government grants. As the Finance Committee and leadership consider the issue, we anticipate that, this time around, they will take the time to consider more carefully which types of grants should be taxable and which should be tax-free. At a minimum, the broadband and environmental grants described above should be tax-free, but there are probably many similar types of grants that should have the same treatment.

Mr. President, I look forward to working with the Senator from New Hampshire and with the members of the Finance Committee to craft sensible corrections to the TCJA to restore the tax exemption for CIAC received by water utilities and restore the tax exemption for government grants received by corporations where the grants are demonstrably in the public interest.

THE BALKANS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is of the utmost importance that we recognize that the Balkan region is critical to U.S. interests in Europe due to the

implications in the region surrounding security, counterterrorism, cyber security, and implementation of 5G. It is a strategically significant region and a primary target of Russian malign influence.

Each year I have the honor of hosting a Balkan Roundtable Security Forum with leaders from the Balkans and Members of Congress. NATO's role in southeastern Europe is critical for the support of our interests in the region. Integration of the Balkans into NATO, the EU, and other partnerships with our friends in the region has long been an important goal, given the mounting threat posed by Russians continued behavior. In a time where our strategic competitors are seeking to expand their influence, it is critical that our friends in the Balkan region know that the United States is here to support them and work together to counter our common foes.

It is clearly stated in the President's National Security Strategy, the National Defense Strategy, and the National Military Strategy that Europe and the Trans-Atlantic NATO Alliance are paramount to our national security, and this includes the integration of our allies on the Balkan Peninsula. We have made significant strides in adapting our capabilities in many areas, including cyber, to meet the growing threats in the region, but we must continue to work with our partners to counter the evolving threats from Russia and China and preserve a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace.

TRIBUTE TO MAYO BODDIE

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, today I rise to honor and praise a great man, Mayo Boddie, who has lived a long and admirable life as a successful businessman and dedicated servant to the people of North Carolina and his country.

Mr. Boddie was born on December 6, 1929, on a farm in Nash County, NC. The son of Nick and Lucy Boddie, Mr. Boddie learned the value of hard work and perseverance at an early age. In 1962, along with his brother Nick and his uncle, Carleton Noell, Mayo Boddie opened his first Hardee's restaurant in Fayetteville, NC. Fast food was a relatively new concept back then, but the new company, Boddie-Noell, knew the recipe for success.

Today, he is chairman of Boddie-Noell Enterprise, headquartered in Rocky Mount in the great State of North Carolina. Under Mr. Boddie's leadership, Boddie-Noell Enterprises operates more than 350 Hardee's restaurants and is the popular brand's largest franchisee. Despite their rapid growth and expansion throughout the Carolinas, Virginia, and Kentucky, Boddie-Noell has maintained a close-knit family culture in which every individual is treated with dignity and respect. To Mayo Boddie, the secret of his success is "our people."

His devoted leadership never went unnoticed. In 1987, he received the

North Carolina Jaycees Outstanding Boss of the Year Award. In 1991, he was named Master Entrepreneur of the Year for North Carolina by Inc. Magazine. In 2000, Mayo and his brother, Nick, were named NC Restaurant Association's Restaurateurs of the Year.

At the age of 90 years old, celebrating a recent birthday, Mayo Boddie continues to be very active in his community of Rocky Mount and Eastern North Carolina. He still serves as an advisory board member for the NC Wesleyan College Entrepreneurial Center and continues to serve on the East Carolina Council BSA executive board. He remains an active member of First Presbyterian Church in Rocky Mount and has been active in the Boy Scouts since 1941. His support for scouting is legendary. In honor of this support, one of the Scout reservations in Beaufort County—Camp Bonner—was renamed Camp Boddie.

Mr. President, it is obvious Mr. Boddie is well respected and loved among many who know him, and I am proud to honor him and his life-long and innovative service to the great State of North Carolina, along with his many accomplishments throughout his lifetime.

RECOGNIZING MILITARY MISSIONS IN ACTION

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Military Missions in Action, MMIA, an organization with locations in Fuquay-Varina and Southern Pines, NC, that is doing tremendous work throughout the State of North Carolina for Active-Duty servicemembers, veterans, and military families.

Mr. Mike Dorman founded MMIA in 2008 after a 20-year career in the U.S. Coast Guard. Since then, MMIA has worked tirelessly to accomplish a wide array of support for servicemembers, veterans, and their families. MMIA conducts a number of operations each year such as: Operation Building Hope, which gathers volunteers to make modifications and repairs necessary for safe and independent living for veterans with disabilities; Homes for Healing, through which volunteers provide new and gently used furniture and household goods to formerly homeless veterans; Operation Rescue Christmas, which provides holiday assistance to low-income veteran and military families through gift cards, new toys, and monetary support; and Fill the Footlocker whereby comforts from home, health, and hygiene items are packaged and shipped to deployed servicemembers.

MMIA completes the operations mentioned above in addition to many other projects in community engagement and support with the help of volunteers and other collaborators. To date, MMIA has completed 710 building projects, assisted over 30,500 homeless veterans, provided furniture and household goods to 463 families, shipped over 58,000 care

packages to deployed servicemembers, and assisted 1,620 children through Operation Rescue Christmas.

I would like to thank and recognize the men and women of MMIA and all of the volunteers for their continued dedication and support for the large servicemember and veteran populations of the State of North Carolina and their families.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JORDAN EMBREE

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Jordan for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Jordan is a native of California. He is a graduate of Wheaton College, where he studied international relations and French. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Jordan for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO JASMINE SLUSSER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Jasmine for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Jasmine is a native of Pennsylvania. She is a student at George Washington University, where she is studying public health. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Jasmine for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO JEREMIAH WORDEMAN

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Jeremiah for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Jeremiah is a native of Cheyenne. He is a student at Laramie County Com-

munity College, where he is studying political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Jeremiah for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO JULLIANE FRAZIER

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, on Friday, December 31, 2019, Julliane Frazier, a lifelong resident of Maryland, will retire from Amtrak after an extraordinary 40 years of service.

Julie joined Amtrak in December 1980 when President Jimmy Carter was just leaving the White House and Ronald Reagan was about to be sworn in. In May of the following year, Amtrak celebrated its 10th anniversary. The number of current Amtrak employees with 40 or more years of service is fewer than 20; the number of retirees is not much more. Julie therefore joins a small but elite group of Amtrak employees who have been the founders and builders of America's passenger railroad.

Over the years, Julie has seen the growth and maturity of an organization whose existence was born of great uncertainty. For most of her career, she served as the senior executive assistant for the Government Affairs Department, serving and assisting the vice presidents who guided and managed Amtrak's relations with the Federal Government and with Congress. Amtrak's CEOs, who worked in their Union Station offices next door to government affairs, often relied on Julie as well because she was quick to complete assignments and was loyal to her colleagues in pursuit of Amtrak's important mission. While it would appear at first blush that the vice president of government affairs runs the office, it was clear to anyone who spent time there that Julie was really the one in charge. She is the consummate professional.

Julie has said that while she will miss the pace of work, she will miss the people she worked with most of all. Having spent 40 years in the organization and having celebrated good times while coping with hard times, Julie formed many close and deep friendships. She will be truly missed by all who worked with her, but her service will be appreciated for years to come.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Julliane Frazier for her service and wishing her many happy and healthy years in retirement with her husband Phil and her sons Zack, Max, and Austin.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4. An act to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2534. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit certain securities trading and related communications by those who possess material, nonpublic information.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 4. An act to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2534. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit certain securities trading and related communications by those who possess material, nonpublic information; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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-3424. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a delay in submission of the quarterly exception Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs) for the Army, Navy, and Air Force; to the Committees on Appropriations; and Armed Services.

EC-3425. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rule: Simplifications to the Capital Rule Pursuant to the Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996; Revised Effective Date" (RIN3064-AF18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3426. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rule: Capital Simplification for Qualifying Community Banking Organizations" (RIN3064-AE91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3427. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Deposits" (RIN3064-AF07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3428. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transportation Infrastructure Management" (RIN2132-AB37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3429. 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 "Medicare Program; CY 2020 Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Services Coinsurance Amounts" (RIN0938-AT76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3430. 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 "Medicare Program; CY 2020 Part A Premiums for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement" (RIN0938-AT77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3431. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-174, "Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3432. A communication from the General Counsel and Acting Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3433. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report from the Office of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3434. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3435. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3436. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Office of Regulatory Affairs, Bu-

reau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice in Explosives License and Permit Proceedings (2007R-5P); Revisions Reflecting Changes Consistent With the Homeland Security Act of 2002" (RIN1140-AA40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3437. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The U.S. Department of Transportation's Status of Actions Addressing the Safety Issue Areas on the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) Most Wanted List"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3438. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fifteenth annual report on ethanol market concentration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3439. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bridging the Digital Divide for Low-Income Consumers, Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support" (FCC 19-111) (WC Docket Nos. 17-287, 11-42, and 09-197) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3440. A communication from the Chief of the Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reform of Certain Part 61 Tariff Rules" (FCC 19-107) (WC Docket Nos. 18-276, and 18-276) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3441. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Licensing, Registration, Financial Responsibility Requirements, and General Duties for Ocean Transportation Intermediaries" (RIN3072-AC73) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3442. A communication from the Associate Managing Director, Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Misuse of Internet Protocol (IP) Captioned Telephone Service; Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities" (FCC 19-83) (CG Docket No. 13-24, and 03-123) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3443. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Trawl Logbook" (RIN0648-BI74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3444. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory

Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Modifications to Individual Fishing Quota Programs" (RIN0648-BG83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3445. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Authorize Recreational Quota Entity To Participate in the Halibut IFQ Program" (RIN0648-BG57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3446. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Fisheries; 2018 and Projected 2019 Scup Specifications and Announcement of Final 2018 Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Specifications; Correction" (RIN0648-XF669) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3447. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2019 Commercial Closure for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia" (RIN0648-XS011) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3448. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XY018) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3449. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XG996) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. REED (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. 2997. A bill to revise and extend health workforce programs under title VII of the

Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2998. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that payment of taxes on deferred foreign income in installments shall not prevent credit or refund of overpayments or increase estimated taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. MORAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2999. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals with direct primary care service arrangements to remain eligible individuals for purposes of health savings accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3000. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow PDP sponsors of prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage organizations offering MA-PD plans to share with enrollees a portion of savings from switching to lower cost therapeutic alternative medications; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 3001. A bill to provide for certain extensions with respect to the Medicare and Medicaid programs under titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3002. A bill to amend the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 to increase amounts transferred to the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund and to require the use of certain amounts in the fund to implement labor obligations in a free trade agreement with Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 448. A resolution designating December 3, 2019, as "National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 117

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 117, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 133

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 133, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 160

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from West Vir-

ginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 160, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect paincapable unborn children, and for other purposes.

