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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 8, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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 7, 2020, 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, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

AIRSTRIKE AGAINST GENERAL SOLEIMANI

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, in response to a successful, precise United States airstrike against Iranian terrorist General Soleimani, a strike that was carefully thought out, that was vetted, that was carefully planned by our President, the Secretary of State, White House leadership, and the Pentagon, my Democrat colleagues are threatening to force a vote to restrict our President's ability to exercise his constitutional powers as Commander in Chief and, thus, place more American lives at risk.

Listen, I don't want a war. The President doesn't want a war. Many, many Kansans I have talked to, they don't want any more American lives lost in an endless war in the Middle East. But what Kansans do want is a President who draws a red line and actually means it, that if you harm an American or any American interests, we will respond swiftly, decisively, and, yes, disproportionately.

For Kansans, it is pure and simple common sense that the American President protect our country, protect our people from imminent threats posed by those who seek to do us harm. If you are a known terrorist who has brutality murdered hundreds of American soldiers and is actively planning to kill more Americans, our leaders, our President has the authority to quickly stop that threat by any means necessary. This power is a core executive function of the Commander in Chief under Article II of the Constitution.

This resolution that may be offered by Democrats today—and I say ''may.'' It sounds like now they are back-walking it, that they have probably done some type of a polling or some type of a study group that says this is not going to poll very well. But they have been threatening to offer a resolution that would undermine the President's ability to swiftly respond to Iran and its proxies' acts of aggression against our Nation and our interests. In other words, it would undermine the President's ability to protect our homeland and protect the American people.

By eliminating Soleimani, President Trump took decisive action to protect Americans and to rid the world of an evil terrorist who was actively planning more death and destruction. The President was doing his job to deescalate a very tense situation, to save American lives, and was damn right to do so. We are all safer today.

SPEAKER PELOSI'S REFUSAL TO TRANSMIT ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, after the unprecedented impeachment witch hunt conducted in the Chamber this past year, Speaker PELOSI has still not transmitted the sham Articles of Impeachment to the Senate. This would seem to fly in the face of common sense, the Constitution, and precedent.

It is not just Republicans who have been saying how ridiculous this is. Speaker PELOSI's refusal to transmit the articles is now coming under scrutiny from her own fellow Democrats in the Senate. One Senator said, ''She should send the articles over''; another, ''Let us do what we have to do over here''; and, finally, a third Democratic Senator, ''I'm hoping they will come over here soon. I think most people are ready to get this moving on.''

The only thing that Speaker PELOSI's 3-week charade has done is show the public the weakness of Democrats' case and show, indeed, he has not been given a safe political process and it is all for theater.

Please, Ms. PELOSI, please, Speaker PELOSI, allow the Senate to get on with the people's work: to pass USMCA, to lower healthcare costs, and to improve our infrastructure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

IMPROVING EFFORTS TO ATTACK SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, today marks a sobering anniversary. Three years ago today, Scarlett Lillian Pauley, a magnetic, vibrant, 16-month-

old died suddenly and unexpectedly. She was born at 11:25 a.m. on August 31, 2015, a happy and healthy 6-pound, 4-ounce, 20-inch-long baby.

This vibrant little girl loved her mama and her dada and her pets. Scarlett loved books. She could read for hours. Her favorite book was ''Barnyard Dance!'' by Sandra Boynton. She loved and she was loved.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated story. Each year, hundreds of children die unexpectedly and their deaths go unexplained, even after an investigation. Each year, nearly 3,500 children up to age 1 die suddenly. Among infants, my colleagues may have heard of the leading cause being SIDS, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

These devastated families want answers which, unfortunately, don't come. One reason is that States and municipalities all over the country collect inconsistent and often incomplete data on these unexplained sudden deaths; and, even with these efforts, they are irreconcilable.

If we can't even collect good and consistent data, how can we expect to reverse this trend or even prevent it?

Mr. Speaker, we can and we must do more to save the lives of our most vulnerable, which is why I introduced the Scarlett's Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act, H.R. 2271, named in honor of little Scarlett. This bill would authorize efforts to improve the investigation of these deaths nationwide to help find answers that can guide prevention efforts.

It would also support better data initiatives of safe sleep education and other efforts to prevent such deaths and support for grieving families, among other provisions.

Mr. Speaker, I was so inspired to do this because I have, in fact, been to the homes of grieving parents who have lost their child to sudden infant death.

I am so grateful that this is bipartisan legislation. There are 62 bipartisan sponsors, and I just want to name a few of them on the other side.

TOM COLE is the cosponsor on the Republican side, along with JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER, who has given birth to three children since she has become a Member of this body, and CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, who is on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

This bipartisan legislation has also been endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the March of Dimes, Children's Hospital Association, Cribs for Kids, First Candle, SUDC Foundation, KID: Fighting for Product Safety, Aaron Matthew SIDS Research Guild of Seattle Children's Hospital, the Mackenzie Blair Foundation of New Jersey, Jaxin's Cause in Ohio, the Scarlett Lillian Pauley Foundation, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, and Safe Kids Worldwide.

Today, the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee will hold hearings on this legislation, bringing it one step closer to law. One of the witnesses will be Scarlett's mom, someone who took her grief and turned it into activism, and I believe she is going to speak eloquently of the challenges that families across our country who experience such a tragedy face.

Though Scarlett is gone, she is not forgotten. Passing this bipartisan bill is one way we can honor her and save lives. If this bill helps save one life—and I am confident that it will do more than that—it is worth it.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

CONGRATULATING REESE DEHEN ON HER OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding athlete from Anoka, Minnesota.

Reese Dehen, this year, became a repeat State champion in swimming. She won the State swimming title in the Class AA 200 individual medley, and then the sophomore from Anoka continued to add a second State championship in the 100 breaststroke during the swimming State championships at the University of Minnesota.

Reese is an outstanding young talent and one of Minnesota's premier athletes. She is also a role model for thousands of young swimmers and student athletes who make the sacrifice to achieve the best they can be.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Reese and thank her for being a great role model. Our entire community is proud of her.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER STEWART, AN OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Christopher Stewart of North Lakes Academy charter school in Forest Lake, Minnesota. Mr. Stewart took learning to a new level this past year, participating in a program designed to preserve and amplify the history of fallen U.S. service personnel.

For an entire year, Mr. Stewart researched the life and service of Richard Willard Moody, a fallen World War II hero of the United States Army's 129th Aero Squadron assigned to the French Escadrille Br. 129. Mr. Moody was from Minneapolis, Minnesota, and he fought bravely on behalf of the United States before making the ultimate sacrifice in France.

Sponsored by National History Day, in conjunction with the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library, Mr. Stewart brought history to life and revived and preserved the memory of Richard Willard Moody. In fact, he even traveled to France to give a graveside eulogy and, when he returned to the United States, used this experience to teach his students.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Stewart for remembering a fallen hero and preserving his legacy. His students are lucky to have him and so is Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District.

HONORING STAN NELSON, A MINNESOTA HERO

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stan Nelson for his decades of service to the United States and to the city of Anoka, Minnesota.

Stan is well known throughout his community as a man of faith, family, and football. Some know Stan as ''Coach.'' Others know him as ''Lieutenant Junior Grade.'' Others know Stan as a Minnesota Senior Olympic gold medalist. Today, we add ''Hero'' to the list of titles that accompany his name.

Stan was a student and football player at Augsburg College who went on to enlist in the Navy following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Stan operated one of the first boats to land on Omaha Beach on D-day.

Following his service in World War II, Stan went on to coach the Anoka High School football team for 26 years, becoming a legend in Anoka and a mentor for generations of players. In honor of his repeated sacrifices, Haven for Heroes, a local nonprofit that provides transitional housing for veterans, recently dedicated their auditorium in honor of Stan.

Men like Stan deserve to be honored. He has lived a life as a servant leader. And at age 99, he hasn't slowed down.

Mr. Speaker, we are honored that Stan's name will forever adorn the Haven for Heroes auditorium, and I thank him for his service to Anoka and to his country.

RECOGNIZING STARKEY HEARING TECHNOLOGIES

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Starkey Hearing Technologies, a Minnesota-based manufacturer of hearing aids, for earning a place on Time magazine's list of Best 2019 Inventions.

Starkey's invention of the Livio AI hearing aid not only provides users with improved hearing quality, but it also tracks an individual's body and brain health.

This device, in addition, has several features that apply to our fast-paced world: It can stream music; it can act like a smart assistant; and it can even translate languages.

Minnesota is proud of its many innovators and inventors. From Medtronic's pacemaker to Starkey's cutting-edge hearing devices, Minnesota remains one our country's premier medtech hubs.

I congratulate Starkey for its amazing contribution to hearing health for patients across the country. Minnesotans are proud that they call our great State home.

□ 1015

ADDRESSING WORKFORCE SHORTAGES FOR AMERICAN FARMS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the recent passage of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, H.R. 5038.

I want to thank my colleague from the State of Washington, Mr. DAN

NEWHOUSE, and my colleagues from across the aisle for working in good faith in search of a solution to a long-standing issue in our agricultural community.

Workforce shortages are crippling our most important industries. In the Sixth District of Minnesota, agriculture and manufacturing have suffered the most. Farmers need assurances they will be able to maintain their farm over the long term and that includes having a reliable workforce.

Unfortunately, H.R. 5038 fell short of addressing key changes to our temporary worker visa programs.

While we have more work to do, I appreciate my colleagues' efforts to find solutions to the challenges.

HAVE A FAIR TRIAL IN THE SENATE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise because I love my country.

I rise today with my mnemonic notes in hand to discuss impeachment. As we all know, there is an expectation of a trial in the Senate. The people of the United States of America expect a fair trial, not a fake trial.

Well, what is a fake trial? A fake trial exists when you have the equivalent of the foreperson of the jury indicating that he is coordinating efforts and working with the person who is accused; that is the President. The majority leader is indicating that he is working with the President, and he is a part of the jury. That is a fake trial.

You have a fake trial when you don't allow material, relevant witnesses to come forth and give their testimony. It is undisputed.

It is agreed to by most persons with some understanding of what is going on, that Mr. John Bolton, the National Security Advisor, former, is a material witness and should be heard. He has not been heard and has indicated that he will testify if subpoenaed. Mr. Bolton ought to be subpoenaed and he ought to be heard so that we can have a fair trial; not a fake trial.

It won't be a trial. Here is what it will be: It will be a briefing. If you simply call the Members to order, Mr. Majority Leader, and if you simply read what has been presented to you from the House, that is nothing more than a briefing.

And if the end result is something other than the President being convicted, all you have done is postpone justice. That is it. You are just postponing justice, but you also have done one additional thing. You will have said to the people of this country that the balance of power that you are there to protect is something that you would neglect.

The balance of power is something that we must have if we are not to have a monarchy. If we are to maintain democracy, there has to be a balance of power. The House of Representatives has to have the opportunity to investigate. The President blocked witnesses, blocked evidence that is of another nature—written evidence, if you will.

He has blocked evidence and witnesses, and witnesses are evidence, and we and the Members of the House have impeached him—and he will be impeached forever, by the way. We have impeached him for impeding a congressional investigation.

In so doing, we expect the Senate to at least protect the balance of power. That is what the House is here for. We are the sword of Damocles when it comes to the President. We are there, hanging there to let him know that he can be punished in the Senate by virtue of the House having impeached—punished in the sense that he will be removed from office, not in the sense that he would ever go to jail.

Finally this, on the question of war or peace: Mr. President, I believe Iran has given you an off-ramp. I think you ought to take the off-ramp that is going to lead to deescalation because it also leads to the road of peace.

I am a person who believes in peace. Choose peace. Choose the off-ramp that has been given to you and give us an opportunity to move forward with the work of the country. You will still be impeached, however.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

SUPPORT LIFESAVING AGENT ORANGE BILLS

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the thousands of Vietnam war veterans who served our country but are unable to receive the VA benefits they earned and were promised.

When Mr. Bill Rhodes from Mena, Arkansas, first reached out to my office several years ago, his case seemed simple. He just needed our assistance in filing a benefits claim with the VA. But we soon learned he wasn't eligible because the VA didn't extend the presumption of Agent Orange exposure to veterans who served in Thailand during the Vietnam war.

Mr. Rhodes isn't a unique case. There are thousands of other veterans across the country who put their lives on the line during the Vietnam war. They made it home safely, only to learn years later that exposure to Agent Orange was making them sick.

Military personnel involved with the storage and transportation of Agent Orange suffered the worst rates of exposure. The average concentration of the toxic chemical was 13 times the recommended rate for domestic use.

Despite constant reassurance that it was safe and harmless to handle during the war, veterans began reporting symptoms of lymphoma, leukemia, respiratory cancer, prostate cancer, diabetes, digestive disorders, and other diseases.

Thanks to the passage of the Blue Water Navy Act last year, we are finally seeing progress as of January 1. Veterans who served off the coast of Vietnam are finally able to receive benefits for their exposure.

This bill also included language I introduced that extends benefits to children born with spina bifida as a result of their parent's exposure to toxic herbicides.

The Blue Water Navy Act is a big win for many veterans, but our work is not finished.

