At this moment in history, we are called to uphold our values of compassion, common humanity, and racial justice.

I am proud to introduce the New Way Forward Act to disrupt the prison to deportation pipeline, give all immigrants the dignity of due process, and ensure America remains a nation that welcomes all.

The bill corrects racial and anti-immigrant injustices embedded in our immigration laws, many of which have enabled the Trump Administration’s inhumane assault on non-citizens in the United States and at our southern border.

Our communities deserve dignity, restoration and repair, not further criminalization. It’s time for a new vision for the future and for our immigration system. It’s time for a New Way Forward.

I urge this body to support and pass this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Monday, December 9, 2019, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on roll call no. 655: YEA, and on roll call no. 656: YEA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, due to a rescheduled flight I was unable to attend votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 655, and YEA on Roll Call No. 656.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, due to flight delays, I was unable to participate during Monday vote series, which included two critical pieces of legislation addressing opioid prevention, detection, and resilience. With my extensive background addressing the opioid epidemic and as a member of the House Congressional Caucus on Prescription Drug Abuse, I believe H.R. 4761 and H.R. 4739 contain crucial mechanisms to further support the U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s effort in analyzing synthetic opioids in a safe, effective, and efficient manner.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 655, and YEA on Roll Call No. 656.

INTRODUCTION OF SENIOR GUARDIANSHIP SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION ACT

HON. CHARLIE CRIST
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, state courts usually appoint a guardian for an individual that a judge has determined lacks the capacity to make important decisions regarding their life or property. When state courts appoint guardians, older adults often forfeit some or all of their decision-making powers, including the right to sign contracts, vote, marry or divorce, buy or sell real estate, decide where to live, or make basic decisions about their healthcare.

In recent years, state-based guardianship programs, such as the one in Florida, have been exposed as lacking the necessary controls to prevent seniors from being exploited and defrauded by bad actors preying on these seniors. News reports have detailed shocking cases of people being fleeced in my district, and across the country.

I am committed to putting a stop to this abuse. One step we can take at the federal level today to help correct an aspect of this problem is addressed through this legislation. Under current law, when a guardian has a ward removed from their care by a court for cause, that information is not necessarily transmitted to the Social Security Administration. In some cases, guardians removed for cause may still be allowed to represent the ward’s interests with the Social Security Administration, and therefore be receiving and administering their federal benefits in perpetuity.

Today, I, along with my distinguished colleagues, the gentlemen from Florida (Mr. SOTO and Mr. BILIRAKIS), are introducing the “Senior Guardianship Social Security Protection Act.” Under this bipartisan bill, state courts would be required to notify the Social Security Administration (SSA) when a guardian has their adult ward removed for cause. SSA would then remove the former guardian as the ward’s representative payee, closing a point of vulnerability for the ward. By directing open lines of communication between state courts and SSA, we can help better protect our seniors from predatory actors.

TAX COMPLEXITY ANALYSIS ON H.R. 3

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following Tax Complexity Analysis statement on the report to H.R. 3 filed by the House Committee on Ways and Means:

Section 6022(b) of Pub. L. No. 105-266, the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (the “RRA”), requires the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (in consultation with the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department) to provide a tax complexity analysis. The complexity analysis is required for all legislation reported by the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Ways and Means, or any committee of conference if the legislation includes a provision that directly or indirectly amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and has widespread applicability to individuals or small businesses.

Pursuant to clause 3(h)(1) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation
has determined that a complexity analysis is not required under section 4022(b) of the RRA because the bill contains no provision that amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and has “widespread applicability” to individuals or small businesses within the meaning of the rule.