S. 400

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 400, a bill to gather information about the illicit production of illicit fentanyl in foreign countries and to withhold bilateral assistance from countries that do not have emergency scheduling procedures for new illicit drugs, cannot prosecute criminals for the manufacture or distribution of controlled substance analogues, or do not require the registration of tabletting machine and encapsulating machines.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 944

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 944, a bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and the stability of the transportation security workforce by applying a unified personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration who are responsible for screening passengers and property, and for other purposes.

S. 1032

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

S. 1105

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1105, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a registry for certain individuals who may have been exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances due to the environmental release of aqueous film-forming foam on military installations.

S. 1123

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1123, a bill to transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens.

S. 1153

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1153, a bill to explicitly make unauthorized access to Department of Education information technology systems and the misuse of iden-

tification devices issued by the Department of Education a criminal act.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1174, a bill to provide that 12 weeks of leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes.

S. 1254

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1254, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to review and report on certain laws, safety measures, and technologies relating to the illegal passing of school buses, and for other purposes.

S. 1263

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1263, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an interagency task force on the use of public lands to provide medical treatment and therapy to veterans through outdoor recreation.

S. 1352

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1352, a bill to establish a Federal Advisory Council to Support Victims of Gun Violence.

S. 1392

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1575

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1575, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to make available to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention copies of consular reports of death of United States citizens, and for other purposes.

S. 1583

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1583, a bill to amend the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act to provide for additional procedures for families with children under the age of 6, and for other purposes.

S. 1657

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) 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. 1764

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New

Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1764, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to ensure just and reasonable charges for telephone and advanced communications services in the correctional and detention facilities.

S. 1820

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1820, a bill to improve the integrity and safety of horseracing by requiring a uniform anti-doping and medication control program to be developed and enforced by an independent Horseracing Anti-Doping and Medication Control Authority.

S. 1830

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1830, a bill to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, and for other purposes.

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1831, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the distribution of 3D printer plans for the printing of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1908

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1908, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 2022

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2022, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for improvements to the specially adapted housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2282

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2282, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to enable Indian Tribes and tribally designated housing entities to apply for, receive, and administer grants and subgrants under the Continuum of Care Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

S. 2289

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2289, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an extension of the energy credit and the credit for residential energy efficient property.

S. 2417

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

S. 2461

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

S. 2529

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) 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. 2547

At the request of Mr. ROMNEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2547, a bill to state the policy of the United States with respect to the expansion of cooperation with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region and Europe regarding the People's Republic of China.

S. 2741

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 2741, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 2754

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2754, a bill to create jobs and drive innovation and economic growth in the United States by supporting and promoting the manufacture of next-generation technologies, including refrigerants, solvents, fire suppressants, foam blowing agents, aerosols, and propellants.

S. 2765

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2765, a bill to improve Federal fiscal controls and the congressional budget process.

S. 2766

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2766, a bill to support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of adolescent girls around the world, and other purposes.

S. 2777

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2777, a bill to assist States, tribes, territories, counties, and cities in implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2794

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) 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. 2809

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2809, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a surtax on high income individuals.

S. 2827

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2827, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the U.S. African-American Burial Grounds Network, and for other purposes.

S. 2836

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2836, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from taking any action to implement, enforce, or otherwise give effect to the final rule, entitled "Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority".

S. 2855

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2855, a bill to require the Secretary to conduct a study and issue a report on the affordability of insulin.

S. 2898

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) 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. 2960

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr.

CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2960, a bill to require individuals fishing for Gulf reef fish to use certain descending devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2974

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2974, a bill to require the Postmaster General to establish a comprehensive organizational strategy to combat the use of the mail in the distribution of illicit drugs.

S. CON. RES. 21

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 21, a concurrent resolution strongly condemning human rights violations, violence against civilians, and cooperation with Iran by the Houthi movement and its allies in Yemen.

S. CON. RES. 23

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors 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. 142

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 142, a resolution condemning the Government of the Philippines for its continued detention of Senator Leila De Lima, calling for her immediate release, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 260

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 260, a resolution recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting the commitment of the United States Agency for International Development to global nutrition through the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy.

S. RES. 371

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 371, a resolution reaffirming the support of the United States for the people of the Republic of South Sudan and calling on all parties to uphold their commitments to peace and dialogue as outlined in the 2018 revitalized peace agreement.

S. RES. 375

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 375, a resolution recognizing

the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. 2997. A bill to revise and extend health workforce programs under title VII of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am pleased to be introducing the Title VII Health Care Workforce Act of 2019 with Senator ENZI. This critical legislation would reauthorize funding for the Title VII health professions programs to help strengthen the distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce so it is better prepared to meet the Nation's evolving and emerging health care needs.

The Title VII health professions programs have a longstanding history of increasing the supply of primary care professionals, expanding access to care in rural and urban underserved areas, and developing a workforce that reflects the nation's diversity and the needs of patients. At a time when the Country is facing health provider shortages, it is critical that we continue to support the programs that advance our health care workforce, such as: scholarships for disadvantaged students, public health and preventive medicine, geriatrics training, area health education centers, oral health training, and primary care medicine.

These education and training programs guide current and aspiring health professionals to high-demand careers in areas of greatest need, and this legislation will take an important step in ensuring that these programs can continue to serve students and patients for years to come. I look forward to working with stakeholders supporting these efforts, including the American Association of Medical Colleges, as well as my colleague, Senator ENZI, to pass the Title VII Health Care Workforce Act of 2019, in addition to the bipartisan Investment in Tomorrow's Pediatric Health Care Workforce Act I introduced with Senator CASSIDY, as these bills proceed through the legislative process.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 448—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 3, 2019, AS “NATIONAL PHENYLKETONURIA AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 448

Whereas phenylketonuria (in this preamble referred to as “PKU”) is a rare, inherited metabolic disorder that is characterized by the inability of the body to process the es-

sential amino acid phenylalanine, and which causes intellectual disability and other neurological problems, such as memory loss and mood disorders, when treatment is not started within the first few weeks of life;

Whereas PKU is also referred to as Phenylalanine Hydroxylase Deficiency;

Whereas newborn screening for PKU was initiated in the United States in 1963 and was recommended for inclusion in State newborn screening programs under the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-204);

Whereas approximately 1 out of every 15,000 infants in the United States is born with PKU;

Whereas PKU is treated with medical foods;

Whereas the 2012 Phenylketonuria Scientific Review Conference affirmed the recommendation of lifelong dietary treatment for PKU made by the National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference Statement in 2000;

Whereas, in 2014, the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics and Genetic Metabolic Dietitians International published medical and dietary guidelines on the optimal treatment of PKU;

Whereas medical foods are medically necessary for children and adults living with PKU;

Whereas adults with PKU who discontinue treatment are at risk for serious medical issues, such as depression, impulse control disorder, phobias, tremors, and pareses;

Whereas women with PKU must maintain strict metabolic control before and during pregnancy to prevent fetal damage;

Whereas children born from untreated mothers with PKU may have a condition known as “maternal phenylketonuria syndrome”, which can cause small brains, intellectual disabilities, birth defects of the heart, and low birth weights;

Whereas, although there is no cure for PKU, treatment involving medical foods, medications, and restriction of phenylalanine intake can prevent progressive, irreversible brain damage;

Whereas access to health insurance coverage for medical foods varies across the United States and the long-term costs associated with caring for untreated children and adults with PKU far exceed the cost of providing medical foods treatment;

Whereas access to medical foods can prevent detrimental effects on individuals with PKU, their families, and society;

Whereas scientists and researchers are hopeful that breakthroughs in PKU research will be forthcoming;

Whereas researchers across the United States are conducting important projects involving PKU; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness of PKU among the general public and the medical community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 3, 2019, as “National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day”;

(2) encourages all people in the United States to become more informed about phenylketonuria and the role of medical foods in treating phenylketonuria; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the National PKU Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with phenylketonuria.

NATIONAL PHENYLKETONURIA
AWARENESS DAY

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 448, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 448) designating December 3, 2019, as "National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day".

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

Mr. TILLIS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 448) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 10, 2019

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 10; 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 the Bumatay nomination under the previous order; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the conference meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. TILLIS. 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 6:34 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JAMES E. MCPHERSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE RYAN MCCARTHY, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FINCH FULTON, OF ALABAMA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE CARLOS A. MONJE, JR.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

J. BRETT BLANTON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL FOR THE TERM OF TEN YEARS, VICE STEPHEN T. AYERS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CHUCK CAHN

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Cherry Hill Township Mayor Chuck Cahn, and to honor and commend his service and dedication to the residents of the community.

The Honorable Chuck Cahn has served as Cherry Hill's Mayor since January 2, 2012. During his tenure as Mayor of Cherry Hill Township, the town and residents have experienced economic success, reduced long-term debts, and renewed use of underutilized properties allowing many new businesses to join the community.

Raised in the Haddonstowne section of the town, Mayor Cahn is a life-long Cherry Hill Township native and growing up he attended the local public schools. After high school, the Mayor went on to earn a dual degree in Economics and Business from Rutgers College. Following graduation, he became President and CEO of his family's business, Stewart Business Systems and expanded the business from a small office equipment company into a successful technology company, employing more than 250 people in eight offices in three states.

On January 2, 2012, Chuck Cahn became Mayor of Cherry Hill Township, New Jersey. During his term, Mayor Cahn fought for a fiscally responsible and transparent government. He implemented policies to help attract hundreds of new businesses to Cherry Hill and established a Business Council to serve as a forum for local business leaders to voice their ideas and solutions to local issues. Mayor Cahn also focused on preserving a family friendly, close-knit community by making a Citizens Cabinet, allowing government to be more accessible for everyone.

Throughout his career, Mayor Cahn served on countless business, community service and charitable leadership boards and for his boundless dedication to serve his community, he has received many achievement awards. He and his wife, Stephanie, have been married for almost forty years and are the proud parents of three children; David (Remy), Matthew and Elizabeth. He is also the proud grandfather of Jamie and Asher.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Mayor Chuck Cahn, of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, a dedicated public servant who, for the eight years and over the course of his life, has fought tirelessly for the prosperity of the residents of Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

CELEBRATING OPERATION
REFUGE'S 11TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Operation Refuge, an outstanding charitable organization in Inkster, Michigan.