Mr. Horace Wynn, another Vietnam veteran in our district, reached out this past year regarding his diagnosis and its relation to Agent Orange.

Mr. Wynn's advocacy is why I introduced the bipartisan Keeping Our Promises Act, which would make an additional nine medical conditions eligible for benefits that stem from Agent Orange exposure.

I also reintroduced a bill from the 115th Congress, H.R. 2201, that would allow Vietnam-era veterans who served in Thailand to apply for benefits based on exposure to Agent Orange. This bill is a direct result of my conversations with Mr. Rhodes, and Arkansas Senator JOHN BOOZMAN has introduced the same legislation in the Senate.

Veteran organizations across the country are mailing letters of support in orange envelopes to their elected Representatives, urging them to support these lifesaving bills. The least we can do is listen. But we should do more. We must pass these bills for our Nation's veterans. They deserve it.

Our men and women in uniform put their lives on the line to serve their country. In return, we promised that we would provide assistance for their medical bills and benefits. It is past time we keep those promises.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to join me in getting these bills passed and signed into law.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the impending impacts of climate change on our planet and the unquestionable impact that all of us are aware of.

Over the world, we see prolonged droughts fueling disastrous fires. Over the last 6 months we have watched horrific bushfires in Australia with tremendous losses. People have died, half a billion animals have been lost, and millions of acres of land have been swallowed up by flames.

As a lifelong resident of California, I have witnessed similar devastation in

our own communities as a result of climate change. The past 2 years alone were the two worst fire seasons on record. Climate change has, no doubt, heightened the impact of these fires which is why we are witnessing these horrific impacts, and they are so difficult to manage.

Climate change is happening now and we must do more. For starters, we must continue to make significant efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. We must continue to invest in clean air and affordable transportation made more readily available to all of our communities throughout the country.

Last year, the House took strong steps to protect our planet in the future by passing H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act. H.R. 9 confronts the climate crisis by keeping us in the Paris Agreement, and demanding a plan of action from the administration to participate in a meaningful fashion. But that bill, along with hundreds of others, are currently sitting on Senator MCCONNELL's desk collecting dust, sadly.

These current events have made it clear that we have an imperative need to act on this climate crisis. And while we wait for the Senate to act, I am doing all that I can to make a difference in California as it relates to our air quality, transportation, and our water needs that are impacted.

As a member of the State legislature, years ago, I created the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to help monitor and reduce pollution in the valley and improve our air quality, and we have made progress.

I am also the cosponsor and helped to introduce the Clean Corridors Act and the Clean School Bus Act that also reduced greenhouse gases.

We have also helped kick-start California's High-Speed Rail project which will get millions of drivers out of their cars and into cleaner, more accessible transportation, along with our inner-city transportation, our intermodal concept to use all of the modes of transportation more effectively for cleaner air quality.

I am also working on water legislation that will help improve conservation and work toward a sustainable water supply for our farmers and cleaner water for our communities throughout California.

California's broken water system is not suited to deal with the increased volatility caused by climate change.

For those of you who are unaware, California gets most of its water, its moisture, between November and March. The rains are important. They are critical, and the snow in the mountains are Mother Nature's icebox.

With climate change, we see the droughts have become longer and more intense, and the storms that we rely on for the snowpack are fewer and are at a higher elevation, which means this incredible water system that we have created over the last 100 years has to adapt to those changes.

Food is a national security issue, not only in California, but in America and throughout the world. Without a reliable supply of water, we cannot grow food, not only for our Nation but for the planet, and so this is a critical issue.

We need to understand that for 7 billion people on the planet in the last 2 years—suggested to increase to 9 billion by the middle of this century—the ability to provide a sustainable water supply for the entire world and for us to grow food to feed our people in this country is absolutely critical.

Therefore, we have a moral responsibility to be good stewards of this planet that we call home for ourselves and for the future generations to come.

As we begin the new year, let's work together now to find bipartisan, commonsense solutions to help us pass along a better planet for future generations to come. This, among all of the other difficult issues we face, I believe, is the primary challenge of the 21st century.

IMPORTANCE OF RURAL HEALTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of rural health and what it means to the nearly 60 million Americans who call rural America home.

No matter where you live, access to quality healthcare should not be considered a luxury. Recently, a local hospital in my district was recognized as a healthcare leader in rural America. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Northwest campus in Venango County was one of 18 rural hospitals in the Nation to receive an award for excellence and patient safety and quality in 2019.

The accolade is given annually by The Leapfrog Group serving more than 2,100 hospitals to find the Nation's best in healthcare safety and quality.

Hospitals like UPMC Northwest are just one piece of the puzzle when it comes to building a network of reliable care in rural America.

In many cases, rural residents can still live very far away from the closest hospital, which makes getting quality care even more difficult.

Telehealth can help reduce barriers to health services for all residents, particularly the elderly, and those with limited mobility. The Northwest campus of UPMC has been a leader in telehealth and telemedicine.

Telehealth options are becoming increasingly available in not only rural communities, but across the country. Ninety percent of healthcare executives say their organizations are developing or already offer telehealth services, and in 2018, approximately 7 million individuals took advantage of a telehealth consultation.

□ 1030

Telehealth services are a great tool for those who may live far away from a hospital, but it also takes much of the hassle out of scheduling an appointment and makes routine care much more efficient.

Mr. Speaker, I have been proud to assist in leading the advancement of telehealth and telemedicine legislatively in this body, including the STEP Act, which greatly expanded access to telemedicine to our Active Duty military, Reserve, and Guard. That was signed by President Obama in the VETS Act, which did the same thing for our American veterans under the VA MISSION Act signed by President Trump.

As we continue to explore ways to increase access, affordability, quality, and basic choice, telehealth or telemedicine must be a part of that conversation.

GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, ''All is well!'' ''So far, so good!''

This is the latest sequel in Trump's government-by-tweets, that couldn't be further from reality. Hopefully, we pray that no American lives were lost last night. But every American is less safe today than before Trump's assassination of a major foreign leader. He has taken us to the brink of war, and, hopefully, he will use the opportunity of a restrained counterattack not to escalate further but to seek an off-ramp to deescalate the crisis that could endanger the world.

Attack begetting attack, and hate begetting hate—in that direction lies the abyss. The only justification that he can offer for ignoring President Ronald Reagan's Executive Order against assassination of foreign leaders is that of an imminent attack, that we need to get them before they get us. He has failed to offer any such evidence of an imminent attack to justify this rash assassination that previous administrations, Republican and Democrat, and the Israelis who had the capacity to do this, recognized posed more danger than good.

''Overreliance on our packing the biggest gun and having the fastest draw as in some old John Wayne western movie does not truly make us safer. This is not a formula for the safety of our families. It is a formula for international anarchy. A quick draw may eliminate the occasional villain, but it comes at the cost of destabilizing the world, disrupting the hope of international law and order, and, ultimately, it will make even Austin a very unsafe place in which to live.''

Those were the precise words I used in challenging the horrendous Bush-Cheney invasion of Iraq, and they apply even more today to the war with Iran, a country that is about four times

the size and three times the population of prewar Iraq and has far more capacity to do harm to us and our allies.

Trump has no plan and no strategy in the Middle East. Ending one general's life is not an endgame. Like the invasion of Iraq, already the biggest winner from Trump's misguided non-policy is the country that he opposes the most, Iran, whose allies now in Iraq have asked all of our troops to leave and who have called them occupiers; Iran, whose presence has caused the removal of all civilian employees and foreign service officers of the United States from Iraq.

Now, with the assassination, Trump has united those who were once opposing the regime in Iran. In Iran, there are incredible protests, and in Iraq there are protests against Iranian influence. So after abandoning our Kurdish allies and surrendering that part of the Middle East to our adversaries, Trump has now managed to unite the many people who were favorable to the United States and who were questioning the very malicious presence of Iran.

I believe that Congress must act and this House must act to assert its constitutional authority to rein in this out-of-control President. Last July, we attempted to do just that. I voted with a strong majority in this House to adopt the Khanna amendment to basically say that we would deny all funds for his attacking Iran without his coming first to this Congress to justify it; and I supported a second amendment that was adopted by our colleague, Representative LEE, which made it clear that there is no authorization for use of military force that exists on the books today that justifies any offensive action against Iran.

This House should use the full strength of our authority to restrict President Trump from rushing into another war that will be so costly to us in blood and treasure. It is a war that American families do not want.

As one very concerned father movingly wrote to me this week: ''[If] my son is to be deployed to protect and serve our country, please do your best to be sure it is for the right reasons. He is proud to [serve] and will do his duty to the best of his ability without question. His Mother and I could not be prouder. Please don't let it be about some ill-conceived political distraction from an egomaniacal madman.''

Let us come together to build a better path forward. Let us give peace a chance.

SUPPORT DISASTER ASSISTANCE IN PUERTO RICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) for 5 minutes.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the people of Puerto Rico. They are still struggling from the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2017 and now are dealing with incessant seismic activity on the island since December 28 of last year.

Puerto Ricans still need ongoing assistance from Federal disaster programs, like those offered by FEMA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Today, I would like to emphasize HUD's work, particularly through its Community Development Block Grant program and the disaster relief program for Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico has an allotment of over $20 billion under CDBG-DR programs that will be spent on unmet needs and mitigation expenses to ensure local infrastructure is restored and in a better position to withstand future disasters. This clearly puts us in a positive position to restore our housing stock, economic activity, and damaged infrastructure.

However, of the $20 billion, only $1.5 billion is currently available to be drawn down by the grantee, the Puerto Rico Department of Housing. Although this is a large amount, delays and other challenges have impeded the availability of these additional funds.

To make matters worse, Puerto Rico has been experiencing a sequence of tremors since December 28, including a 6.4 magnitude earthquake yesterday during the early morning and a replica of 6.0 in the morning as well. The earthquake and subsequent aftershocks have caused significant housing and infrastructure damages in the south part of our island, including the towns of Guanica, Guayanilla, Penuelas, and Ponce, among others.

My constituents are afraid and uncertain of when these occurrences will cease, and the reason for that is approximately more than 400 people are still in shelters. One death has been reported. Additionally, there was an immediate power outage that impacted the entire island. As we speak, 75 percent of the island is without power and without electricity.

I commend President Trump for signing the Federal emergency declaration last night. It is clear that the people of Puerto Rico will need Federal assistance to fully assess damages, recover, and prepare for other future events.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, aftershocks and an increase in overall seismic activity are expected throughout the next week, including a chance of another large earthquake that could cause additional damage. I am confident that we will show the strength and resiliency once more in the face of another disaster, but we cannot do it alone.

That is the reason, when you see schools that were impacted on the island, crushing one of the schools in Guanica—thank God there were no kids present at that time. Because the Governor resumed order, the classes were suspended, and we saved a lot of lives in that school.

But we can't do it alone. That is the reason we need to secure proper disbursement of funds requiring planning and preparation, and we must ensure local agencies in Puerto Rico, like the Department of Housing, are equipped to manage and oversee the funds. Therefore, I understand bolstering capabilities, and I understand the changes and challenges. We need improvement, but I do not understand the repeated delays, the lack of information, and the violation of congressionally mandated deadlines for the CDBG-DR funds.

Mr. Speaker, whatever changes or improvements need to be made must be made within the bounds, guidelines, and deadlines set forth by Congress to the Federal agencies. Puerto Rico is currently waiting for an agreement for an additional allotment of $8 billion for unmet needs, which already has an approved action plan and now needs a signed agreement for that money, including $2 billion for restoring our depleted power grid. These are urgent needs at this time.

CONGRESS SHALL HAVE POWER TO DECLARE WAR

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, for the last 2 months, the House has been riven by the process of impeachment. It has been emotional, divisive, and challenging. If you noticed, many of the statements about impeachment started with some version of this: Impeachment is the most serious thing that Congress will do, other than declare war.

Well, here we are. In the next day, in the next month, and in the next year, this body may be called upon to make decisions that will alter history and possibly send young men and women to their deaths or not. I say ''or not'' because, once again, I see Congress at risk of failing to stand up for the clear mandate placed on us by the Constitution, to which each and every one of us took an oath.

There is no argument about our duty here. The language of the Constitution is plain: Congress shall have power to declare war, not Congress shall have power to declare war unless the President wants to retaliate against someone; not Congress shall have power to declare war unless a Syrian airbase needs destruction; not Congress shall have power to declare war unless our forces are attacked in the Tonkin Gulf.

Congress shall have power to declare war. Period, full stop.

Mr. Speaker, in the long run, this has nothing to do with our confidence in a particular President. It has everything to do with whether we take the obligations that Mr. Madison and Mr. Hamilton asked us to take seriously. In their wisdom, the Founders understood that every American—every American—should have a voice in the decision to go to war because it will be those Americans who offer up their

sons and their daughters; because it will be those Americans and their children who will sacrifice not just themselves but the roads, the bridges, the schools, and the scholarships that will get consumed in the costs of war; and because our Founders understood that the true power of our awesome war machine was not in the technology. It lay in the sober assent and careful enthusiasm of millions of Americans, not in the decision of one person in an Oval Office.