Operation Refuge was officially founded in 2008, but the seeds of the organization were planted eight years before. In 2000, Mother's Pantry began operating out of Christ Temple City of Refuge Church and grew out of Mother Greenwood's vision to serve vulnerable communities. There was an increased need for food assistance after the nearby GM plant closed down. People were suddenly out of work and struggling to meet basic needs. As a pantry without borders and Inkster's only client-choice food pantry, Mother's Pantry continues to fulfill the emergency food needs of communities under Operation Refuge's umbrella.

Staff and volunteers identified another pertinent community need and began tutoring youth. In 2008, Gap Dwellers after school tutoring evolved into Camp Inspire to address a lack of opportunity for girls of color in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) fields. Camp Inspire began as a summer program for girls that helps them recognize their potential through life-changing experiences and exposure to STEAM projects. Camp Inspire is one of Operation Refuge's most successful programs, drawing in more participants each year. In addition to its Leaders in Training (LIT) program which helps teens develop the skills they already have inside, Operation Refuge is making a huge impact among the young people of Inkster and Wayne County.

Please join me in salute to Operation Refuge, its volunteers, and staff on more than a decade of service.

HONORING MS. DELANEY DESKIN

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Delaney Deskin of Longmont, Colorado. Delaney was one of only 550 undergraduate or graduate students in the United States to be awarded the Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship for 2019. As part of this prestigious honor she traveled to Jaipur, India during the summer of 2019 to study Hindi.

The intensive study of foreign languages is one of the most important ways to prepare our young people for the globalized 21st century economy. The scholarship program increases America's engagement with the world and in-

creases national competitiveness while sharing American values and culture abroad. Many program alumni go on to distinguished careers in public service using the skills they gained through the scholarship program.

I commend Delaney for her commitment to serving as an exemplary citizen ambassador for the United States. Her selection for this incredible honor is a testament to years of hard work and determination. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Delaney Deskin for her many accomplishments, including being awarded the Critical Language Scholarship.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to congratulate the Daughters of Penelope on the 90th anniversary of its founding and commend the organization for its commitment to public service and civic engagement.

Since its founding in 1929, the Daughters of Penelope has been a preeminent organization of women of Hellenic descent and Philhellenes. The Daughters of Penelope works to improve the status and well-being of women and their families and to provide women the opportunity to make significant contributions to their communities.

By providing financial support and assistance to victims of natural disasters, donating children's books to libraries and schools and contributing to the preservation of our national landmarks, the Daughters of Penelope has truly made a lasting impact on American society.

The Daughters of Penelope instills in all its members the spirit of philotimo, a belief in civic duty and volunteerism. I am proud to honor the Daughters today, and I believe that this organization will remain a pillar in communities across the country for years to come.

I congratulate the Daughters of Penelope for all its accomplishments, and I thank the organization for its commitment to public service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOCAL TASK FORCES ON 21ST CENTURY POLICING ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Local Task Forces on 21st Century Policing Act, which would assist localities in carrying out the recommendations of the federal Task Force on 21st Century Policing

● 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.

and the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, both of which have detailed the need to strengthen relations between local communities and local law enforcement. The bill would provide grants to local governments to create local task forces on 21st century policing to bring police, representatives of the community and public officials together to identify best policing practices for local police and other ways to strengthen relations between the community and police departments. No new funds are needed. Existing funds from the Department of Justice would support local governments establishing the task forces by listing these task forces as an acceptable use of Byrne Justice Assistance Grants. Given the continuing controversy surrounding police shootings of unarmed African American men, with no solutions in sight, this bill is more timely every day.

The task forces, modeled after the federal Task Force on 21st Century Policing, would allow local communities to identify the best ways to create an effective partnership between local law enforcement and the communities they serve, while reducing crime, increasing trust and combating racial profiling. The task forces could create a partnership to implement practical policing practices acceptable to all concerned.

The creation of task forces could be an important step toward easing the tensions between local law enforcement and many communities. In addition, the task forces could serve to engage local law enforcement and local stakeholders in a transparent public problem-solving process instead of the current situation that encourages parties to choose sides.

THANKING DAVID LAURITZEN FOR HIS EFFORT TO HELP OTHERS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the wonderful work by David Lauritzen, an eight-year-old boy from Katy, TX. He's on a mission to bring joy to children battling cancer.

David is a cancer survivor, who received treatment at various hospitals over the course of his life. That experience means he understands the pain that children fighting this disease go through. So, when his mother asked him how he wanted to commemorate Childhood Cancer Awareness Month a couple of years ago, he said that he wanted to make them smile.

Starting by collecting coins in a jar, David and his parents began the nonprofit David's Toy Project, Inc. to do just that. They have made it their mission to buy toys for kids undergoing cancer treatment and just last year raised almost \$12,000.

The light of goodness radiates through David and his family, and the smiles he brings to the faces of children shine just as bright. On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, we thank David for his courage and caring spirit that warms the hearts of others.

UYGHUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an exchange of letters between me and the Chair of the Committee on Intelligence on S. 178, the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019.

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

Hon. ADAM B. SCHIFF,
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SCHIFF: 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 House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence 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 House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

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

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2019.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: I write in reply to your letter of December 2, 2019, regarding S. 178—legislation referred in the House as the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act, and passed on the House floor as amended as the Uyghur Intervention and Global Humanitarian Unified Response Act of 2019.

Provisions of S. 178 fall within the jurisdiction of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence ("Committee"), as set forth by House Rule X.

Nevertheless, the Committee worked with the Committee on Foreign Affairs to ensure the legislation's expeditious consideration on the House floor—but without waiving any potential jurisdictional claims as to subjects addressed by S. 178.

I am grateful for our continuing work together, on this and other important measures regarding human rights and other matters. I very much look forward to S. 178's swift enactment into law.

Sincerely,

ADAM B. SCHIFF,
Chairman.

HONORING MAYOR PRO-TEM
ROGER HAAS FOR 22 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE CITY OF
KANNAPOLIS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Pro-Tem Roger Haas for 22 years of public service to the City of Kannapolis, located in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District.

Over the years, Roger has played an instrumental role in shaping the history of Kannapolis. He was first elected to the Kannapolis City Council in 1997 and retires today as Mayor Pro-Tem. Admired by his colleagues, Roger has twice been appointed as Mayor Pro-Tem due to his innovative vision for our community.

Roger has led a career of distinction and is an effective, prolific leader. He has served on the boards of the Kannapolis Rotary Club, American Red Cross, Kannapolis Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Concord-Kannapolis Transit Authority; and as the Cabarrus County Tourism Authority Chair, Partners for Progress Chair, and Cabarrus County Planning & Zoning Commission Chair.

During his tenure with the Kannapolis City Council, Roger worked tirelessly to construct the Kannapolis Train Station, North Carolina Research Campus, Albemarle waterline, and Kannapolis City Hall & Police Headquarters. More recently, he has been a key figure in the redevelopment of downtown Kannapolis and due to his leadership, the Kannapolis Cannon Ballers Sports & Entertainment Venue will open next year.

An extraordinary public servant, Roger has guided Kannapolis through a period of unpredicted growth. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I say we are truly grateful for his unwavering service and cannot thank him enough. I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation and wish him success in his future endeavors.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Mayor Pro-Tem Roger Haas for his 22 years of public service to our community.

JACK LEE BRINGS AMERICA INTO THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY OLYMPIAD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Seven Lakes High School sophomore Jack Lee for helping organize the United States' first team to the International Astronomy Olympiad.

Jack went above and beyond to be able to take part in the Olympiad. When he learned that the United States did not have a team to field for the competition, Jack took the bull by the horns and contacted Rice University to organize one. His goal was to start a trend so that future teams would represent the United States in the Olympiads for years to come.

With incredible determination and drive, Jack—with help from team leader and Rice

University professor Patricia Reiff and team coach Franklyn Pacheco—fielded a team to compete in this year's International Astronomy Olympiad in Piatra Neamt, Romania.

Jack's tenacity and dedication to making his goals a reality show his incredible character and spirit. On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, he makes our Katy community very proud.

HONORING TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT MANAGER CASEY HASHIMOTO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor outgoing Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Manager Casey Hashimoto. In his three decades with the district, Mr. Hashimoto has been a consummate professional whose dedication and determination has positively benefited the people and businesses served by TID.

Since beginning his tenure as General Manager in 2010, Mr. Hashimoto has been instrumental in keeping electricity rates some of the lowest in California while also improving the reliability of TID's water and electrical systems. During his time with as General Manager, Mr. Hashimoto has overseen efforts such as design and construction the Hughson-Grayson high voltage transmission line and TID's new state-of-the-art Power Control Center, both of which have helped TID improve their energy efficiency and adapt to the demands of the changing Western energy markets.

Most notably, Mr. Hashimoto has worked tirelessly on the Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project, having led efforts on the complex and complicated relicensing of the 203-megawatt Don Pedro dam, reservoir, and powerhouse. Mr. Hashimoto and his team oversaw a multi-million-dollar extension and upgrade to the Don Pedro Project while continuing to work with numerous stakeholders, federal agencies, tribes, scientists, and recreational outfitters to ensure this project remained a vital resource of the San Joaquin Valley for generations to come.

In addition to his work for TID, Mr. Hashimoto has been active in many influential utility industry organizations, including the California Municipal Utilities Association, the Norwest Power Pool, the Association of California Water Agencies, and the American Public Power Association. It is evident that his accomplishments and industry expertise will continue to make positive impacts in our Valley and the water and power industry long after Mr. Hashimoto's retirements.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring a man whose professionalism and determination has benefited many of the water and power users of California's San Joaquin Valley. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor Casey Hashimoto as he retires from his role as General Manager of Turlock Irrigation District. I wish Casey and his family the best as he embarks on this new phase of life.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT THROUGH A NEGOTIATED TWO-STATE SOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I will vote in support of H. Res. 326, a non-binding resolution reiterating the U.S. House of Representatives' support for long-standing U.S. policy to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution.

I have consistently supported a two-state solution throughout my time in Congress. While there is no perfect solution to this complex and heated conflict, I believe a negotiated two-state solution between Israeli and Palestinian leaders is a viable framework to achieve security, peace, and address the legitimate needs of both peoples.

Furthermore, I am pleased that H. Res. 326 condemns actions by the Trump administration and the Israeli government under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu which have severely undermined the possibility of a two-state solution.

For example, H. Res. 326 puts the House of Representatives on the record as opposing unilateral annexation of territory. This is an important rebuke of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's disturbing announcement that he plans to annex large swathes of the occupied Palestinian territories, a move that I strongly oppose.

Additionally, I am opposed to President Trump's decision to discontinue bilateral assistance to the Palestinians and U.S. contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). That's why I am pleased H. Res. 326 states that "it is in the United States' interest to continue promoting the security, stability, and humanitarian well-being of Palestinians and their neighbors by resuming the provision of foreign assistance pursuant to United States law."