So, here we are. Yes, the questions are many and complicated. Was the strike on General Soleimani legal? Was it ethical? Was it smart? These are not easy questions, and I suspect the answers will come only over time and after careful study. But right now, in this there is a question that hangs the lives of our people and potentially trillions of dollars: What comes next?

For those of us who were chanting, cheerleading, and whipping themselves into a belligerent frenzy, reflect on our experience over the last 20 years in places like Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya. Comments by the Secretary of Defense notwithstanding, that we are not looking to start a war, but we are prepared to end one, the experience of the last 20 years is that we are not prepared to end any war. Some estimates suggest that we have spent $6 trillion on Middle Eastern wars, and more importantly, we have laid down the lives of thousands of our men and women.

While we may have taken some satisfaction from the removal of people like Saddam Hussein and Muammar Qadhafi, at what cost? One of our most accomplished Middle Eastern diplomats, Philip Gordon, answers that question best. Philip Gordon wrote this years ago: ''In Iraq, the U.S. intervened and occupied, and the result was a costly disaster. In Libya, the U.S. intervened and did not occupy, and the result was a costly disaster. In Syria, the U.S. neither intervened nor occupied, and the result is a costly disaster.''

Mr. Speaker, I close my plea for care, thoughtfulness, and careful consideration by reminding my colleagues of a friend who died almost exactly a year ago, Walter B. Jones, Jr., from North Carolina. Some of us in this Chamber remember his journey.

□ 1045

In 2003, he was an ardent supporter of the Iraq war; and over time and, in particular, when he attended the funeral for a young sergeant in his district, he came to regret his decision. This was the guy who led the charge to rename French fries ''freedom fries,'' and he came to be haunted by what he had done and by what we had done.

I didn't know Walter well, but we celebrated his life when he died. Let's be like Walter. Let's learn the cost of war—but let's not attend funerals to do it—and give this decision the careful consideration it deserves.

TEPID ECONOMIC RESULTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the new year and the new decade, economic results feel tepid for working communities across our country.

The President touts and newspapers parrot his misguided belief that America is experiencing the greatest economy for everyone.

No, not for everyone.

Sure, many indicators prioritized by Wall Street and Washington support and reflect this statement, but speak with millions and millions of lower and middle-class workers, Americans across our country—especially in the heartland, in the Midwest—and you will find they feel quite differently. They are falling deeper into debt.

Despite President Trump's exaggeration, a soaring stock market is not indicative of a strong economy for all. Most Americans do not have a significant stake in the stock market. They work paycheck to paycheck. They have to pay higher prices for everything.

According to fact-checkers at PolitiFact, Americans of modest incomes are significantly less invested in the stock market than wealthier Americans.

No surprise there.

Other groups, including minorities and those without a college education, also lag in stock ownership, meaning that the stock market rally President Trump and the Republican Party so loudly brag about misses—bypasses—the large majority of Americans.

While unemployment numbers are relatively low, tens of millions of Americans continue to live and work below the poverty line. If you take look at their paycheck, many of them have to get food support through the government because they can't make ends meet—working people who are poor, millions of them.

Millions more are unemployed and working multiple jobs just to make ends meet for themselves and their families. Others have given up on finding work altogether, especially in towns and cities, where good work has simply disappeared and not been replaced. These families simply exist.

Since NAFTA's passage in the early 1990s, communities across America—especially in our industrial heartland—have endured the outsourcing of living-wage, middle-class jobs to Mexico and other penny-wage environments where workers are exploited to produce goods for pennies on the dollar.

Because of disastrous trade policies such as NAFTA and lack of enforcement by governments like Mexico, our young people have grown up in the shadows of shuttered factories they have never seen in operation. For too many, the pain of NAFTA's and other trade agreements' broken promises remain raw and real.

So, while job creation numbers may be up in one place, one must wonder: What sort of jobs are being created and how many are good jobs? The answer is: not nearly enough.

Many of the lost living-wage manufacturing jobs weren't only outsourced to Mexico; others shifted to China.

What has the President's unpredictable posturing with China has given our heartland? Desperate farmers and even more pain for manufacturing workers.

The 18-month-long trade war with China has undermined business investment. It pushed the manufacturing industry into a recession and cost an additional $42 billion for American consumers who have paid more for needed goods, according to a new Federal Reserve Bank study.

This year brings small relief for the 7 million lucky Americans who live in cities and States that will see wage increases; but this is no thanks to the President or the Senate Republicans who still refuse to move the Raise the Wage Act the House passed last year for the millions of workers who live at the lowest level of paid wages in our country.

Millions of American workers remain left behind by the $7.25 minimum wage, or $15,080 for a full year's work, because the Federal minimum wage remains stagnant. American workers haven't had the benefit of a Federal minimum wage increase in over a decade, yet the prices of everything have gone up—right?—medicine, housing, food, cars, local taxes.

There isn't a single congressional district in our Nation where a full-time minimum wage worker can afford a two-bedroom apartment. How about that?

Factor in the rising cost of healthcare and education, and more American families continue to live at the breaking point and are going deeper into debt. This President continues to push for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, despite no plan to replace it.

Here is another example of President Trump and Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL's failure to act to support workers: Our House passed the Butch Lewis Act—with bipartisan support, it passed this Chamber—to address the worsening multiemployer pension crisis.

Currently, there are about 1,400 multiemployer plans covering nearly 10 million people across our country who are retired—60,000 in Ohio alone. These plans are certain to run out of money to support those retirees. It is estimated that 1.3 million retirees and workers are set to lose these benefits.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate should pass the bill that we passed here for these retirees; and we all, as a country, should work to improve the economic outlook for millions and millions of working Americans who, frankly, are left out of this economy.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR YOUNG JUVENILES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me, first of all, say how grateful we are that, as the assessment has been made, none of our brave soldiers lost their lives last night in the Iranian attack and that it is crucial this week that this Congress assert its authority, its constitutional authority as it relates to any declaration of war, which is our authority under Article I, in spite of the unfortunate determination made by this administration putting American soldiers in danger, diplomats making their families have great concern, and, certainly, jeopardizing the security of the American people.

Our soldiers, most of all, we respect and honor, but we must do our job. As we do that, it is important, as well, to recognize that our work must go on.

Over the years, I have worked on any number of responses to improving the quality of life of our young juveniles. On any given day, over 48,000 youth in the United States are confined in facilities away from home as a result of the juvenile justice or criminal justice involvement. In many instances, they are not assigned a particular sentence and can stay incarcerated or detained until they are 21. Most are held in restrictive correctional-style facilities, and thousands are held without even having had a trial—no sentence.

Mr. Speaker, 92 percent of youth in juvenile facilities are in locked facilities. According to a 2018 report, 52 percent of long-term secure facilities, 44 percent of detention facilities, and 43 percent of reception and diagnostic centers also use mechanical restraints like handcuffs, leg cuffs, restraining chairs, straightjackets, with 40 percent of long-term secure facilities and detention centers isolating youth in locked rooms for 4 hours or more.

In the State of Texas, we have had a long history with our foster care system and our detention system where young people—juveniles—have been abused, sexually assaulted, and other indignities, altering them for life.

According to selected findings from the Juvenile Residential Facility Census released in December 2018, 46 percent of all facilities reported locking youths in their rooms. Among public facilities, 81 percent of local facilities and 68 percent of State facilities reported locking young people in sleeping rooms.

These young people are going to be the future leaders or the future citizens, residents of this Nation. They will have to take their rightful place.

This is wrong, and so I intend to introduce an omnibus reformation of the juvenile justice system to reform it so that we can respond appropriately to these 48,000-plus and really restore their lives.

I have already introduced legislation to ban solitary confinement, and locking juveniles in their rooms, lockdown, is equal to that.

We don't know the altering factor in the development of these young people. Studies have shown brains are not fully developed until the age of 25, and yet we put on the brains of these young people under 25 in the juvenile justice system the kinds of stimuli that would alter their life forever.

We also want to address the question of juveniles having a future, to ban the box of having to admit being arrested or in a juvenile detention center.

Remember, most of these juveniles have not had trials. They have not had due process. They don't have a sentence. They can remain in that facility until, in many instances, the age of 21 if they came in at 12 or 14 a for nonviolent offense.

Then, of course, we need to find alternative places for juveniles to be able to have wraparound services that really restore them to being a full, young person who can enjoy life and get an education.

Many times when juveniles are in juvenile detention centers, their educations are spotty, at best. They don't return to the school system, and they are isolated and prone to dropping out.

Yes, families need help. Families wind up in the juvenile justice system or the family court system out of desperation because we don't have help for those families.

We need wraparound services, support services, that will encourage and enhance family unity and the ability to address the needs of this young person.

Maybe it is volatility, immaturity. Maybe it is a response to home life. Maybe it is because there is drug abuse in the family or criminal activity in the family, or maybe there is poverty in the family or one parent struggling to raise a number of children.

We cannot abandon 48,000 children every year in this Nation, Mr. Speaker, and so I will introduce the omnibus reform bill of the juvenile justice system to ensure that we save and build the lives of our young people.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 57 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Lord our God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. At the beginning of this new session, surround us with Your Holy Spirit. Lord, these are anxious days for Your children on Earth. The risks of misunderstanding and failed messaging are great. Help all of us to seek Your presence in our midst that peace and goodwill might prevail.

We know, O Lord, this is a lot to ask. Have mercy on us.

May the comings and goings of Your people be under the seal of Your loving care, and may all our work be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

U.S. SOLDIERS IN HARM'S WAY

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, 4,559 U.S. soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the 2003 invasion and occupation. Despite their sacrifices, 17 years later, Iran now owns and controls Iraq today.

2,430 U.S. soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan, and today we are negotiating for peace with the Taliban, the terror organization that is most responsible for the killing of our soldiers.

These wars have cost nearly $5 trillion and have taken nearly 7,000 lives of U.S. soldiers.

Before going after Qasem Soleimani, the 5,200 U.S. soldiers still stuck in Iraq should have been evacuated and out of harm's way. But they weren't. They were put in harm's way by our Commander-in-Chief during Iran's highly predictable retaliatory attack last night on U.S. military installations in Iraq.

2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, I traveled across

the Second Congressional District of South Carolina visiting the Midlands, Aiken, North Augusta, Barnwell, and Orangeburg to present my 2020 legislative agenda.

At each stop, I was grateful to share my priorities and answer questions from the media. In this new legislative year, I will continue to advance legislation to create jobs for American families and reduce the harmful regulations that destroy jobs.

I will promote working with local chambers and agencies. In 2020, I will advocate for future and current missions at the Savannah River Site and Savannah River National Laboratory.

We also must protect the economic future for our children and grandchildren to address the debt by supporting the most conservative budget options. I am also focusing on promoting peace through strength to support our troops and keep American families safe by defeating terrorists overseas in the global war on terrorism.

This year, I will also serve as the ranking member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, where I will work with my colleagues across the aisle to maintain our international partnerships.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may we never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism with the courageous leadership of President Donald Trump.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RON VOEGELI

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Ron Voegeli. He passed away on January 1.

Ron was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and Christian. He touched countless lives during his 30 years as a member of the Disabled American Veterans, raising thousands of dollars to purchase vans to take vets to and from the VA, expanding the Beaufort National Cemetery, and spending hours each week helping veterans fill out disability paperwork.

If a Lowcountry vet passed away without family to attend the funeral, Ron became their family. He often rallied hundreds of others to attend the burial or perform the ceremony himself. He believed that no veteran who sacrificed for their country should be laid to rest alone.

When we die, we all hope to hear: ''Well done, good and faithful servant . . . Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.''

That is how Ron lived his life, and that is what he deserves.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN DALE DOSS

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Navy Captain Dale Doss of Tallahassee who proudly served his Nation and passed from this life on December 11.

Captain Doss was flying off the USS *Enterprise* when he was shot down during his 54th mission over North Vietnam in 1968. He was held as a prisoner of war for 1,824 days before being released in March of 1973.

While in the infamous Hanoi Hilton, he formed a close relationship with former Senator John McCain, communicating with him despite being tortured for doing so. During the 2 years he spent in solitary confinement, he never broke faith with his fellow POWs or his country.

Captain Doss retired from the Navy in 1983, but he never stopped serving. As the director of veteran services in Leon County for 19 years, he was an integral part of our community.

Dale Doss will be remembered for his sacrifices and for his courageous service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing a true American hero, Captain Dale Doss.

EPIDEMIC OF ANTI-JEWISH HATRED

(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 highlight the epidemic of anti-Jewish hatred taking place in New York City and across the country.

Since December 23, there have been over a dozen attacks on Jews across New York City; this, after a terror attack in Jersey City that claimed three innocent lives and a horrific terrorist attack in Monsey, New York.

In this city, where Jews have come for 366 years to freely practice their religion, enough is enough. Tweets and words of support are not enough at a time of crisis like this. We must have action.

It is for that reason that on January 15, the Homeland Security subcommittee that I chair will hold a hearing on the rise of anti-Semitism. We have got to explore increased funding for mosques, synagogues, and churches; increase focus on a domestic terrorism charge; and increase focus on the rise of the neo-Nazi movement, both nationally and globally.

Once again, tweets, thoughts, and prayers are not enough right now. We need action.

SUPPORTING BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to support our brave men and women serving overseas, specifically, those in Iraq and the Middle East.

I support their mission, as I did during my time on Active Duty. I also rise to recognize all of those who have been working to support this mission, including constituents of mine working at the National Ground Intelligence Center in Charlottesville, Virginia.

I have personally worked, during my past, with NGIC on efforts to stop the Quds Force and Qasem Soleimani, specifically their support to IED technologies that killed American troops. Soleimani was a terrorist.

The President recently addressed the Nation proposing an allied effort with our partners in NATO to address Iran and ensure they stop their pursuit of hegemonic goals and their nuclear program.

I support this effort. Resolute strength is the only way to deal with state sponsors of terrorism.

RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY CAREER OF TINA PANETTA

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary career of a very special constituent of mine named Tina Panetta who lives in Silver Spring and has been a public servant here on Capitol Hill for many decades. She is popularly known as ''Mother on the Hill.''

Born in the small town of Ovindoli, Italy, Ms. Panetta came to the U.S. in 1955 with her two sons and husband, Ettore, to seek a better life. Five years later, Tina became a citizen, and in January of 1961, she gave birth to her youngest child, Maria Teresa.

In 1968, despite being unable to read, write, or speak English, she began serving as a waitress in the U.S. Senate cafeteria. Over the course of her decades-long career on Capitol Hill, Tina touched the lives of Senators, Representatives, Vice Presidents, Presidents, and their families.

When Tina sprained her ankle, then-Vice President Hubert Humphrey accompanied her to the nursing bay. When Tina was bedridden, she received bouquets of flowers and get-well cards from many Senators and Representatives.

Former Senator Paul Simon once said that Tina's story is ''the story of America.'' On her 90th birthday, Congressman MARK DESAULNIER said that she is ''an inspiration to the Nation.'' On her 93rd birthday, Senator DURBIN wrote that the Senate has ''deep respect and admiration for her.''

I am here today to remind my colleagues and my constituents of Tina's wonderful legacy here on Capitol Hill. At a time of polarization, Tina's story reminds us of our common bonds, both in Congress and in the country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincere thanks to Tina for

her many years of service to our country.

OPPOSING ACTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, along with the American people, I oppose any reckless action that would lead us into another endless war in the Middle East. And, yet, we now have thousands more troops in the Middle East than we had before the President unilaterally made the decision to kill Soleimani.

My prayers are with each and every American serving in harm's way to keep us safe.

While I do not mourn the death of Soleimani, a terrorist with American blood on his hands, the American people deserve to know how this will make us safer. How will it make us safer?

Unfortunately, the President provided little clarity in his statement, so we still don't know how this action will affect our Nation's security.

I am against war with Iran. Another endless war in the Middle East would be a grave mistake.

□ 1215

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 535, PFAS ACTION ACT OF 2019

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 779 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 779

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 535) to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-45, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a structured rule for House Resolution 779, providing for consideration of H.R. 535, the PFAS Action Act of 2019.

The rule provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule self-executes a manager's amendment by Chairman PALLONE, makes in order 22 amendments, and provides one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to start the new year and the new congressional session with our first legislative action being a rule for a comprehensive, bipartisan bill to address a threat to our constituents, both across Pennsylvania and across the country.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS, have been manufactured and used in the United States for over 60 years. These chemicals are found in everyday products like food packaging materials, cleaning products, nonstick cookware, stain- and water-resistant materials, firefighting foams, and more.

There are thousands of PFAS chemicals, but two of the most common and most notorious are PFOA and PFOS, substances used to make Teflon and Scotchgard, respectively.

PFAS are known as forever chemicals. They do not break down, and they remain in the environment and other living organisms for decades. PFAS chemicals are made of one of the strongest carbon bonds possible. As a result, these substances are extremely persistent in the environment and are able to be absorbed by humans and wildlife.

PFAS have long been linked with various forms of cancer, including kidney, liver, and pancreatic cancers; weakened immune systems; low birth weight; infertility; impaired childhood development; and other diseases.

Not only are these substances resilient and harmful, but they are now found in the blood of over 99 percent of Americans.

PFAS contaminate our environment in a variety of ways, particularly through landfills and wastewater runoff sites. Once these chemicals are introduced into an area, they leach into the soil and groundwater, becoming immediate threats to surrounding life.

Analysis by the Environmental Working Group found that more than 1,500 drinking water systems in the United States may be contaminated with PFAS, affecting up to 110 million Americans from drinking water alone.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 17 sites have been identified as containing PFAS contamination. Some of these sites are water utilities and civilian airports, but additional sites like waste incinerators were included as well. People living in close proximity to waste incinerators already face a host of environmental risk factors from polluted air and water. Additional contaminants from PFAS adds insult to injury for these neglected and often economically distressed areas.

The Department of Defense has identified over 400 military sites across the U.S. that use or were suspected of having used PFAS in firefighting foam. Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, is home to two of these former bases where firefighting foam leached into the groundwater after years of use. These bases are no longer active, but the effects from PFAS will be felt by residents for generations to come.

My friend and colleague, Congresswoman MADELEINE DEAN, a founding member of the PFAS Task Force, helped secure a grant to study the health effects of PFAS contamination in this area. I commend the work that she is doing to protect her constituents and to ensure that they have a water supply that they can rely on for generations to come.

The fact of the matter is that the Federal Government has known about the dangers presented by PFAS for years. The chemical industry has known for even longer and, unsurprisingly, has fought tooth and nail against efforts to regulate their distribution and use.

Despite this, the only action taken against PFAS was in 2006, when the EPA instituted a voluntary phaseout of PFOA and PFOS instead of instituting any stronger measures. Recently, the EPA has declined to promulgate standards on PFAS despite acknowledging the dangers they present to human and environmental health.

Just as foxes shouldn't guard the henhouse, chemical companies shouldn't be trusted to regulate themselves. Research on the additional thousands of PFAS outside of PFOS and PFOA can and should continue, but thus far, all research has confirmed that PFAS are harmful.

We would not eat food that could potentially cause us harm without understanding the full range of ramifications first. Why should we put those risks on our children without first knowing how PFAS will affect them?

H.R. 535 will provide protections to our communities in the immediate term and ensure that there are enforceable standards in place for the long term. This bill would require the EPA to use tools under existing environmental statutes to require cleanup of sites contaminated with PFOA and PFOS, set air emission limits, prohibit unsafe incineration of PFAS, and limit the introduction of new PFAS chemicals into the market.

Further, the PFAS Action Act will limit human exposure to PFAS by requiring a drinking water standard for PFAS that protects public health, particularly regarding the health of vulnerable groups like infants, children, and pregnant women.

Finally, the bill takes the necessary step of designating all PFAS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

I would like to recognize and thank my colleague, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, for her hard work and tireless efforts to keep Americans safe from PFAS, as well as Congressman FRED UPTON and the other members of the Energy and Commerce Committee whose bills were incorporated into H.R. 535.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the rule and the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 535, the bill before us today, lays out an aggressive, antiscience regulatory framework for addressing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS, under several environmental statutes, including the Safe Drinking Water Act; the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as CERCLA; the Clean Air Act; and the Toxic Substances Control Act.

This is an unprecedented way of conducting science, counteracting decades of U.S. environmental policy and likely compromising public safety, public health, environmental protection, and national defense efforts.

This bill requires the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, to designate all perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl chemical compounds as hazardous substances within 1 year of enactment of this bill. Since the enactment of CERCLA, Congress has never—let me repeat, never—statutorily mandated a substance's designation. That designation shall be left to the regulatory process, allowing for notice, public input, and scientific review and analysis.

Designation as a hazardous substance under CERCLA triggers a wide variety of notifications and response actions. For example, a release of the designated hazardous substance chemical may require the polluter to notify the entire populace in the area and/or government entities and may trigger cleanup/abatement requirements.

Small communities are not going to be able to afford it. It also attaches strict and retroactive liability without a liability shield for innocent parties that acted according to the law.

Not only does this bill mandate the designation of the entire class of PFAS chemicals as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act, but it also designates the entire PFAS class under CERCLA. That kind of designation under CERCLA, coupled with the other features of this bill, would amount to a de facto ban of all PFAS, including the many lifesaving products that incorporate PFAS.

However, I don't hear my Democratic colleagues here talking about the PFAS chemicals that are helping people. For instance, the type of PFAS used in the device in this poster next to me is made by Gore of Gore-Tex fame. The device plugs a hole in a baby's heart. Again, these devices help save the lives of babies born with holes in their hearts. If EPA is forced to designate the entire class of PFAS as hazardous material, think about how many parents will have to think twice and may suddenly feel conflicted in giving their babies lifesaving surgery using devices like this or similar medical devices.

We cannot classify an entire class as hazardous when, in fact, there are only some bad actors.

Gore's medical products division is centered in Flagstaff, Arizona. I represent Arizona, and they have a campus in north Phoenix, which is in my district. This campus has about 700 employees making medical products. As a whole, Gore has approximately 2,300 employees in Arizona engaged in the research, development, and manufacturing of medical devices.

I had the opportunity to tour Gore and its medical products division, where I got to see firsthand the creative, innovative, and technology-driven solutions they are cultivating to help cure medical conditions for Americans. These are FDA- and scientifically approved medical devices, yet this bill threatens them and threatens the American people. However, H.R. 535, as amended, mandates multiple aggressive actions based on a woefully incomplete scientific understanding of health effects for this diverse class of more than 5,000 chemical compounds.

We know that PFAS are chemicals used in numerous consumer products and industrial processes. They are resistant to heat, oils, stains, grease, and water. Those properties make them important to many products and processes in commerce, such as firefighting foam, cellphones, medical devices, Kevlar, semiconductors, solar panels, and chlorine, and even in our own Department of Defense, including F–16s.

I have Luke Air Force Base in my district. They have trained F–16 pilots for years. Now, they are switching over the F–35s, but they still train F–16s. This is important to our national defense.

The class of PFAS chemicals numbers more than 5,000. Of those, only about 29 have developed scientific data and methods. That is 29 out of 5,000.

PFAS are a diverse family of chemicals, which includes a broad range of substances with different physical, chemical, and toxicological properties and uses. Hence, the hazard and risk profile of various PFAS are very different.

□ 1230

It is neither scientifically accurate nor appropriate to group all PFAS together or take a one-size-fits-all regulatory approach for this wide range of substances.

We all want to ensure American citizens are not exposed to dangerous chemicals. We want to do it sooner rather than later. However, my Republican colleagues on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and many integral stakeholders have grave doubts that the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation, and Liability Act, commonly, known as CERCLA, is the magic bullet for this problem. In fact, it may create more problems than meet the eye.

This is why numerous letters have been sent to Members of Congress from relevant stakeholders to urge Congress to oppose provisions that would circumvent existing, well-established regulatory processes, predetermine outcomes using inadequate scientific data, and potentially inhibit effective cleanup of those PFAS that are of the greatest concern.

Some of these stakeholders, such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Airlines for America, Airports Council International—North America, American Chemistry Council, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Petroleum Institute, National Association of Manufacturers, and more, are the folks dealing with the repercussions of what we do here in this Chamber. They are the ones representing hundreds of thousands of jobs

in all 50 States; yet, here we are telling the people who deal with these issues daily that, no, we don't care what they think. We are going to move ahead with a partisan and controversial alternative. We will cost thousands of Americans their jobs in a rush process instead of working together to do something meaningful.

The bill before us today creates an unrealistic condition that EPA must require manufacturers and processors to test each chemical in the entire PFAS class. This testing requirement applies to each of the 5,000 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, a task that will be enormously expensive and time consuming.

I agree, we need to prevent environmental contamination by these substances. That is why we have. We have recently made huge steps and taken big actions.

Just last month, we passed the fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act and various spending bills, where several PFAS provisions were enacted into law. The laws we passed together on a bipartisan basis will start making a difference in communities immediately.

They required substantial reporting and public disclosures, created grants for drinking water treatment, authorized PFAS research and detection programs, phased out PFAS in firefighting foam used by the Department of Defense, and required cooperative cleanup agreements between the Department of Defense and States for Department of Defense facilities with PFAS contamination.

The bill signed into law reflected a bicameral compromise and omitted language from the House's version, H.R. 2500, that would have required the EPA to designate PFAS as hazardous substances.

We need, here, a consistent and credible approach to regulating these chemicals that leverages existing frameworks to access the potential risks associated with PFAS. Our actions should be based on existing administrative procedures and sound science.

However, last night, when we were reviewing this bill in the Rules Committee, of which I am a member, I heard numerous times from my Democratic colleagues that they do not trust the EPA, that they do not trust their workforce, apparently.

This baffles me. In fiscal year 2019, the EPA employed 14,172 individuals. These thousands of individuals go to work each and every day to work for EPA's mission. The mission of the EPA is to protect human health and the environment.