I am also pleased this resolution opposes the Trump administration's continued greenlighting of Israeli settlement expansion in the West Bank. This declaration is especially timely given the Trump administration's recent outrageous reversal of the decades-long U.S. position that Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories are against international law. I also joined my colleagues in signing a letter condemning President Trump's reversal.

However, while I support this resolution, I believe it should have gone further to address additional actions by the Trump administration and the Netanyahu government which have severely undermined a two-state solution.

For example, H. Res. 326 fails to condemn the Trump administration's decision to recognize the city of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital and to relocate the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, and it fails to denounce the Netanyahu government's continued human rights abuses, including demolition of Palestinian homes and villages, military detention of Palestinian children, and more. Protecting human rights, re-

gardless of any ongoing tension between Israelis and Palestinians, should be a fundamental American value.

Additionally, the original text of H. Res. 326—which I cosponsored—included a call for an "end to the occupation" of Palestinian territory. Unfortunately, this language was removed from the final version brought to the floor.

As an ally of Israel, the United States invests more than \$3 billion in aid to Israel annually, and H. Res. 326 reiterates U.S. support for this aid. Accordingly, I believe it is only appropriate that lawmakers voice their legitimate concerns with Israeli policies in a constructive way, as I have done throughout my time in Congress and will continue to do.

Unfortunately, recent rhetoric over U.S.-Israeli relations and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has devolved into a divisive—and even partisan—war of words. It is only through thoughtful, respectful, nuanced debate that Congress can productively contribute towards resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and addressing the legitimate needs of both peoples. The bottom line is it is critical that the U.S. pursue policies that will move Israelis and Palestinians towards a negotiated, two-state solution, and I will continue to push the Trump administration and Congress to do so.

HONORING MS. KIMMI LEWIS

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of Colorado State Representative Kimmi Lewis of Las Animas, Colorado.

Kimmi was proud to serve her community in the Colorado House of Representatives, having represented the 64th district from 2016 until her passing on December 6, 2019. In this role, Kimmi was a champion for Colorado's farmers and ranchers, advocating for their needs and priorities as a member of the Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee. She will be remembered as a treasured member of the community who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Coloradans.

Beyond her service in the state legislature, Kimmi served as the President of the Trinidad/Las Animas County Republican Women's Club for the past thirty years. In 2007, she received the La Junta Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Award for her efforts to prevent the expansion of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, and in 2009, she received the Southern Colorado Livestock Association Cattlewoman of the Year award in honor of her "dedication and lifetime commitment to our industry, community and our country."

Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Rep. Kimmi Lewis for all her contributions in service of Eastern Colorado and recognize the profound legacy that she leaves behind. It is an honor to celebrate her impact on our community and state.

KATY AMERICAN LEGION POST 164
REMEMBERS OUR FALLEN WAR-
RIORS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize American Legion Post 164 in Katy, Texas for their efforts to honor our fallen service members this holiday season.

As Americans, we know that some of our military service members make the ultimate sacrifice to protect and preserve our way of life. The Wreaths Across America program is a solemn way to honor and remember our fallen heroes by distributing a token of our appreciation and remembrance at this time of year.

American Legion Post 164 worked incredibly hard gathering sponsors to fund their goal of placing 450 wreaths this year. They surpassed this goal in their gracious efforts to remember our fallen warriors, securing enough sponsors to fund over 500 wreaths for the Magnolia Cemetery.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I thank Post 164 for their valiant work to ensure our fallen service members are never forgotten during the holidays and throughout the year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. KINZINGER. Madam Speaker, I was not present to cast votes on Friday, December 6.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 652, YEA on Roll Call No. 653, and NAY on Roll Call No. 654.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE STILLWATER,
MINNESOTA ROTARY CLUB

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial anniversary of the Stillwater, Minnesota Rotary Club. Since its founding in 1919, Stillwater Rotary Club has actively advanced the mission of Rotary International by providing service to others, promoting integrity, and fostering world understanding, goodwill, and peace through fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

Stillwater Rotary Club was begun just 14 years after Rotary International was founded by Chicago attorney Paul Harris in 1905. Community leaders in Stillwater shared a desire to serve their community in fellowship with one another, and so joined together to begin the Stillwater Rotary Club. At the time, most Rotary Clubs were located in larger cities, but

following World War I, as smaller communities like Stillwater returned to normal, they sought to refocus to improve their communities. Stillwater's club charter was sponsored by the St. Paul and Minneapolis clubs, and was formally presented to the Stillwater club on September 26, 1919. Today the club has over 60 members from diverse personal and professional backgrounds and are a part of the larger community of 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide.

Throughout their 100 years, the Stillwater Rotary Club has become a prominent community organization as it has chartered new clubs in the area, supported numerous local and international charities, and completed many community service projects. From its earliest years, the club made great contributions to the community, demonstrating the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self". The Stillwater Club sponsored the creation of a bathhouse at Lily Lake Beach, a barge terminal in Stillwater, a tourist camp on the Saint Croix River, and a Scout cabin on Big Marine Lake. In 1927 their seven-year project of lighting Main Street in Stillwater came to fruition; a major accomplishment for the club. They also sponsored the founding of the Washington County Historical Society in 1934, a non-profit educational institution that remains active today with the mission to collect, preserve, and disseminate the vibrant history of Washington County and the greater State of Minnesota.

Today, Kathleen Elbert leads the Stillwater Rotary Club and the organization continues to be a leader in service. Their annual Taste of the Valley event raises funds for non-profit organizations like the American Cancer Society and the Boy Scouts of America, as well as local groups including Stillwater Area High School and the St. Croix Valley Learning Center. The club also takes on international service endeavors through their sponsorship of a hospital in Tanzania, construction of roads in Guatemala, and support of Rotary International's efforts to eradicate polio worldwide among other initiatives.

Rotarians worldwide utilize an ethical guide called the Four-Way Test which asks the following questions: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? These questions are especially prescient today. Stillwater Rotarians have served their community for a century in agreement with these principles, setting an example for all of us to remember to be truthful, to be fair, to build goodwill and grow in our friendships, and to live our lives in service for others. Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the members of the Stillwater Rotary Club on its 100 years of serving the community.

CITIZENSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF
MILITARY MEMBERS AND CIVIL
SERVANTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. 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.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROISM OF
CANYON GATE VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Community Volunteer Fire Department in Canyon Gate for their heroic actions saving the lives of three pets from a burning home.

For many, pets can be a part of our families nearly as much as our brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers are. Losing a pet is hard for everyone, especially in times of tragedy.

The Community Volunteer Fire Department went above and beyond in their duties to make sure a family did not have to go through that pain. While a TX-22 family was away, their house unfortunately caught fire with their three pets—a cat, a dog and a kitten—trapped on the first floor. These heroes risked their lives to ensure that these pets were reunited with their families in the face of disaster.

We send our heartfelt appreciation to the Community Volunteer Fire Department and all our firefighters in TX-22 who put their lives on the line each and every day to rescue those in danger—be they people or pets. On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, they make our community very proud.

CONGRATULATING STEPHEN
JOHNSON

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, today I wish to congratulate Dr. Stephen G. Johnson, a researcher at Idaho National Laboratory (INL). At its recent annual meeting in Washington, D.C., the American Nuclear Society (ANS) honored Dr. Johnson as a Fellow, which is the highest member status presented to an individual. Dr. Johnson was recognized for his outstanding accomplishments in nuclear science and technology, specifically highlighting his work in rebuilding the national radioisotope power system program for NASA's deep space exploration.

Dr. Johnson holds a bachelor's degree with a double major in mathematics and chemistry from Lake Superior State University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Iowa State University. He currently serves as the director of the Space Nuclear Power and Isotope Technologies Division at INL's Materials and Fuels Complex.

During his tenure at INL, Dr. Johnson has successfully reestablished the Radioisotope Power Systems program, initiated the Technical Integration Office for Radioisotope Power Systems, and most recently named the National Technical Director, for the Department of Energy's (DOE) national Space Nuclear Power program. Steve and his staff focus on cross-cutting initiatives, mission planning scenarios for nuclear power systems for DOE customers, such as NASA, and providing resources for various other needs for DOE's Space Nuclear Power department.

For the last few years, Steve has been a regular visitor to Capitol Hill, presenting an overview of the Department of Energy space power work for NASA at lunches hosted by the Foundation For Nuclear Studies. This summer, my staff and I had the pleasure of visiting Dr. Johnson in his facility where they were assembling the radioisotope thermoelectric generator that will power the Mars 2020 Rover.

It is a great privilege to congratulate Dr. Stephen G. Johnson on receiving this prestigious recognition, and I am grateful for his exceptional work in the field of nuclear science and technology. His accomplishments are a reminder of the many skilled researchers and scientists currently working and living in Idaho. Congratulations to Steve on his accomplishments and I thank him for all of his hard work.

CAMERON MILLER PRESERVING
THE MEMORIES OF A WORLD
WAR II VETERAN

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight CW39 Director of Operations Cameron Miller's effort to preserve history and the memory of those who served our nation in combat.

Cameron recently took a trip to New Orleans and visited the World War II museum,

bringing with him a box from home full of old wartime photos from a family friend and WWII veteran named Jack. While there, he learned about the history contained within the pictures and how to ensure their stories can be passed down for generations to come.

Cameron then shared his story on television, instructing others on the importance of preserving pictures and other key items from our history so that the service of veterans is remembered for generations.

I thank Cameron for honoring our veterans' service in the best way possible—by preserving their memories and sharing their stories. On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, he makes Texas and our veteran community proud.

ADVANCING MUTUAL INTERESTS
AND GROWING OUR SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

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.

HONORING DALE WILKERSON FOR
HIS SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of an upstanding American citizen, Dale Wilkerson.

After serving twenty years in the U.S. Air Force, where he earned the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal, Mr. Wilkerson began working for the National Park Service in 1994 as a branch chief for contracting, property, and financial management at the Natchez Trace Parkway.

In 2010, Mr. Wilkerson was temporarily assigned to the NPS Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta to serve as the acting regional comptroller. In that role he directed the annual fiscal year closing process for more than sixty park units in the region, with the execution of obligations totaling more than \$245 million.

From August 2012 through December 2013, he served as the Acting Superintendent of the Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo National Battlefield, Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site, and the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail, where he was responsible for leading and managing the eighth most visited NPS unit in the country.

In 2015, Mr. Wilkerson was appointed as the Superintendent of the Shiloh National Military Park. Over the last four years, he has performed a remarkable job of managing and overseeing all aspects of the Shiloh National Military Park.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Wilkerson on his retirement from the National Park Service as Superintendent of Shiloh National Battlefield and his forty-six years of service in our nation's military and in the National Park Service.

ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today is International Anti-Corruption Day, recognizing the need for governments and civil societies around the world to be vigilant in the fight against bribes and abuse of power for personal gain.

According to the United Nations, every year \$1 trillion is paid in bribes while an estimated \$2.6 trillion are stolen through corruption, more than five percent of global GDP.

No more is this on clearer display today than across the Middle East, which is witnessing a revival of the 2011 Arab Spring protests in places like Lebanon, Iraq, Iran and in towns and cities across Syria. Peaceful protesters are demanding an end to abusive policies and practices by government officials who seek little else than their own profit—always at the expense of the peoples' fundamental rights. The persistence of protestors today despite increasingly violent government responses indicates a point of no return. The brazen willingness to sacrifice their lives signals just how precarious these citizens' lives have become under their governments.

Syria is ground zero for what happens when corrupt governments refuse reform and respond to peaceful demands with violence. The Assad regime continues to leech Syrians of their basic human rights, uprooting their lives, indiscriminately bombing his own people, and deliberately starving them while blaming the United States and other Western states for the dismal conditions of his country and the Syrian

people. And all for the sake of protecting the power and interests of corrupt officials who are part of the Assad network, including Fahd Darwish, Samer Al-Debbes, Samir Anis Hassan, Samer Awees, Kanaan Kanaan, Tamim Badr, Mahrar Khonda, Osama Ali Zayoud, Iyad Habib Baytjaneh, Tarif Akhras, and Fares Shehabi, among others. The United States must target these individuals for exposure and sanctions for their corruption and theft from the Syrian people.

And in response to these widespread cries for change, the United States must continue to pursue a relentless campaign against corruption everywhere. Without such accountability, perpetrators within and partners of corrupt governments will boldly continue, extending the suffering of innocent civilians around the world. If the United States does not demonstrate its commitment with action, nefarious actors and businessmen around the world will feel emboldened to engage in corrupt practices. On International Anti-Corruption Day, we must stand with those calling out for change.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, on December 6th, I was unable to cast my vote on two pieces of legislation. If present, I would have voted NAY on H. Res. 326 (RC No. 652), YEA on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 4 (RC No. 653), and NAY on passage of H.R. 4 (RC No. 654).

KAZAKHSTAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Congressional Caucus, I am pleased to rise today to welcome Kazakhstan's newly-appointed Foreign Minister, Mukhtar Tileuberdi, to the U.S. Capitol during his inaugural visit to Washington, D.C. this week. Minister Tileuberdi is an experienced Kazakh diplomat and statesman.

Throughout his career, he was posted in Kazakhstan's diplomatic missions in South Korea, Israel, and served as Ambassador to Malaysia with concurrent accreditation to Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, and the Philippines. He also served as Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the Swiss Confederation and with concurrent accreditation to the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Vatican. Additionally, he served as the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. I look forward to working with the Minister in his new role, as we continue to grow the important bilateral relationship between Kazakhstan and the United States.

Madam Speaker, as you may know, the United States and Kazakhstan held first meeting of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Enhanced Strategic Partnership Dialogue in January 2018,

following former President Nazarbayev's visit to Washington. The most recent series of these bilateral talks took place last week and focused heavily on continued cooperation on issues of aviation, counterterrorism, and information sharing, among other topics.

Along with my fellow co-chair of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Caucus, we look forward to our meeting with Minister Tileuberdi to discuss how the United States and Kazakhstan can continue to promote security and stability across Central Asia through Kazakhstan's strong support for nuclear non-proliferation as well the U.S.-Kazakhstan Enhanced Strategic Partnership Dialogue, military cooperation, and C5+1 multilateral meetings.

Cooperation between the United States and Kazakhstan has never been stronger. Kazakhstan has been a strategic partner in Afghanistan and in the fight against violent extremism, and has been a leader in repatriating foreign fighters and their families from Syria and Iraq. On behalf of my fellow U.S.-Kazakhstan Caucus members, we welcome the opportunity to deepen the bilateral partnership, and we look forward to hosting future presidential and high-level delegation visits on Capitol Hill.

HONORING THE REV. DR. JACQUELINE A. THOMPSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rev. Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson in celebration of her installation as the Senior Pastor of the Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, California.

Rev. Thompson was raised by a mother who believed in the importance of church. In her own words at the age of 12, Dr. Thompson realized that church was "not to be just about singing and having a good time in the Lord. But rather there was a purpose and a mandate with a measurable objective".

After graduating from College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1993, Dr. Thompson began teaching history and politics. While teaching allowed her to positively impact lives in her community and while she loved teaching, she felt called to impact lives in a different way.

In 1995, Dr. Thompson followed her calling and returned to her church family and was licensed to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. She was later ordained in 1998 by the Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. at Allen Temple Baptist Church.

Later she attended Howard University School of Divinity where she excelled in academic scholarship, preaching and ministry. As a result, she received several awards including The Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities, The Ford Foundation Fellowship, and The Nannie Helen Burroughs Award.

During her time at Howard University, she served as the Minister of Youth at the Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington, D.C. Her love for teaching and affinity with youth allowed the young people in the Ministry to flourish under her leadership.

Dr. Thompson graduated from Howard University in 1998 earning a Master of Divinity Degree with honors.

In 2001, she was appointed Executive Director of the Shiloh Family Life Center Foundation, Inc. In this leadership position Dr. Thompson raised over 5 million dollars for non-profit outreach. This money allowed the church to grow and foster their Afterschool program, Senior Center, Day Care Center, HIV/AIDS program, Human Services Program, Community Computer Center, Debutante Program and Teen Mothers' Empowerment Program.

In 2010, Dr. Thompson was installed as the Assistant Pastor of the Allen Temple Baptist Church—the first woman to ever serve in this capacity. In 2013, Dr. Thompson became a Doctor of Ministry in African American Church Leadership at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

Dr. Thompson has demonstrated that she is the right woman, for the right time, who has come “for such a time as this” to lead such a spirit filled congregation. Her sense of justice to serve the “least of these, our brothers and sisters” in the manner described by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, will continue to be a hallmark of this historic church.

Today, I join the Allen Temple Church Family and the greater East Bay community in celebrating her installation, as the first female Senior Pastor in the Church's 100-year history. As we look ahead to this new season in our church history, let us continue as Micah 6:8 reminds us “to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.”

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, we congratulate Rev. Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson, as she is installed as the next pastor of the historic Allen Temple Baptist Church.

COMMEMORATING YAYA CLUB'S
FASHION SHOW BENEFITING
FAMILIES WITH ACTIVE-DUTY
PARENTS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the Katy Boutique YaYa Club for their first annual “Runway for Heroes” fashion show and the mission behind it.

As the holiday season approaches, many families with military parents deployed far from home will not be able to celebrate with them. This is hard on everyone in the family, especially the children. That's why this Veterans Day, the YaYa Club Boutique put on a fashion show with volunteer models to raise money to buy toys for the children of our military families. In their efforts, they raised over \$8,000. Additionally, YaYa Club will be delivering the gifts in person to the children.

I was incredibly heartwarming to see YaYa Club doing such a great service for the TX–22 community. I thank them for helping spread more love this holiday season across Katy. On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, their actions embody the spirit of giving and the spirit of Texas.

HONORING GARY FRUGOLI

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Gary Frugoli, who passed away on November 19, 2019, at the age of 72 after a lifetime of exemplary public service to his community.

Born in 1947, Mr. Frugoli moved with his family as a toddler to Marin where his parents owned and operated Marin Produce. He attended San Rafael High school where he was a star football player and continued to play football at Chico State University. He graduated in 1969 with a degree in Political Science and Recreation. After college, Mr. Frugoli worked for the San Rafael Parks and Recreation Department, but soon joined the San Rafael Police Department where he worked his way up the ranks from motorcycle officer to detective with the Major Crimes Task Force and the San Rafael SWAT team. During his time at the San Rafael Police Department, Mr. Frugoli met and fell in love with his wife, Lori who was working as a meter maid at the time. The couple was married in 1980 and later had a daughter named Amy.

Mr. Frugoli's passion for public service grew, and in 1981, he was elected to the San Rafael City Council where he served with distinction. During his tenure on the San Rafael City Council, Mr. Frugoli developed a reputation for supporting business and housing growth which were not popular issues at the time. In 1989, after losing his re-election bid, the Frugoli family moved to Novato where he continued to perform community service through a variety of activities and where the family enjoyed time recreating outdoors. Professionally, he worked for Pacific Coast Title while he was on the San Rafael City Council and then for Cal Title when he moved to Novato.

Active in many aspects of Marin County, one of Mr. Frugoli's favorite causes was the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank, where he consistently raised funds to help feed local families. He also served as president of the San Rafael Rotary Club and was an active member of the Sonoma County Trailblazers. He was a Little League coach and a founding member of the Marin Athletic Foundation, which focused on the importance of combining sports and educational opportunities. He served on the Marin Builder's Association Board of Directors, the Marin County Services Area No. 20, the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and his homeowner's association. In 2010, Mr. Frugoli was named the Marin County Italian American Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Frugoli was a well-respected community leader who will be remembered for his ebullience and willingness to always step up to help people out. He is survived by his wife Lori, his daughter Amy, his brother Victor, his sister Virginia Kerbs, and many nieces and nephews. While he will be greatly missed, Mr. Frugoli's legacy will live on through the indelible positive impact he had on his friends and family and the community at large.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on December 6, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 652, NAY on Roll Call No. 653, and YEA on Roll Call No. 654.

GOOD CONDUCT TIME CREDITS
FOR CERTAIN ELDERLY NON-
VIOLENT OFFENDERS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4018, the legislation which provides 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.

This legislation would ensure that elderly offenders become eligible for the pilot program at a point in time that takes into account any good conduct time credits they may have accumulated in the course of their time in prison under the Second Chance Act.

This change is important for at least three reasons:

(1) the elderly offender pilot program should be consistent with the way the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) calculates other transfers, which includes credit for good conduct time,

(2) offenders who otherwise have satisfactory behavior should not lose good conduct time solely due to their elderly status, and

(3) one of the goals of the pilot program is to save taxpayer dollars, and older inmates tend to be more costly for BOP to house.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation because it is long overdue and provides much needed relief to persons who no longer warrant incarceration.

To promote prisoner reentry and improve community reintegration, I co-sponsored and advocated for passage of the Second Chance Act, which Congress enacted in April 2008.

The Second Chance Act expanded existing offender reentry grant programs at DOJ and created a wide array of targeted grant-funded pilot programs.