EPA has developed a PFAS Action Plan to address PFAS issues across multiple environmental mediums. As part of the plan, the Agency, among other things, has issued interim recommendations for addressing groundwater contaminated with PFOA and PFOS under Federal cleanup programs, sent to the Office of Management and Budget for interagency review a proposed drinking water regulatory determination for PFOA and PFOS, and is working through the regulatory development process for listing the PFOA and PFOS as ''hazardous substances'' under CERCLA. Clearly, action is happening.

However, we need to be working together more. To quote the National Association of Manufacturers: ''Congressional action should enable and encourage the appropriate agencies to carry out the risk-based approach established in existing U.S. environmental law and policy. Congress should prioritize the cleanup of contaminated sites to protect communities. Congress should also provide oversight to ensure a coordinated and timely government response and appropriate the funding necessary to support sound scientific research and the management, mitigation, and ongoing monitoring of specific PFAS''—not all PFAS.

However, this bill cannot pass the Senate and cannot become law—and my Democratic colleagues know that—while the bipartisan Senate-passed language, as included in the Senate version of the NDAA, could be signed into law.

The Republican-supported substitute amendment that was introduced in committee markup consisted of the Senate-passed language on PFAS. It would still require the EPA to issue regulations covering PFAS, require the EPA to issue drinking water regulations covering PFAS, and require the EPA to use appropriate science in issuing these regulations. It would eliminate the CERCLA/Superfund provisions contained in this bill because the Senate will not pass them.

Why can we not pass something that could help improve countless lives and that we know that the Senate will take on and pass?

We should be promoting a consistent, comprehensive approach for assessing and regulating specific PFAS that takes into account existing regulatory frameworks. If Congress acts in this area, it should utilize these frameworks to ensure consistent, science-based regulatory approaches, transparency, broad stakeholder input, and enforceable regulations. That is the way we can get something meaningfully passed through both Chambers and signed into law.

We need to pass a bill that would encourage innovation and production of new chemicals to replace existing chemicals in commerce, not disincentivize it, which this bill does.

We need to ensure our constituents are not exposed to dangerous chemicals.

We need to do our constitutional role in overseeing Federal agencies; however, we should not be doing so in a way that would make regulation impractical, eliminate the use of medical-saving devices, or tie the hands of the Department of Defense.

So let's work together. Let's make some progress that could actually pass both Chambers.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a December 5, 2019, New York Times article, entitled, ''Government Studying Widely Used Chemicals Linked to Health Issues.''

[From the New York Times, Dec. 5, 2019]

GOVERNMENT STUDYING WIDELY USED CHEMICALS LINKED TO HEALTH ISSUES

(By Eric Lipton)

WARMINSTER, PA.—Two decades after concern emerged about a class of chemicals used in everything from Teflon pans to firefighting foam, the federal government has started the first in a series of detailed studies of the impact the chemicals have had on human health.

The goal is to determine what role the chemicals, known generally as PFAS, play in a long list of health conditions including thyroid, kidney, liver, cardiovascular and autoimmune diseases, among other ailments. The studies will involve thousands of adults and children in eight communities nationwide, and the findings will help determine just how extensive of a cleanup is necessary at sites where groundwater or drinking water supplies have been contaminated.

This is hardly an academic matter in communities like Warminster, a suburb of Philadelphia, where Hope Martindell Grosse grew up just across the street from the now-defunct Naval Air Warfare Center. The base is one of about 200 military installations around the country where groundwater has been contaminated by the chemicals, including at least 24 where drinking water was affected.

Ms. Grosse and several members of her family have had a series of health problems, including autoimmune disease, cancer and other unusual conditions, such as a missing set of adult teeth in both of her daughters.

Her childhood home was just 25 feet from the Navy base and for decades she and her family consumed water from a well in their front yard. Even after the house was connected to a municipal water system, the water coming to the house was still contaminated because the local supplier realized only about three years ago that it was also using groundwater contaminated by PFAS. The utility was then forced to buy water from outside the area.

Earlier tests of about 200 area residents have already confirmed high levels of PFAS in the bloodstream of people who lived near the former Warminster base and a second nearby military facility, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove.

''My greatest concern is what this means for my children,'' Ms. Grosse said. ''I know my kids have this chemical in them.''

But what remains unclear is how strong the association is between PFAS exposure and various health ailments.

It is a question that federal scientists and researchers hope to answer, at least in part, with this first multisite health effects study. It will be conducted in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Michigan, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New York and California, in communities where drinking water is known to have been contaminated.

In total about 8,000 adults and 2,500 children who lived in areas where drinking water was known to have been contaminated with PFAS will have blood and urine sampled and medical histories checked. The initial round of $7 million in grants to fund the work has already been distributed.

The first study, in the Pease, N.H., area, is underway and enrolling participants.

Delays in settling on and approving research protocol for the work in the seven other locations mean that actual tests on participants will most likely be put off until at least the end of next year. But researchers at some of those sites have started to collect historical information on drinking water contamination.

In most of the locations, the study will not specifically look for apparent correlations between exposure to PFAS and cancer, because the sample size is not large enough to produce statistically significant results, federal officials said.

But in Pennsylvania, researchers will be gathering data on hundreds of thousands of cancer cases in the area to see if there appears to be a high incidence of certain cancers among those exposed to the contaminated water, said Resa M. Jones, a Temple University epidemiologist who will be overseeing this work.

Public concern about the chemicals first emerged in the late 1990s in communities including Parkersburg, W.Va., which was home to a DuPont chemical manufacturing plant where one form of PFAS was made, after a series of illnesses emerged among area residents and even farm animals.

The discovery of this threat in West Virginia, and the struggle to get DuPont to cover medical costs, are the subject of a new movie, called ''Dark Waters.''

Medical studies completed around 2012 in Parkersburg ultimately confirmed a ''probable link'' between the exposure to PFAS chemicals and testicular cancer, kidney cancer and thyroid disease, among other conditions. Animal studies have also suggested links between exposure and health problems in humans, federal authorities say.

Since then, certain versions of the chemical—there are thousands of different formulas—have been removed from the market, including two that were once widely used in nonstick cooking pans and stain-resistant clothes. But there remain concerns that some of the replacement chemicals may cause some of the same illnesses.

The new research now getting underway—which was authorized by Congress through the Defense Department after a bipartisan push led by Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Democrat of New Hampshire—will focus on exposures that are occurring outside any workplace, due to exposure to contaminated drinking water.

''This is an attempt to produce some important knowledge that can be useful not only for a particular community but more generally across the United States, in a large population,'' he said.

The Environmental Protection Agency is separately also moving toward establishing federal cleanup standards for contaminated areas and also to decide on what the national safety limit for PFAS-related chemicals in drinking water should be, questions the agency has been considering for at least a decade.

Robert A. Bilott, an Ohio lawyer who has spent two decades pursing litigation against PFAS manufacturers including DuPont, said the research was a welcome step toward developing a better understanding of the health consequences of PFAS. But he said he remained determined to push the manufacturers to pay for an even larger study that would look in a more comprehensive way for correlations between PFAS exposure and cancer.

''I am glad to see the federal government is stepping in and recognizing more needs to be done,'' said Mr. Bilott, whose story is the focus of the ''Dark Waters'' film and who has also written a book on his two-decade legal fight on the issue. ''But I don't want it to be a shield against more comprehensive studies that need to be done.''

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, what we are discussing is not an abstract issue, as this article outlines. These forever chemicals are adversely impacting real people right now, and they can be causing families to confront health issues like autoimmune disease, cancer, even children missing their set of adult teeth.

So not only do we need more research, we need strong action now, and that is why the legislation we are considering here today is so important.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SCANLON for granting me the time and Chairman PALLONE and particularly Congresswoman DINGELL for their leadership on PFAS issues.

I rise today in support of H.R. 535, the PFAS Action Act of 2019. This bipartisan bill will take much-needed and long-overdue action on these harmful forever chemicals.

These pervasive and dangerous chemicals pose serious risks to both human health and to our environment, and the delay in taking action on them has been inexcusable. They are known hormone disruptors, and studies link the exposure to them to kidney and testicular cancer, to thyroid disease and other health problems.

PFAS chemicals are concentrated in human and animal blood and tissue, and they can remain there for years. It is estimated that 99 percent of all Americans have PFAS in their blood.

In my home State of Maine, PFAS was first discovered in the groundwater at a former military installation due to the use of fire foam containing PFAS. But PFAS contamination has been found in our public water supply, in soil, in agriculture, and in animal products.

Once in the environment, PFAS will never break down. That is why they are called forever chemicals, so cleanup is essential to protect people in our environment.

Companies and regulators have known about the risks of products like Teflon, Scotchgard, and, yes, Gore-Tex for decades but have failed to take action to protect or inform the American people. The Department of Defense has repeatedly refused to clean up PFAS contamination at military sites across the Nation.

Because the Environmental Protection Agency has dragged its feet, we have no enforceable standards for PFAS levels in our drinking water, leaving communities without the information or the funding to protect our citizens, and there has been no action to fund cleanup because there was no requirement to clean up these dangerous chemicals. It is truly time to act.

Some of the things that the PFAS Action Act will do:

It will finally designate PFAS as a hazardous chemical, thereby ensuring PFAS contamination is cleaned up and polluters pay for their actions;

It will require the EPA to develop national drinking water regulations to test and monitor levels of PFAS in our public drinking supplies; and

It will add two types of forever chemicals to the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory so we will finally know who is releasing them into our water, soil, and air, and we can hold them accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in taking action for the health of our communities and our environment and to vote ''yes'' on the rule and ''yes'' on the final bill.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the other gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule, and I thank Representative SCANLON for allowing me this brief time.

PFAS water contamination continues to harm America's health. The EPA's website describes some of the effects: ''low infant birth weights, effects on the immune system, cancer . . . and thyroid hormone disruption.'' Our constituents deserve better. Our constituents have a right to clean water.

Finally, we are making some progress. Over the last year, we have considered and passed more PFAS legislation than any previous Congress, and this week's PFAS Action Act marks our most comprehensive step.

We also see progress at the local level. In my district, contaminated surface water runoff from Horsham Air Guard Station has polluted local wells and waterways for years.

□ 1245

Last week, the Air Force released the funds for a $2.8 million containment and filtration system at the runoff site. I commend them for their leadership. Still, however, much work remains.

PFAS contaminants exist on more than 400 military bases nationwide and threaten the health and safety of those who live nearby. Addressing this challenge fully requires a national solution. That means listing PFAS as a toxin, banning its manufacture, regulating its disposal, cleaning up our water supplies, and providing health testing and treatment to everyone who needs it.

I thank Representative DINGELL for her tenacity in drafting and passing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this rule.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, this is an important debate. I have been on the Energy and Commerce Committee a long time. I am the ranking member on the Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee which has jurisdiction on this.

We are in this debate today because emotion is trumping science. We are

not willing to give the scientific community enough time to say that this class of chemicals is bad. We want to do something we have never done. We want to legislatively ban a chemical by legislative fiat, not by doing the due diligence of the scientific process.

I got lectured last night. We get lectured all the time about how Republicans don't believe in science on the climate change debate.

Well, then the contrary is true. Democrats don't believe in science to allow us to have an adequate debate on these chemicals. When we come to the floor, we talk about PFAS like it is one chemical. PFAS stands for perfluorinated or polyfluorinated compounds. There are over 7,800 of these types of compounds. Some are long-chain compounds; some are small-chain compounds, and they are in every aspect of our life.

In fact, the FDA has approved PFAS for food container linings. Let me get that right. Things that are touching our food, the FDA has evaluated it and said, this packaging material is safe.

But no, that is not good enough for my colleagues, because emotion, which we operate on here, especially on the floor of the House—I taught history and the Constitution, and we are supposed to be the emotive body. So this is what we do, as House Members we come to the floor, we cry out we are being harmed; government, save us, without doing the due diligence of science.

And some of this was mentioned by my colleague, Mrs. LESKO, on her debate. But in the F–16—here are all the components that are made that have some form of poly- or perfluorinated compounds in the F–16.

She used one of our favorites; why is this compound good in medical devices? It is great because—why is it good in military field jackets for our men and women in uniform? Because it repels water. That is what makes it great. That keeps our soldiers dry.

I was an infantryman. I would rather be dry in a monsoon than wet, and that is what Gore-Tex or the Gore technology that uses the PFAS type of chemical does.

We think there are two that we need to be concerned about—you have heard about it in the debate; we will hear about it more—PFOA and PFOS. But that doesn't mean the other 7,798 chemical formulations are bad.

But what this bill that they are going to be bringing to the floor is saying, ban them all, even though the FDA said for food packaging it is safe. Even though it is a lifesaving medical device that is implanted in the heart of a child who has a hole in their heart, ban that. Don't worry about it. We will figure out something else to do.

The rule is bad because there were opportunities for the bill to be fixed and brought to the floor. One dealt with medical devices. A cardiothoracic surgeon, LARRY BUCSHON, from Indiana, he offered an amendment to say, if you are going to have this implantable device, and then the device is not used and it is put in the landfill, please don't call that a toxic chemical, because these things save lives. That wasn't allowed in order.