The Second Chance Act reauthorization improved programs by:

broadening programs to cover reentry courts,

expanding grant eligibility to nonprofits, bolstering support for programs targeting offenders with histories of homelessness, substance abuse, or mental illness, and

makes the existing elder release pilot program permanent and broadens eligibility.

The Second Chance Act also established an elderly offender release program for those individuals over the age of 65 who have served the greater of ten years or 75 percent of their sentence.

The Act has been consistently funded by Congress since its enactment.

Since its inception, the Second Chance Act has resulted in more than 800 grant awards in 49 states and the District of Columbia to government agencies and nonprofits for reentry programming designed to provide services that can help reduce recidivism and increase public safety.

The data shows that this investment in our returning population lowers recidivism, saves money and reduces crime.

Nearly one out of three Second Chance Act grantees is a community or faith-based organization and includes funding for federal programs through the Bureau of Prisons. The data shows that this investment in our returning population lowers recidivism, saves money and reduces crime.

The Second Chance Act has been a success and its reauthorization was an essential part of any meaningful criminal justice reform effort. Through grants, the Second Chance Act encourages the development of evidence-based reentry programming to improve outcomes for those returning to families and communities.

Grantees provide vital resources, including employment training, drug treatment, family programming, and so much more.

Reauthorization had broad bipartisan support in Congress and from nearly 700 organizations across the political spectrum.

The Second Chance Act has played an important role in the impressive advances Texas has made over the last decade in criminal justice and juvenile justice reform.

Texas has received over 28 Second Chance Act grant awards to date, totaling over \$11,932,289.

One recipient, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, has used it to provide family-focused reentry services and comprehensive case management to gang-affiliated youth.

The City of Dallas used its funding to support a program for women who have a substance abuse diagnosis and are pregnant or have children who are 5 and under.

The women received comprehensive family-based support and co-occurring substance use and mental health services on an inpatient and outpatient basis.

This change is especially significant because the fastest growing segment of inmates are those age 50 and older, and they cost far more.

As an original co-sponsor of the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2017, I am very proud to have played a part in the development of the Federal Prisoner Reentry Initiative for our citizens over 60 years old.

For the previous several Congresses, I introduced the Federal Prison Bureau Relief Act to amend the federal criminal code to require the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to release early an offender who has completed at least half of his or her prison sentence if such offender has:

- (1) attained age 45,
- (2) committed no violent offenses, and
- (3) received no institutional disciplinary violations.

The bill modified provisions related to computation of a federal prisoner's good time credit.

Specifically, it allowed an eligible federal prisoner to earn a maximum good time credit of 54 days per year of the sentence imposed (instead of 54 days per year of the sentence actually served).

It also permitted the Bureau of Prisons to restore good time credit previously denied, based on a prisoner maintaining good behavior.

These modifications applied to an ongoing prison sentence imposed on or after November 1, 1987.

A bipartisan consensus is developing across this country in support of such a policy.

Allowing this group of nonviolent offenders to go home to their families is both beneficial to the inmates as well as in the best interest of the United States.

There is a continuing need for re-entry programs.

Due to the dramatic growth in the size of the prison population, the issue of prisoner reentry has emerged as one of the most critical and complex dilemmas facing the American criminal justice system.

The United States is the world's leader in incarceration.

According to the Prison Policy Initiative Mass Incarceration, the American criminal justice system holds almost:

2.3 million people in 1,719 state prisons, 109 federal prisons,

1,772 juvenile correctional facilities, 3,163 local jails, and

80 Indian Country jails as well as in military prisons, immigration detention facilities, civil commitment centers, state psychiatric hospitals, and prisons in the U.S. territories.

These trends resulted in prison overcrowding despite increasing evidence that large-scale incarceration is not the most effective means of public safety.

The result was that an incredibly low number of prisoners over 60 years of age were released to home confinement under the pilot program.

Passing H.R. 4018 will not fix the entire criminal justice system, but it is another important step in our effort to make it a more just and humane system for our elderly non-violent offenders with reentry into our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE FRISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise with my fellow Texas Congressman, Dr. BURGESS, to congratulate the Frisco Chamber of Commerce on earning a 5-Star Accreditation from the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Frisco is home to some of the most innovative and booming businesses in Texas and throughout the entire country. Partnering with approximately 1,300 member businesses who represent more than 75,000 employees, the Frisco Chamber of Commerce goes above and beyond to provide the business community with a powerful voice through its advocacy efforts and partnerships.

The Frisco Chamber received the highest accreditation awarded by the U.S. Chamber as a result of their effective organizational procedures and community involvement. After earning this accreditation, the Frisco Chamber is now among the top two percent of Chambers in the nation to receive this Prestigious designation.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Frisco Chamber of Commerce on this tremendous achievement.

RECOGNIZING DAVID HOBBS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and Rep. MIKE TURNER of Ohio, I rise to recognize David Hobbs, the Secretary General of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He will step down from his position on December 31, 2019 after decades of stellar service to the Assembly and to the national parliaments of all NATO countries, including the United States Congress.

David Hobbs took up his post as Secretary General of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in January 2008, following his election by the heads of national delegations to that body. He had previously served on the Assembly's staff for many years and drew on this long experience to help transform the institution.

David Hobbs holds degrees in physics and defense from Manchester University and King's College in London. After working in the UK civil service and the private sector, he joined Aberdeen University's Centre for Defence Studies, where he published studies on nuclear forces and policy. His expertise gave him unique insight not only into the conduct of the Cold War, but also informed his understanding of the strategies Western allies followed to ultimately prevail in it.

David Hobbs joined the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in 1983 as Director of its Science and Technology Committee. In 1987, he assumed additional responsibilities as Director of Committees and Studies and was tasked with coordinating the work of all five of the Assembly's Committees.

Mr. Hobbs played a central role in driving the Assembly's adaptation following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and ensuring that national parliaments and their members helped forge a new security order that placed democratic values at its very core. It was at this time that the Assembly began to reach out to the new parliaments of former Communist countries to assist in their democratic development. David Hobbs was part of a team that established a set of conferences and training programmes, including the Rose-Roth Seminars named after late Senator Bill Roth and Congressman Charlie Rose, which worked with parliamentarians from Europe's new democracies on security sector reform, parliamentary oversight, and preparation for membership in NATO itself.

Mr. Hobbs was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in November 1997.

In addition to his responsibilities at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, from 1996 to 2007 David Hobbs served as the Chairman of the Euro-Atlantic Foundation, an NGO which provided computing and I.T. assistance to parliaments in Central and Eastern Europe. From 1993 to 2005, he was a member of the research advisory council of the Chemical and

Biological Arms Control Institute, and from 2009 to 2014 he was a member of the Senior Steering Group for NATO's Special Operations Headquarters. He wrote extensively on the political and military implications of new technology.

As the Assembly's Secretary General, David Hobbs made it a top priority to maintain and strengthen the trans-Atlantic link through parliamentary dialogue and cooperation. He travelled to the United States with parliamentary delegations 37 times between 2003 and 2019 to ensure that European political leaders better understood strategic policy decision-making in the United States and to introduce European national legislators to their counterparts in the House of Representatives and the Senate. He often accompanied the President and Vice Presidents of the NATO PA on visits to the halls of Congress for bilateral discussions with members of Congress and their staffs. Those efforts paid off, and the Assembly is now considered the primary vehicle for Congressional outreach to allied nations and their political leaders.

As a member and now chairman of the United States delegation to the NATO PA, I have witnessed first hand David Hobbs' commitment to the trans-Atlantic bond and to NATO, his understanding of U.S. politics and policies and ability to work with members from both sides of the aisle on a bipartisan basis. As our predecessors have, the current members of the United States delegation to the NATO PA and I have come to rely on his expertise, unfailingly sound judgement, and shrewd insights.

David Hobbs is also known and appreciated for his quick wit and friendliness and has long made parliamentarians and staff feel welcome and essential to the life of the Assembly. His strong management skills and vision reinvigorated the secretariat in Brussels and helped the Assembly adjust to an increasingly perilous and complex security environment characterized by new challenges like terrorism, cyber-attacks, hybrid warfare, and an ever more revanchist Russia.

It should hardly be surprising that this vital institution dedicated to parliamentary diplomacy flourished under David Hobbs' stewardship. He leaves the NATO Parliamentary Assembly a stronger and more vibrant organization. He has dedicated himself to preserving history's greatest alliance, which requires great patience, diplomacy, hard work, and faith. Mr. Hobbs's tenure will be remembered for his grace, the active listening he deployed to ensure that everyone always felt heard, the respect he showed all delegates and staff, and the stability he brought to this vital alliance.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 11

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 2204, to allow the Federal Communications Commission to carry out a pilot program under which voice service providers could block certain automated calls, S. 2363, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to establish a Telecommunications Workforce Development Advisory Council within the Federal Communications Commission, S. 2381, to require review by the Government Accountability Office of screening protocols of the Transportation Security Administration relating to breast milk and formula, S. 2638, to amend title 49, United States Code, to require small hub airports to construct areas for nursing mothers, S. 2661, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to designate 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line, S. 2730, to establish and ensure an inclusive transparent Drone Advisory Committee, S. 2786, to establish a Federal advisory committee to provide policy recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation on positioning the United States to take advantage of emerging opportunities for Arctic maritime transportation, S. 2802, to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reauthorize and modify the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program, S. 2881, to require the Federal Communications Commission to make not less than 280 megahertz of spectrum available for terrestrial use, S. 2898, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a full annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers, S. 2909, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration, S. 2964, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Transportation to issue non-premium aviation insurance, S. 2979, to improve drug testing for transportation-related activities, and S. 2981, to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Thomas B. Chapman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board.