We are moving into an electric vehicle world. Guess what all these components of an EV vehicle are going to be? Components with PFAS-connected chemicals.

Lithium batteries, what do you think they have in them? PFAS-connected.

So we have this next chart. Automotive parts containing fluoropolymers. Here they are. Starter motor, wiper motor, humidity sensor, engine control unit.

I understand my colleague from Michigan and the firefighter foam debate. But what do you think this does to the automobile industry, where you have all these components that are made up of some form?

So what we have been trying to do in working with our colleagues is say, let's find the ones we can agree upon and move upon.

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Illinois an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. So let's find the ones that we can agree upon and move into law.

We worked diligently, and it was mentioned before—so the debate is also going to come and say, Republicans hate people, we hate health. Nothing is going to be done. We have to save the Republic, right? Not true.

Even though I am an authorizer, as I said in the Rules Committee, we don't like when other committees usurp our authorization, right, chairman? And we don't like when appropriators do it. But they did it right at the end of the year.

In the National Defense Authorization Act, it requires EPA to mandate that drinking water systems monitor unregulated PFAS. Click that off. We did it.

Provide grants to communities to address this issue. Checkmark. We did that.

Requires new reporting of PFAS under the Toxic Release Inventory Program. We did that.

Requires manufacturers and processors of PFAS to submit health and safety information to the EPA. Another checkmark.

Guidance for appropriate destruction of PFAS, restriction of long chain.

Let me say something that is really problematic about this bill. It bans all new uses of PFAS chemicals. We know science creates healthier environments. So if we are able to create a PFAS system that may not be a major concern, we can't bring it to market because this bill bans it.

Remember, we are talking about 7,800 formulations.

It was also mentioned by my colleague that, in the omnibus bill, 20 million more dollars to go to communities to address this problem.

So as we go through this debate, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.'' They should have brought more amendments allowed to make the bill better.

Having said that, we can go home—and we did—saying we have addressed this problem; and this bill, that takes a terrible provision of doing something we haven't done in 40 years, ever, legislatively ban a chemical.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to say, in support of the position that was adopted by my friend, Mr. SHIMKUS, there are a lot of things that the appropriators do around here that I don't like.

I rise today in full support of H.R. 535, the PFAS Action Act of 2019. This important piece of legislation will significantly help communities around the country that have contaminated water supplies due to their PFAS chemicals.

This bill is also an extension of the good work that the House accomplished last year with many provisions relating to PFAS contamination in the National Defense Authorization Act.

One community in my district, Westfield, Massachusetts, has been particularly affected by these substances because of the past use of certain types of firefighting foams for the aircraft fires at Barnes Air National Guard base. Unfortunately, the situation at Westfield is hardly unique. For years, cities and towns around the Nation have been trying to resolve this problem with very little help from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Provisions in this bill, however, will ensure that the EPA finally does their part to set safe drinking water standards and to include these hazardous chemicals in the Superfund regulations.

Additionally, this regulation will require health testing for all PFAS substances and establish a grant program to help those communities affected to clean up their water supplies.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who has worked for many years with the city of Westfield, and heard from my constituents aggressively on this issue, I am glad the House is providing some aid to many of these communities and ensuring our drinking water is clear of these chemicals.

As a member of the Congressional PFAS Task Force, I want to applaud the hard work that has gone into this legislation and the effort of citizens from areas affected by PFAS for their advocacy.

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

If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to consider an amendment offered by my colleague, Representative SHIMKUS,

that was not made in order. The alternative could actually pass the Senate and could, therefore, become law and help people.

Isn't that our goal?

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

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, this amendment strikes section 2 through section 18 of the bill and replaces it with a provision mandating the cleanup of PFOA and PFOS contamination at Department of Defense facilities, section 2, and a provision mandating that EPA establish national primary drinking water regulations for PFOA and PFOS within 2 years, as well as expedite the setting of such regulations for other PFAS chemicals, section 3.

H.R. 535 requires aggressive regulatory responses to the diverse class of PFAS chemicals with little regard to science or risk assessment. This is an unprecedented way of conducting science, counteracting decades of U.S. environmental policy, and likely compromising public safety, public health, and environmental protection.

This alternative that I am proposing simply takes away some of the more problematic provisions and gives H.R. 535 a plausible way to passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, this is the only thing that can get signed into law. We have the Statement of Administration Policy put out last night that said, in this form, he would veto the bill.

But more challenging is the fact that numerous colleagues on the other side of the building have said they are done.

We worked with the four corners to address a compromise. What this amendment does is help move the ball forward that, unfortunately, my Democrat colleagues could not say yes to when we had three of the four corners supported; House Republicans, Senate Democrats, Senate Republicans.

So part of this exercise is to say, oh, you know, we really screwed up. Now we have got to show the public we are doing something when we rejected a four-corner compromise that could have been signed into law.

So what we do is—the Lesko amendment is the language, as I mentioned, that House Democrat and committee leaders rejected as part of the NDAA; so we are trying to then move and get the final portion of the most-agreed upon project.

It requires drinking water standards for the best-known PFAS in 2 years, using a science and risk-based approach, and creates an expedited pathway for PFAS in the future.

Listen, I would rather use total science. I don't want to use emotion. But the problem is, science takes time and emotion doesn't.

□ 1300

They have to show activity, but if FDA has said some of these compounds are safe for food packaging, how do we say they are all bad? Let me say that again. FDA has said some of these compounds are safe for packaging of food. How do we ban 7,800 different permutations of the PFAS?

I would not have drafted this proposal this way. There are some ideas in it that give me pause. But overall, I know how to say yes to solve problems when they need solving. Making compromise means supporting things you may not be comfortable with in order to get something everyone can live with. Don't make the perfect be the enemy of the good. Take the olive branch. Solve PFAS. Reject partisanship over problem-solving.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the Lesko amendment.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a January 8 letter from over 20 environmental groups, including Earthjustice, the Center for Environmental Health, the Sierra Club, and the Union of Concerned Scientists, all in favor of this legislation.

JANUARY 8, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.
Hon. STENY HOYER,
Majority Leader,
Washington, DC.
Hon. STEVE SCALISE,
Minority Whip,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, MAJORITY LEADER HOYER, MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY, MINORITY WHIP SCALISE AND MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, the undersigned non-governmental organizations write today to urge you to vote YES on H.R. 535, the PFAS Action Act.

Toxic PFAS chemicals have now been confirmed in the water of more than 1,400 communities, including nearly 300 military installations, and studies have linked PFAS to serious health problems, including cancer. H.R. 535 will build on the progress made in the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2020 by restricting industrial releases of PFAS into our air and water, setting a drinking water standard for PFOA and PFOS in tap water, and by kick-starting the process of cleaning up legacy PFAS contamination by designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the federal Superfund law.

The science is clear: PFAS have been linked to serious health problems through decades of animal, worker, and human studies. Unfortunately, EPA has failed to take steps to restrict air and water releases, reduce PFAS in our tap water, or clean up the nation's most contaminated sites. H.R. 535 will set clear deadlines requiring EPA to do just that. Designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances, as proposed by H.R. 535, will not ban PFAS—but will instead ensure that the most contaminated sites are finally cleaned up.

We urge you to vote YES on H.R. 535, the PFAS Action Act.

Sincerely,

Christine Santillana, Earthjustice; Patrick MacRoy, Environmental Health Strategy Center; Shaina Kasper, Toxics Action Center Campaigns; Andrea Braswell, Center for Environmental Health; Michael Green, Center for Environmental Health; Laurene Allen, Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water; Paul and Diane Cotter, Your Turnout Gear and PFOA; Pamela Kay Miller, Alaska Community Action on Toxics; Tara Thorntom, Endangered Species Coalition; Dalal Aboulhosn, Sierra Club; Meghan Boian, Southern Environmental Law Center; Stel Bailey, Fight For Zero; Lynn Thorp, Clean Water Action; Colin O'Neil, Environmental Working Group; John Rumpler, Environment America; Pamitha Weerasinghe, Union of Concerned Scientists; Loreen Hackett, #PfoaProjectNY; Sabina Perez, Office of Senator Perez, 35th Guam Legislature; Joanne Stanton, Buxmont Coalition for Safer Water; Glenn Watkins, National Wildlife Federation; Hope Grosse, Buxmont Coalition for Safer Water.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and the passage of the PFAS Action Act.

This bill will build on the progress we made in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2020 by setting restrictions on PFAS contamination moving forward and cleaning up existing contaminations.

PFAS chemicals are a class of chemicals that could be cancer-causing. They are called forever chemicals because they never leave your body. They can be found in Teflon, Scotchgard, firefighting foams, and food packaging. Increasingly, contamination from PFAS has been found in our food and our water supply, as well.

As many as 100 million Americans could be drinking tap water contaminated with PFAS, according to the Environmental Working Group. This is alarming because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said exposure to PFAS can lower pregnancy rates, interfere with human body hormones, increase cholesterol levels, affect immune systems, and increase risks of cancer, while also affecting the learning, growth, and behavior of children and infants. This is serious.

This fall, I held a briefing of the Congressional Food Safety Caucus, where leading experts presented the dangers of the use of PFAS in food packaging and how these chemical additives can contaminate our food. That is why I have called for a ban on PFAS in food packaging, and I am proud to have joined Congresswoman CHELLIE PINGREE to ask the Government Accountability Office to review the actions that are being taken at the Federal level to evaluate the prevalence and the risk of chemical food contamination.

There is no time for delay. The PFAS Action Act of 2019 is a comprehensive

approach to protecting our communities from PFAS contamination. I commend my Democratic colleagues, especially Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL and Chairman FRANK PALLONE. This bill will help ensure we are protecting people from these potentially cancer-causing forever chemicals.

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

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

In closing, I emphasize to my friends across the aisle that we should be bringing legislation to this floor that showcases how we can work together and how we can protect the public from scientifically proven unsafe chemicals. However, this package does not.

I hope my colleagues will come to the table and work with the entire Chamber so we can do more on this important issue, so we can actually have a bill that could be signed into law, and so we can truly help Americans.

If my Democratic colleagues truly want to save lives and protect the public, they will stop pushing through partisan bills like this one that they know will not be heard in the Senate and, instead, actually work with Republicans on reasonable legislation to get something done for the American people.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate again that this is, in fact, a bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring the health and safety of our constituents is one of the chief responsibilities we have as Members of Congress. The PFAS Action Act will keep Americans safe by stopping the flow of harmful chemicals into our environment, our drinking water, and the products we use every day.

The fight to protect our constituents is ongoing. Science has come a long way in the last 60 years, and we must use those developments to better inform and address the concerns of all Americans.

One of the lessons we must take from having this debate today is that we are all better off by having a strong, responsive, and people-focused EPA. We need an EPA that doesn't treat the American populace like crash-test dummies for the chemical industry to test their products on. Asking for forgiveness instead of permission is not an acceptable tactic when it comes to the health and well-being of our constituents.

We need an EPA that enforces environmental protections, not one that lets industry off the hook whenever it isn't in compliance. We need an EPA that respects hard, indisputable science, not one that willfully buries its head in the sand to avoid the inevitable.

That is what our constituents want from us, to know that they are not being put at risk by the decisions we make.

I am proud that this bill will pass the House today. The PFAS Action Act is a commitment to the American people that this majority will take a long-overdue step to protect their health and safety.

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

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

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 779

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, the amendment printed in section 3 shall be in order as though printed as the last amendment in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution if offered by Representative Shimkus of Illinois or a designee. That amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

SEC. 3. The amendment referred to in section 2 is as follows:

Strike section 2 and all that follows and insert the following:

SEC. 2. NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS FOR PFAS.

Section 1412(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–1(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(16) PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall, after notice and opportunity for public comment, promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which shall, at a minimum, include standards for—

''(i) perfluorooctanoic acid (commonly referred to as 'PFOA'); and ''(ii) perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (commonly referred to as 'PFOS').

''(B) ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES.—''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the validation by the Administrator of an equally effective quality control and testing procedure to ensure compliance with the national primary drinking water regulation promulgated under subparagraph (A) to measure the levels described in clause (ii) or other methods to detect and monitor perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water, the Administrator shall add the procedure or method as an alternative to the quality control and testing procedure described in such national primary drinking water regulation by publishing the procedure or method in the Federal Register in accordance with section 1401(1)(D).

''(ii) LEVELS DESCRIBED.—The levels referred to in clause (i) are—

''(I) the level of a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance;

''(II) the total levels of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

''(III) the total levels of organic fluorine.

''(C) INCLUSIONS.—The Administrator may include a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances on—

''(i) the list of contaminants for consideration of regulation under paragraph (1)(B)(i), in accordance with such paragraph; and

''(ii) the list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored under section 1445(a)(2)(B)(i), in accordance with such section.

''(D) MONITORING.—When establishing monitoring requirements for public water systems as part of a national primary drinking water regulation under subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (F)(ii), the Administrator shall tailor the monitoring requirements for public water systems that do not detect or are reliably and consistently below the maximum contaminant level (as defined in section 1418(b)(2)(B)) for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances subject to the national primary drinking water regulation.

''(E) HEALTH RISK REDUCTION AND COST ANALYSIS.—In meeting the requirements of paragraph (3)(C), the Administrator may rely on information available to the Administrator with respect to 1 or more specific perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances to extrapolate reasoned conclusions regarding the health risks and effects of a class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances of which the specific perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances are a part.

''(F) REGULATION OF ADDITIONAL SUBSTANCES.—

''(i) DETERMINATION.—The Administrator shall make a determination under paragraph (1)(A), using the criteria described in clauses (i) through (iii) of that paragraph, whether to include a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in the national primary drinking water regulation under subparagraph (A) not later than 18 months after the later of—

''(I) the date on which the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances is listed on the list of contaminants for consideration of regulation under paragraph (1)(B)(i); and

''(II) the date on which—

''(aa) the Administrator has received the results of monitoring under section 1445(a)(2)(B) for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances; or

''(bb) the Administrator has received reliable water data or water monitoring surveys for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances from a Federal or State agency that the Administrator determines to be of a quality sufficient to make a determination under paragraph (1)(A).

''(ii) PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—For each perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances that the Administrator determines to regulate under clause (i), the Administrator—

''(aa) not later than 18 months after the date on which the Administrator makes the determination, shall propose a national primary drinking water regulation for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

''(bb) may publish the proposed national primary drinking water regulation described in item (aa) concurrently with the publication of the determination to regulate the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

''(II) DEADLINE.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Administrator publishes a proposed national primary drinking water regulation under clause (i)(I) and subject to item (bb), the Administrator shall take final action on the proposed national primary drinking water regulation.

''(bb) EXTENSION.—The Administrator, on publication of notice in the Federal Register, may extend the deadline under item (aa) by not more than 24 months.

''(G) HEALTH ADVISORY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Administrator shall publish a health advisory under paragraph (1)(F) for a

perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances not subject to a national primary drinking water regulation not later than 1 year after the later of—

''(I) the date on which the Administrator finalizes a toxicity value for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

''(II) the date on which the Administrator validates an effective quality control and testing procedure for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

''(ii) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive the requirements of clause (i) with respect to a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances if the Administrator determines that there is a substantial likelihood that the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances will not occur in drinking water with sufficient frequency to justify the publication of a health advisory, and publishes such determination, including the information and analysis used, and basis for, such determination, in the Federal Register.''.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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 1 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1419

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HIGGINS of New York) at 2 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1426

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SUOZZI) at 2 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.

PROMOTING UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN 5G ACT OF 2019

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3763) to direct the Secretary of State to provide assistance and technical expertise to enhance the representation and leadership of the United States at international standards-setting bodies that set standards for 5th and future generations mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3763

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 ''Promoting United States International Leadership in 5G Act of 2019''.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States and its allies and partners should maintain participation and leadership at international standards-setting bodies for 5th and future generations mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure;

(2) the United States should work with its allies and partners to encourage and facilitate the development of secure supply chains and networks for 5th and future generations mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure; and

(3) the maintenance of a high standard of security in telecommunications and cyberspace between the United States and its allies and partners is a national security interest of the United States.

SEC. 3. ENHANCING REPRESENTATION AND LEADERSHIP OF UNITED STATES AT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS-SETTING BODIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish an interagency working group to provide assistance and technical expertise to enhance the representation and leadership of the United States at international standards-setting bodies that set standards for equipment, systems, software, and virtually-defined networks that support 5th and future generations mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure, such as the International Telecommunication Union and the 3rd Generation Partnership Project. The President shall also work with allies and partners, as well as the private sector, to increase productive engagement.

(b) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—The interagency working group described in subsection (a) shall—

(1) be chaired by the Secretary of State or a designee of the Secretary of State; and

(2) consist of the head (or designee) of each Federal department or agency the President determines appropriate.

(c) BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and subsequently thereafter as provided in paragraph (2), the interagency working group described in subsection (a) shall provide to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a briefing that shall include—

(A) a strategy to promote United States leadership at international standards-setting bodies for equipment, systems, software, and virtually-defined networks relevant to 5th and future generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure, taking into account the different processes followed by the various international standard-setting bodies;

(B) a strategy for diplomatic engagement with allies and partners to share security risk information and findings pertaining to equipment that supports or is used in 5th and future generations mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure and cooperation on mitigating such risks;

(C) a discussion of China's presence and activities at international standards-setting bodies relevant to 5th and future generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure, including information on the differences in the scope and scale of China's engagement at such bodies compared to engagement by the United States or its allies and partners and the security risks raised by Chinese proposals in such standards-setting bodies; and

(D) a strategy for engagement with private sector communications and information service providers, equipment developers, academia, federally funded research and development centers, and other private-sector stakeholders to propose and develop secure standards for equipment, systems, software, and virtually-defined networks that support 5th and future generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure.

(2) SUBSEQUENT BRIEFINGS.—Upon request by the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, or as determined appropriate by the chair of the interagency working group described in subsection (a), the interagency working group shall provide to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate an updated briefing including the matters described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3763.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking our ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. MCCAUL

of Texas, for his hard work on the bills that we are considering.

Mr. Speaker, in the years ahead, 5G will revolutionize the way we use technology. From transportation to healthcare to entertainment, the way people interact with wireless internet devices will change dramatically. As it does, there will be massive economic benefits, but only if we are able to take advantage of them. There will also be risks as people become more dependent on wireless communications and generate even more data about themselves and how they live their lives.

Mr. Speaker, 5G will bring with it substantial national security, cybersecurity, and privacy challenges. Massive networks in the United States and allied countries could become vulnerable to spying eyes and cyberattacks. That is why there is near universal agreement on both sides of the aisle that American leadership will be essential as we transition to 5G technology, both to seize on the opportunities and guard against the risks.

We have four bills on the floor today that address the future expansion of 5G telecommunications systems across the United States and around the world. These bills will protect American consumers, strengthen our national security and that of our allies, and help make sure the United States is taking all the steps necessary to pave the way for a 5G future that enhances our lives, brings us closer together, and protects against anyone who wants to exploit this technology for harm.

The bill before us, the Promoting United States International Leadership in 5G Act, will help chart that path forward. This legislation requires the development of a strategy to promote American leadership at international standards-setting bodies for 5G. It directs our agencies across the government to assess security risks posed by China's engagement in this area, and it increases cooperation between the U.S. and its allies and partners in identifying and countering those risks.

It is an important start in what will be a massive undertaking for our government and our private sector. I am pleased to support it.

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

□ 1430

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

I rise today in support of my Promoting United States International Leadership in 5G Act of 2019, which I am pleased to introduce with my good friend, Mr. CUELLAR, who is also from the great State of Texas.

Texas is home to many leading technology and communication companies and is an innovation hub.

Cutting-edge technology like 5G holds the promise to create millions of jobs and add hundreds of billions of dollars to the United States' economy.

The standards which are set at international bodies, such as the ITU and the 3GPP, are critical to the future of 5G. They establish a uniform criterion across devices, markets, and more.

For example, standards are the reason that your USB memory stick fits into any USB port on any device. And for years, these standards were adopted on merit.

However, over the last few years, China has been using coercive and underhanded tactics at international bodies to adopt Chinese technology in 5G standards. These efforts unfairly benefit Chinese companies and empower the Communist Party of China.

The 2018 report to Congress by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission states that: ''The Chinese Government is encouraging its companies to play a greater role in international 5G standards organizations to ensure they set global standards; such leadership may result in higher revenues and exports from internationally-accepted intellectual property and technology and more global influence over future wireless technology and standards development.''

My bill will ensure the U.S. maintains and, in some cases, increases leadership at the international standards-setting bodies.

Specifically, it creates an international working group to provide assistance and technical expertise to enhance our representation and leadership at these bodies.

Additionally, my bill will create strategies for increasing engagement with our allies, partners, and the private sector. These strategies will help increase the United States' leadership in the global race to develop and deploy 5G and future generations of mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure.

Finally, my bill will provide an assessment of Chinese activities at those international bodies. This assessment will help us to ensure that the standards-setting bodies are not unduly influenced to adopt standards that unfairly advantage Communist Party of China connected and supported companies like Huawei.

China seeks to control critical industries and infrastructure by making them reliant on Chinese technologies. These Chinese companies are beholden to the laws and regulations in China that demand cooperation with Chinese intelligence services. The free flow of information and security of a country's data cannot be guaranteed using Communist Party of China supplied technology.

There are credible reports of China taking advantage of network equipment supplied by its companies for intelligence advantage that date back almost 2 decades.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that the United States leads at these standards-setting organizations so we are not beholden to Communist Party of China controlled technologies that will severely impact the freedoms and securities that we value here in the United States.

I will say the war on 5G is on, and some would argue in the IC that we are losing that war, and we need to compete with China, and we need to win. I think this bill will go a long way towards the United States taking the lead and backing the Communist Chinese Party from its intelligence service data collection. I urge support of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER), and I ask unanimous consent that she may control that time.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for yielding to me and for bringing this measure to the floor.

I thank Chairman ENGEL; and I also thank my good friend from Texas, Ranking Member MICHAEL MCCAUL, for his leadership on this particular issue, and for making this bill a bipartisan bill, which is a very, very important thing to do nowadays.

This bipartisan legislation will enhance the leadership of the United States at the international standards-setting bodies for 5G mobile telecom systems and infrastructure.

As we all know, and as has been mentioned, China is the most active espionage power when it comes to industrial espionage, theft of intellectual property, and actions against nations and regimes; and we certainly see this as a threat.

Once China's 5G technology has been installed in a country, China owns that nation's data, including the personal information of its people. This theft results in unacceptable national security risks and endangers allied information-sharing.

Market analysis shows that 5G technologies will create—if we do this ourselves here—up to 3 million new American jobs and add over $500 billion to our country's gross domestic product.

This bill aims to increase cooperation between the United States and its allies, and partners, in identifying and countering this risk from China.

Furthermore, this bill will increase America's global leadership on 5G technology and provide an alternative to China's dangerous state-run companies, which currently dominate the 5G market.

I want to thank the ranking member, Mr. MCCAUL, and Chairman ENGEL for doing this bipartisan legislation. Again, we have got to make sure that our priorities are clear and achievable when it comes to facing this danger.

I ask all Members to support this legislation.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this important piece of legislation and I rise in support of it.

I can tell you, there are a number of comments that are often made about Texas. We see that we have got Mr. MCCAUL; we have got Mr. CUELLAR; we have got others behind me from Texas, and one of those sayings is that everything is bigger in Texas.

But the more appropriate line here is, don't mess with Texas. And this legislation is all about making sure that our national security is put first and foremost at the highest priority to make sure that we are competing internationally, right now.

Right now, our Chinese counterparts at Huawei are deploying this kind of technology in countries that we would normally associate as our allies. So Mr. MCCAUL is right in not only leading on this piece of legislation, but to stress the importance of competing now.

Now, in part of my district we are looking for 1G, not 5G. We are just hoping for some kind of cellular service. But I can tell you, the country who builds it first will win on the national security level. They will win because consumers are looking for that next generation of technology as we become more dependent and reliant on our cell phones.

Additionally, we have reports that would suggest that some of the people working for Huawei right now actually work for the Chinese Government as well; that it is not an independent company. In fact, not only are they working for the Chinese Government, but they are also working in cyber for the Chinese Government. And we somehow think that this is going to work out well for the United States of America?

It is time that we act. It is time that we come together. I want to applaud the gentlewoman opposite for her willingness to work, for Chairman ENGEL, and Mr. CUELLAR, to come together in a bipartisan manner.

We need to act. Time is slipping away. And if we don't act, there will be great repercussions, not only for consumers, but for our national security interest.

I proudly urge support of this bill, and I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today in support of a critical piece of legislation, H.R. 3763, the Promoting United States International Leadership in 5G Act of 2019, and I want to thank my friend and colleague from Texas' 10th District.

There is no doubt information and technology hold immense power. And it is amazing to be in the same building where the very first Morse code telegram was received so long ago, right here in this building.

As America builds on that legacy of technology, we have an opportunity to help lead the next global revolution, Industry 4.0, an era of artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, 3D printing, and cloud computing.

I am proud to represent an area, North Texas, that plays an instrumental role in developing 5G; and it is imperative that we establish an environment in which American businesses can thrive.

One of the companies guiding us forward in North Texas is Ericcson. Their North American corporate headquarters, with 3,000 employees, is in the Third District of Texas. Ericcson is investing in research and development and partnering with other strategic American players to accelerate 5G commercialization.

America's leadership begins now, and we can't allow opportunities to shape the international conversation to pass us by, which is why this legislation here today is so important.

H.R. 3763 will ensure America has a seat at the table when it comes to determining the global telecom standards that this era will operate within.

I am proud to represent a North Texas district with business taking an active role in 5G development.

I want to, again, thank my colleague, MIKE MCCAUL. I appreciate his leadership on this important issue.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3763, the Promoting United States International Leadership in 5G Act of 2019.

I want to thank my colleague, the ranking member, Mr. MCCAUL, for his work on this piece of important legislation.