SD-G50

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 2641, to promote United States national secu-

rity and prevent the resurgence of ISIS, S. 2547, to state the policy of the United States with respect to the expansion of cooperation with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region and Europe regarding the People's Republic of China, S. 2977, to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014, S. 1310, to strengthen participation of elected national legislators in the activities of the Organization of American States and reaffirm United States support for Organization of American States human rights and anti-corruption initiatives, S. 1830, to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, S. 704, to prioritize the efforts of and enhance coordination among United States agencies to encourage countries in Central and Eastern Europe to diversify their energy sources and supply routes, increase Europe's energy security, and help the United States reach its global energy security goals, S. 1189, to require the Secretary of State to determine whether the Russian Federation should be designated as a state sponsor of terrorism and whether Russian-sponsored armed entities in Ukraine should be designated as foreign terrorist organizations, S. 482, to strengthen the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to combat international cybercrime, and to impose additional sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, S.J. Res. 4, requiring the advice and consent of the Senate or an Act of Congress to suspend, terminate, or withdraw the United States from the North Atlantic Treaty and authorizing related litigation, S. Con. Res. 23, 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. 142, condemning the Government of the Philippines for its continued detention of Senator Leila De Lima, calling for her immediate release, S. Res. 152, expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States, S. Res. 260, recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting the commitment of the United States Agency for International Development to global nutrition through the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy, S. Res. 297, commending the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary for its significant accomplishments and contributions to the economic and social development of the Americas, S. Res. 343, congratulating the people of the Czech Republic and the people of the Slovak Republic on the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, the 26th anniversary of the formation of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, and the 101st anniversary of the declaration of independence of Czechoslovakia, S. Res. 371, reaffirming the support of the United States for the people of the Republic of South Sudan and calling on all parties to uphold their commitments to peace and dialogue as outlined in the 2018 revitalized peace

agreement, S. Res. 374, expressing support for the designation of October 23, 2019, as a national day of remembrance of the tragic terrorist bombing of the United States Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983, S. Res. 375, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, S. Res. 385, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the reunification of both Germany and Europe, and the spread of democracy around the world, S. Res. 395, recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Iran Hostage Crisis, H.R. 2744, to authorize the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to prescribe the manner in which programs of the agency are identified overseas, H.R. 133, to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico, an original resolution expressing serious concern about widespread irregularities in Bolivia's October 20, 2019, general elections and supporting the convening of new elections in Bolivia at the earliest possible date, the nomination of Sung Y. Kim, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia, Department of State, and other pending calendar business.

S-116

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Inspector General's report on alleged abuses of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To receive a briefing on Albania's leadership in Europe.

RHOB-2253

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold closed hearings to examine an update on the situation and United States strategy in Afghanistan.

SVC-217

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1853, to require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, and S. 2365, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize urban Indian organizations to enter into arrangements for the sharing of medical services and facilities; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Michael D. Weahkee, of New Mexico, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jovita Carranza, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

DECEMBER 12

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on national security issues in the Middle East.

SVC-217

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Security

To hold hearings to examine expanding opportunities, challenges, and threats in the Arctic, focusing on the Coast Guard Arctic Strategic Outlook.

SD-562

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 225, 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, S. 242, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to release reversionary and reserved interests in certain land in the Coconino National Forest in the State of Arizona, S. 258, to prohibit oil and gas leasing on the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, S. 298, to establish the Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument in the State of Illinois, S. 327, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, S. 389, to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal land in Presidential Park in the District of Columbia, S. 430, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, S. 434, to provide for a report on the maintenance of Federal land holdings under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, S. 490, to designate a mountain ridge in the State of Montana as "B-47 Ridge", S. 499, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to apply to territories of the United States, to establish offshore wind lease sale requirements, to provide dedicated funding for coral reef conservation, S. 526, to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development, S. 641, to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Yucca House National Monument, S. 774, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, S. 1152, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain parcels of Federal land in Arlington, Virginia, S. 1262, to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas, to withdraw certain land located in Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon, from all

forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, S. 1890, to provide for grants for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy improvements at public school facilities, S. 2108, to amend section 6903 of title 31, United States Code, to provide for additional population tiers, S. 2393, to promote a 21st century energy workforce, S. 2399, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve State loan eligibility for projects for innovative technology, S. 2660, to establish a grant program for wind energy research, development, and demonstration, S. 2666, to promote the development of renewable energy on public land, and H.R. 617, to authorize the Department of Energy to conduct collaborative research with the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to improve healthcare services for veterans in the United States.

SD-366

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 2971, to amend and reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, S. 2080, to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine, S. 2683, to establish a task force to assist States in implementing hiring requirements for child care staff members to improve child safety, S. 2927, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that the authority of the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to make certain research endowments applies with respect to both current and former centers of excellence, an original bill entitled, "Title VII Reauthorization", and the nomination of Crosby Kemper III, of Missouri, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

SD-430

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of J. Brett Blanton, of Virginia, to be Architect of the Capitol.

SR-301

2 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

DECEMBER 18

10 a.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6897–S6907

Measures Introduced: Six bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2997–3002, and S. Res. 448. **Pages S6903–04**

Measures Passed:

National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 448, designating December 3, 2019, as “National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day”. **Page S6907**

Over-the-Counter Monograph Safety, Innovation and Reform Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Lawrence VanDyke, of Nevada, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Senate proceed to legislative session and to the immediate consideration of S. 2740, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the regulatory framework with respect to certain nonprescription drugs that are marketed without an approved new drug application; that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees, and that upon the use or yielding back of time, the bill be considered read a third time and Senate vote on passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate, and Senate resume executive session. **Page S6900**

Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 12:00 noon, on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, Senate proceed to legislative session and to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2333, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention

coordinators, which was received from the House, and the bill be considered read a third time, and Senate vote on passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate. **Page S6900**

Bumatay Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Pages S6898–S6900**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 47 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 386), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6900**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 12:15 p.m., on Tuesday, December 10, 2019. **Page S6900**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, December 10, 2019. **Page S6907**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

James E. McPherson, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army.

Finch Fulton, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

J. Brett Blanton, of Virginia, to be Architect of the Capitol for the term of ten years. **Page S6907**

Messages from the House: **Page S6902**

Measures Referred: **Page S6902**

Executive Communications: **Pages S6902–03**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6904–06**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S6906**

Additional Statements: **Page S6902**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—386) **Page S6900**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:34 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6907.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 15 public bills, H.R. 19, 5360–5373; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 749–754 were introduced. **Pages H9386–87**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H9388**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3, to establish a fair price negotiation program, protect the Medicare program from excessive price increases, and establish an out-of-pocket maximum for Medicare part D enrollees, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–324, Part 3);

H.R. 5038, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–328, Part 1);

H.R. 5035, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–329);

H. Res. 748, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 729) to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize grants to Indian Tribes to further achievement of Tribal coastal zone objectives, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–330);

H.R. 3621, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to remove adverse information for certain defaulted or delinquent private education loan borrowers who demonstrate a history of loan repayment, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–331);

H.R. 2328, reauthorize and extend funding for community health centers and the National Health Service Corps; with amendments (H. Rept. 116–332, Part 1); and

Conference report on S. 1790, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for

such fiscal year, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–333). **Pages H9385–86**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Horsford to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H9351**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:14 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Pages H9352–53**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Pages H9353, H9382**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:05 p.m. and reconvened at 3:01 p.m. **Page H9353**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

MSI STEM Achievement Act: H.R. 4372, amended, to direct Federal science agencies and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to undertake activities to improve the quality of undergraduate STEM education and enhance the research capacity at the Nation's HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs; **Pages H9353–56**

Engineering Biology Research and Development Act of 2019: H.R. 4373, amended, to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology; **Pages H9356–59**

Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2019: H.R. 2051, amended, to provide for Federal coordination of activities supporting sustainable chemistry; **Pages H9359–62**

Building Blocks of STEM Act: S. 737, to direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM education research focused on early childhood; **Pages H9362–63**

Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act: H.R. 4355, amended, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future; **Pages H9363–64**

Virginia Beach Strong Act: H.R. 4566, to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the families of victims of the mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 31, 2019; **Pages H9364–66**

Covert Testing and Risk Mitigation Improvement Act of 2019: H.R. 3469, to direct the Transportation Security Administration to carry out covert testing and risk mitigation improvement of aviation security operations; **Pages H9366–67**

DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019: 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, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yealand-nay vote of 393 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 655; **Pages H9367–69, H9380–81**

Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act: 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; **Pages H9369–70, H9381–82**

Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protege Program Act of 2019: H.R. 4727, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a mentor-protégé program; **Pages H9370–71**

Emerging Transportation Security Threats Act of 2019: H.R. 3318, amended, to require the Transportation Security Administration to establish a task force to conduct an analysis of emerging and potential future threats to transportation security; **Pages H9371–73**

Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Authorization Act: H.R. 4713, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department of Homeland Security; **Pages H9373–76**

Inland Waters Security Review Act: H.R. 4402, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct an inland waters threat analysis; **Pages H9376–77**

Weatherizing Infrastructure in the North and Terrorism Emergency Readiness Act of 2019: H.R. 3669, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a collective response to a terrorism exercise that includes the management of cascading effects on critical infrastructure during times of extreme cold weather; and **Pages H9377–78**

Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act: S. 256, to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages. **Pages H9378–80**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:27 p.m. and reconvened at 6:31 p.m. **Page H9380**

Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy: Representative Speier. **Page H9385**

Recess: The House recessed at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened at 9:25 p.m. **Page H9385**

Senate Referral: S. 743 was referred to the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on House Administration. **Page H9385**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H9353.

Quorum Calls Votes: Two yealand-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9381, H9381–82. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY INTO PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP: PRESENTATIONS FROM THE HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Impeachment Inquiry into President Donald J. Trump: Presentations from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and House Judiciary Committee”. Testimony was heard from Berry Berke, Majority Counsel, House Committee on the Judiciary; Stephen Castor, Minority Counsel, House Committee on the Judiciary and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; and Daniel Goldman, Majority Counsel, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

TRIBAL COASTAL RESILIENCY ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 729, the “Tribal Coastal Resiliency Act” [Coastal and Great Lakes Communities Enhancement Act]. The Committee granted, by nonrecord vote, a

structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 729, the “Tribal Coastal Resiliency Act”. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. 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 116–40 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 further amendments printed in the Rules Committee report and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of the resolution. Each amendment printed in the report 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 or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of the resolution. The rule provides that the chair of the Committee on Natural Resources or his designee may offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the Rules Committee report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee Natural Resources or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Case, Bishop of Utah, and Morelle.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1316)

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. Signed December 5, 2019. (Public Law 116–78)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Mitchell A. Silk, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary, and David Carey Woll, Jr., of Connecticut, and John Bobbitt, of Texas, both to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Peter J. Coniglio, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the Securities and Exchange Commission, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the upcoming implementation of the International Maritime Organization’s new global sulfur standard for marine fuels, which is set to take effect on January 1, 2020, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine encryption and lawful access, focusing on evaluating benefits and risks to public safety and privacy, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold an oversight hearing to examine modernization of the United States Copyright Office, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture, hearing entitled “The Implementation of Farm Bill International Food Assistance and Development Programs”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Diversity in Recruiting and Retention: Increasing Diversity in the Military—What the Military Services are Doing”, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Securing the U.S. Drug Supply Chain: Oversight of FDA’s Foreign Inspection Program”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Proposals to Achieve Universal Health Care Coverage”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1731, the “Cybersecurity Disclosure Act of 2019”; H.R. 2445, the “Self-Employed Mortgage Access Act of 2019”; H.R. 4545, the “Private Loan Disability Discharge Act of 2019”; H.R. 5287, the “Fair Student Loan Debt Collection Practices Act”; H.R. 5294, the “Student Borrowers Protections Act”; H.R. 5332, the “Protecting Your Credit Score Act of 2019”; H.R. 5330, the “Consumer Protections for Medical Debt Collections Act”; H.R. 5322, the “Ensuring Diversity in Community Banking Act of 2019”; H.R. 5315, the “Expanding Opportunities for Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs)

Act”; legislation electing majority members to the Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship, and Capital; legislation establishing the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence; and legislation establishing the Task Force on Financial Technology, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, and Trade, hearing entitled “Haiti on the Brink: Assessing U.S. Policy Toward a Country in Crisis”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation, hearing entitled “Authoritarianism with Chinese Characteristics: Political and Religious Human Rights Challenges in China”, 1:30 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism, hearing entitled “The Way Forward in Iraq”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Examining the Need for Comprehensive National Paid Family and Medical Leave”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, hearing entitled “Examining Carcinogens in Talc and the Best Methods for Asbestos Detection”, 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 3, the “Lower Drug Costs Now Act of 2019” [Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act of 2019]; and H.R. 5038, the “Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019”, 3 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Research and Innovation to Address the Critical Materials Challenge”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulations, hearing entitled “Review of the SBA’s 504/CDC Loan Program”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of December 10 through December 13, 2019

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Patrick J. Bumatay, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Lawrence Vandye, of Nevada, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, and on passage of S. 2740, Over-the-Counter Monograph Safety, Innovation, and Reform Act.

On *Wednesday*, Senate will vote on passage of H.R. 2333, Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act, at 12:00 noon.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: December 11, to hold closed hearings to examine an update on the situation and United States strategy in Afghanistan, 2:30 p.m., SVC-217.

December 12, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on national security issues in the Middle East, 10 a.m., SVC-217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: December 10, business meeting to consider the nominations of Mitchell A. Silk, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary, and David Carey Woll, Jr., of Connecticut, and John Bobbitt, of Texas, both to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Peter J. Coniglio, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the Securities and Exchange Commission, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: December 11, business meeting to consider S. 2204, to allow the Federal Communications Commission to carry out a pilot program under which voice service providers could block certain automated calls, S. 2363, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to establish a Telecommunications Workforce Development Advisory Council within the Federal Communications Commission, S. 2381, to require review by the Government Accountability Office of screening protocols of the Transportation Security Administration relating to breast milk and formula, S. 2638, to amend title 49, United States Code, to require small hub airports to construct areas for nursing mothers, S. 2661, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to designate 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line, S. 2730, to establish and ensure an inclusive transparent Drone Advisory Committee, S. 2786, to establish a Federal advisory committee to provide policy recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation on positioning the United States to take advantage of emerging opportunities for Arctic maritime transportation, S. 2802, to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reauthorize and modify the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program, S. 2881, to require the Federal Communications Commission to make not less than 280 megahertz of spectrum available for terrestrial use, S. 2898, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a full annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers, S. 2909, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration, S. 2964, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Transportation to issue non-premium aviation

insurance, S. 2979, to improve drug testing for transportation-related activities, and S. 2981, to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Thomas B. Chapman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

December 12, Subcommittee on Security, to hold hearings to examine expanding opportunities, challenges, and threats in the Arctic, focusing on the Coast Guard Arctic Strategic Outlook, 10 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: December 10, to hold hearings to examine the upcoming implementation of the International Maritime Organization's new global sulfur standard for marine fuels, which is set to take effect on January 1, 2020, 10 a.m., SD-366.

December 12, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 225, 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, S. 242, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to release reversionary and reserved interests in certain land in the Coconino National Forest in the State of Arizona, S. 258, to prohibit oil and gas leasing on the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, S. 298, to establish the Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument in the State of Illinois, S. 327, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, S. 389, to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal land in Presidential Park in the District of Columbia, S. 430, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, S. 434, to provide for a report on the maintenance of Federal land holdings under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, S. 490, to designate a mountain ridge in the State of Montana as "B-47 Ridge", S. 499, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to apply to territories of the United States, to establish offshore wind lease sale requirements, to provide dedicated funding for coral reef conservation, S. 526, to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development, S. 641, to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Yucca House National Monument, S. 774, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, S. 1152, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain parcels of Federal land in Arlington, Virginia, S. 1262, to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas, to withdraw certain land located in Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon, from all forms of entry, appro-

priation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, S. 1890, to provide for grants for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy improvements at public school facilities, S. 2108, to amend section 6903 of title 31, United States Code, to provide for additional population tiers, S. 2393, to promote a 21st century energy workforce, S. 2399, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve State loan eligibility for projects for innovative technology, S. 2660, to establish a grant program for wind energy research, development, and demonstration, S. 2666, to promote the development of renewable energy on public land, and H.R. 617, to authorize the Department of Energy to conduct collaborative research with the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to improve healthcare services for veterans in the United States, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: December 11, business meeting to consider S. 2641, to promote United States national security and prevent the resurgence of ISIS, S. 2547, to state the policy of the United States with respect to the expansion of cooperation with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region and Europe regarding the People's Republic of China, S. 2977, to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014, S. 1310, to strengthen participation of elected national legislators in the activities of the Organization of American States and reaffirm United States support for Organization of American States human rights and anti-corruption initiatives, S. 1830, to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, S. 704, to prioritize the efforts of and enhance coordination among United States agencies to encourage countries in Central and Eastern Europe to diversify their energy sources and supply routes, increase Europe's energy security, and help the United States reach its global energy security goals, S. 1189, to require the Secretary of State to determine whether the Russian Federation should be designated as a state sponsor of terrorism and whether Russian-sponsored armed entities in Ukraine should be designated as foreign terrorist organizations, S. 482, to strengthen the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to combat international cybercrime, and to impose additional sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, S.J. Res. 4, requiring the advice and consent of the Senate or an Act of Congress to suspend, terminate, or withdraw the United States from the North Atlantic Treaty and authorizing related litigation, S. Con. Res. 23, 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. 142, condemning the Government of the Philippines for its continued detention of Senator Leila De Lima, calling for her immediate release, S. Res. 152, expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in

the United States, S. Res. 260, recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting the commitment of the United States Agency for International Development to global nutrition through the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy, S. Res. 297, commending the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary for its significant accomplishments and contributions to the economic and social development of the Americas, S. Res. 343, congratulating the people of the Czech Republic and the people of the Slovak Republic on the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, the 26th anniversary of the formation of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, and the 101st anniversary of the declaration of independence of Czechoslovakia, S. Res. 371, reaffirming the support of the United States for the people of the Republic of South Sudan and calling on all parties to uphold their commitments to peace and dialogue as outlined in the 2018 revitalized peace agreement, S. Res. 374, expressing support for the designation of October 23, 2019, as a national day of remembrance of the tragic terrorist bombing of the United States Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983, S. Res. 375, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, S. Res. 385, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the reunification of both Germany and Europe, and the spread of democracy around the world, S. Res. 395, recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Iran Hostage Crisis, H.R. 2744, to authorize the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to prescribe the manner in which programs of the agency are identified overseas, H.R. 133, to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico, an original resolution expressing serious concern about widespread irregularities in Bolivia's October 20, 2019, general elections and supporting the convening of new elections in Bolivia at the earliest possible date, the nomination of Sung Y. Kim, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia, Department of State, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: December 12, business meeting to consider S. 2971, to amend and reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, S. 2080, to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine, S. 2683, to establish a task force to assist States in implementing hiring requirements for child care staff members to improve child safety, S. 2927, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that the authority of the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to make certain research endowments applies with respect to both current and former centers of excellence, an original bill entitled, "Title VII Reauthorization", and the nomination of Crosby Kemper III, of Missouri, to be

Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Indian Affairs: December 11, business meeting to consider S. 1853, to require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, and S. 2365, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize urban Indian organizations to enter into arrangements for the sharing of medical services and facilities; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Michael D. Weahkee, of New Mexico, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: December 10, to hold hearings to examine encryption and lawful access, focusing on evaluating benefits and risks to public safety and privacy, 10 a.m., SD-226.

December 10, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold an oversight hearing to examine modernization of the United States Copyright Office, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

December 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Inspector General's report on alleged abuses of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Rules and Administration: December 12, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of J. Brett Blanton, of Virginia, to be Architect of the Capitol, 10 a.m., SR-301.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: December 11, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jovita Carranza, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: December 10, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

December 12, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, December 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Member Day", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

December 11, Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit, hearing entitled "Review of Credit Conditions: Report from Agricultural Lenders", 2 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, December 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled "U.S. Policy in Syria and the Broader Region", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

December 11, Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled "Climate Change in the Era of Strategic Competition", 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, December 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the Education Department's Implementation of Borrower Defense", 9 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, December 11, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 1731, the "Cybersecurity Disclosure Act of 2019"; H.R. 2445, the "Self-Employed Mortgage Access Act of 2019"; H.R. 4545, the

“Private Loan Disability Discharge Act of 2019”; H.R. 5287, the “Fair Student Loan Debt Collection Practices Act”; H.R. 5294, the “Student Borrowers Protections Act”; H.R. 5332, the “Protecting Your Credit Score Act of 2019”; H.R. 5330, the “Consumer Protections for Medical Debt Collections Act”; H.R. 5322, the “Ensuring Diversity in Community Banking Act of 2019”; H.R. 5315, the “Expanding Opportunities for Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) Act”; legislation electing majority members to the Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship, and Capital; legislation establishing the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence; and legislation establishing the Task Force on Financial Technology, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, December 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day Hearing”, 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, December 11, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; and Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security of the House Committee on Homeland Security, joint hearing entitled “Righting the Ship: The Coast Guard Must Improve its Processes for Addressing Harassment, Bullying, and Retaliation”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

December 11, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “FITARA 9.0”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, December 11, Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process, hearing entitled “Solving an Epidemic: Addressing Human Trafficking Around Major Events like the Super Bowl and the Need for Cross-Jurisdictional Solutions” [Original Jurisdiction Hearing], 10:30 a.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, December 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Boeing 737 MAX: Examining the Federal Aviation Administration’s Oversight of the Aircraft’s Certification”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, December 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Creating a Climate Resilient America: Smart Finance for Strong Communities”, 2 p.m., 210 Cannon.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: December 11, to receive a briefing on Albania’s leadership in Europe, 2 p.m., 2253, Rayburn Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 10

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Patrick J. Bumatay, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Lawrence VanDyke, of Nevada, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, and on passage of S. 2740, Over-the-Counter Monograph Safety, Innovation, and Reform Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 10

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 729—Tribal Coastal Resiliency Act (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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