Chinese state-run companies are investing in the fifth generation, or 5G, network development, and are seeking to dominate the global market in this space. This is an issue because the future of business, government services, medical services, consumer services, and much more will rely on 5G networks.

In fact, by 2035, it is expected that the 5G technologies will create $12.3 trillion in sales activity and support 22 million jobs around the globe.

Having Chinese state-run 5G networks powering our lives puts America and our allies' security at risk and will give China access to the daily data on people around the world. This should alarm all of us and cannot be accepted.

Our daily lives rely on networks now more than ever, and the demands for advanced networks will only continue to increase, especially as the things that we use every day, even refrigerators, continue to be modified to need network connection. By full development, 5G should be able to power every network need in life.

Further, 5G, by design, is meant to help power business equipment, from things like farm equipment that do not need constant connections but will need 5G data transmitted frequently. This is why it is so essential and this piece of legislation is so important.

I hope this is a starting point and a point we can jump from, not just to rely on 5G, but to jump forward and leapfrog to 10G. I applaud this legislation because it is a great start.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, for decades China has been infiltrating the United States, espionage, intellectual property theft. I know the issue today is Iran, but when I asked the Secretary of State what the greatest threat to the United States is long term? It is China.

We have to compete with China. We can say they are a bad actor, but we have to compete. And when it comes to artificial intelligence, to quantum computing, and yes, to 5G, if we can't compete, we lose long term, and the next generation is counting on us to win this race.

□ 1445

Madam Speaker, if you look at the global map, they are moving from 4G to 5G in almost 50 percent of the globe now. What happens when the Chinese come into a developing nation and plant their cheap telecommunications into the ground? They suck all the country's data. They steal all the data, and they do it because, long term, they want to dominate.

We have to compete with this. We have to win. This is equivalent to when we had a space race to the Moon. This is equivalent to that race. It is a digital space race, a digital space race against the Chinese to win against espionage, to win against theft of intellectual property, and to win for the American people.

I thank Ms. SPANBERGER for working with my office on this important measure. She is very involved in the 5G issue, and I applaud that. Being from the intelligence community, she knows how important this is.

It is refreshing to have a bipartisan moment in this Chamber. I think that is what most Americans want us to be doing right now. I look forward to the passage of this bill.

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Madam Speaker, a generation ago, very few envisioned the way wireless technology would evolve, the way it would shape our lives and the world

around us. With the advent of 5G, we are preparing to take another massive leap forward, and we need to be ready for it.

Even with today's technology, we see risks posed by hostile governments, criminal networks, and those who seek to threaten our security, disrupt our commerce, and exploit our personal information. With 5G, those risks are even greater, and we cannot stand on the sidelines while China or any other power determines how this technology will be developed and managed.

I am proud to be here today in support of the bipartisan efforts that we have made in this body to push up against the threats and the challenges we see. I am proud to join with my colleague Mr. MCCAUL. I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this very important issue.

The bills that we are considering today, Mr. MCCAUL's bill in particular, will help ensure that our government is focused on this now as this 5G technology is taking shape. I support this measure. I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TITUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3763, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to direct the Federal Government to provide assistance and technical expertise to enhance the representation and leadership of the United States at international standards-setting bodies that set standards for equipment, systems, software, and virtually-defined networks that support 5th and future generations mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRISON TO PROPRIETORSHIP ACT

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5078) to amend the Small Business Act to provide re-entry entrepreneurship counseling and training services for incarcerated individuals, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5078

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 ''Prison to Proprietorship Act''.

SEC. 2. RE-ENTRY ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNSELING AND TRAINING FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.

The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 49 as section 50; and

(2) by inserting after section 48 the following new section:

''SEC. 49. RE-ENTRY ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNSELING AND TRAINING FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.

''(a) SERVICES REQUIRED.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, shall require women's business centers and small business development centers identified under the plan described in subsection (b) to provide entrepreneurship counseling and training services to covered individuals.

''(b) PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with an association formed to pursue matters of common concern to women's business centers and an association of small business development centers formed pursuant to section 21(a)(3)(A), shall develop a plan, which shall be updated annually, to match women's business centers and small business development centers with covered individuals in Federal prisons who are eligible to receive services under this section.

''(2) MATCHING.—In determining matches under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall prioritize matching the women's business center or small business development center in closest proximity to the applicable Federal prison to provide such services.

''(3) ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES.—If the women's business center or small business development center identified under the plan in paragraph (1) is unable to provide such services to covered individuals in such Federal prison, another women's business center or small business development center, an association of women's business centers, or an association of small business development centers shall provide such services in accordance with the requirements of this section.

''(c) GOALS.—The goal of the services provided under this section is to provide covered individuals with the following:

''(1) Assistance and in-depth training on how to start or expand a small business concern.

''(2) Tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to identify a business opportunity, including how to—

''(A) draft a resume, business plan, and transition plan;

''(B) identify sources of capital; and

''(C) connect with local resources for small business concerns.

''(d) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The services provided under this section shall include—

''(1) a presentation providing exposure to the opportunities involved in self-employment and ownership of a small business concern;

''(2) a self-study course manual focused on the basic skills of entrepreneurship, financial literacy, the language of business, and the considerations and life skills relevant to self-employment and ownership of a small business concern;

''(3) five two-day sessions of in-depth classroom instruction introducing the foundations of self-employment and ownership of small business concerns, including guided discussions to explore personal entrepreneurial development interests;

''(4) in-depth training delivered through one-on-one mentorship, including individual support in the development of a business plan, entrepreneurial skills, and strategies for starting up a small business concern; and

''(5) upon completion of the counseling and training, a presentation of a certificate.

''(e) PRIORITY.—The Administrator shall, to the extent practicable, ensure that women's business centers and small business development centers prioritize providing entrepreneurship counseling and training services to covered individuals who will be released from Federal custody not later than 18 months after the date on which such a covered individual begins to receive such services.

''(f) CONTINUATION OF SERVICES.—A covered individual receiving services under this section may continue to receive such services after release from Federal custody.

''(g) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator may, subject to appropriation, award a grant to an association formed to pursue matters of common concern to women's business centers or small business development centers to coordinate the services described under this section, including to develop curriculum, train mentors and instructors, and establish public-private partnerships to support covered individuals and identify opportunities to access capital.

''(h) CURRICULUM.—The Administration shall print and make available to women's business centers, small business development centers, an association of women's business centers, or an association of small business development centers any curriculum or course materials developed pursuant to this section.

''(i) SURVEY.—Each women's business center or small business development center that provided services under this section shall survey covered individuals who received such services to assess the satisfaction of such covered individuals with such services.

''(j) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on the performance and effectiveness of the services provided under this section, which may be included as part of another report submitted to such committees by the Administrator, and which shall include—

''(1) the number of covered individuals counseled or trained under this section;

''(2) the number of hours of counseling provided by each women's business center and each small business development center under this section;

''(3) the number of certificates presented under subsection (d)(5);

''(4) the demographics of covered individuals who received services, including age, gender, race, and ethnicity;

''(5) the level of understanding of business concepts of covered individuals upon completion of the counseling and training described under this section;

''(6) a summary and analysis of surveys conducted under subsection (i); and

''(7) any additional information the Administrator may require.

''(k) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'covered individual' means an individual incarcerated in a Federal prison that the Director of the Bureau of Prisons has designated as a minimum, low, or medium security prison.

''(l) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall reimburse women's business centers, small business development centers, an association of women's business centers, or an association of small business development centers for the costs relating to the services provided under the section.''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, we will consider four bipartisan bills that were unanimously approved by the Small Business Committee last November. Two of the bills will provide entrepreneurship training to individuals in prison and post-release. The other two bills will make meaningful improvements to contracting programs that support small businesses.

I rise today in support of H.R. 5078, the Prison to Proprietorship Act, as amended. I introduced this bill with my good friend and colleague, Mr. CHABOT, the ranking member of the Small Business Committee.

I am pleased to be leading this important effort with the ranking member. We have worked together over the years and have made great strides in helping America's 30 million entrepreneurs launch and grow their small businesses.

With this bill, we will have an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in people's lives. This legislation will require the SBA's resource partners to provide entrepreneurship training to individuals in Federal prisons through intensive, in-depth classroom instruction combined with one-on-one mentoring.

Small Business Development Centers and Women's Business Centers, which currently provide free or low-cost counseling and training services at nearly 1,000 locations across the country, are poised and well positioned to carry out these services in Federal prisons.

Last fall, the Small Business Committee held a hearing to learn more about the role entrepreneurship can play in overcoming barriers to employment for the formerly incarcerated. We learned that despite steps to reform and improve our criminal justice system, the formerly incarcerated face significant barriers to reentering the workforce. Many employers will not hire these individuals because of the stigma associated with their incarceration or because of legal restrictions in certain industries.

In testimony before the House Small Business Committee, a witness said he thought that when he got out of prison and served his time, he would be able to move on and have a second chance in life. Sadly, that was not the case. He soon realized that someone with a felony conviction could be legally discriminated against in housing, employment, public benefits, and voting rights.

These impediments can prove difficult to overcome. Studies have shown that an estimated 60 percent of these individuals remain unemployed a year after release.

Recidivism rates tend to be higher for those individuals who lack employment. Of the 262,000 offenders who were released from Federal prison between 2002 and 2006, 50 percent of those who could not find a job committed a new crime or were sent back to prison. However, 93 percent of those who were able to secure employment were able to reintegrate back into society successfully.

Providing a pathway to entrepreneurship has the potential to empower the formerly incarcerated who are locked out of the labor market to start and grow their own businesses. Programs that focus on leadership skills, financial literacy, developing a business plan, and building networks have the potential to reduce recidivism, provide a great return on investment by leading to economic expansion, and, ultimately, save the taxpayers millions of dollars.

The legislation has the support of 10 small business groups, including America's Small Business Development Center, the Association of Women's Business Centers, SCORE, Small Business Majority, and the National Small Business Association, among others.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to support this bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 5078, the Prison to Proprietorship Act, as amended.

Before I speak on our first bill, I thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for continuing our tradition in the Small Business Committee that we have had over recent years of emphasizing bipartisanship. I thank her for that. It is Democrats and Republicans really working together to pass legislation that is beneficial to the vast majority of Americans, whatever their political inclinations may be. It is something that we have been working on for years in the committee, and I thank her for that.

Once again, we have four strong bills here that came out of the Small Business Committee. Our first two bills focus on fostering entrepreneurship among the soon-to-be or formerly incarcerated.

Last fall, we held a hearing that featured compelling testimony about the power of entrepreneurship and how that power can help people looking to get their lives back on track after having been incarcerated. These individuals typically face higher rates of unemployment than any other segment of our population, not surprisingly, really. Providing worthy individuals an outlet for their entrepreneurial spirit not only helps them to reacclimate to society but also boosts our economy, and it benefits many local communities all across this Nation.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that almost half of all U.S. prisoners, unfortunately, are without access to vocational training programs. Studies show that inmates who go through vocational training programs are much less likely to commit additional crimes when they get out. So it just makes sense for us to emphasize these training programs.

This bill directs the Association of Women's Business Centers and the Association of Small Business Development Centers to coordinate reentry entrepreneurship services by providing counseling and training services that focus on individuals who have been incarcerated in Federal prison.

This bill will create a pathway for qualified ex-offenders to be successful, contributing members of society, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, again, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for working with us and collaborating with us on this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation that can help unlock the power of entrepreneurship for people who either are about to be incarcerated or have been.

It makes sense to give them a chance, rather than have them on a path where they are going to be in prison, get out, and commit more crimes, which are going to harm society as well as mess up their lives severely, as well.

This legislation is something that we have before us and can pass. It is good for the country, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

As the flagship agency tasked with supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses, the SBA can play a pivotal role in providing entrepreneurship training in Federal prisons.

I am pleased to be sponsoring this legislation, which will provide meaningful opportunities and hope for those who are committed to rebuilding their lives but are locked out of the labor market. This legislation will go a long way in creating more jobs on Main Street, with the added benefit of reducing recidivism.

I thank Ranking Member CHABOT and his staff for working with me to provide a path forward for those who have served time and repaid their debt to society. I would add that of the many pieces of legislation that we have marked up and the many hearings that we have conducted in our committee, this has been one of the most rewarding, moving experiences. We all should be proud of providing people with a second chance.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important 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 New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5078, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam 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.

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PRISON TO PROPRIETORSHIP FOR FORMERLY INCARCERATED ACT

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5065) to amend the Small Business Act to provide re-entry entrepreneurship counseling and training services for formerly incarcerated individuals, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5065

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 ''Prison to Proprietorship for Formerly Incarcerated Act''.

SEC. 2. RE-ENTRY ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNSELING AND TRAINING FOR FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.

The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 49 as section 50; and

(2) by inserting after section 48 the following new section:

''SEC. 49. RE-ENTRY ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNSELING AND TRAINING FOR FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.

''(a) SERVICES REQUIRED.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, shall require the Service Corps of Retired Executives to provide entrepreneurship counseling and training services to individuals formerly incarcerated in a Federal prison (hereinafter referred to as 'covered individuals') on a nationwide basis.

''(b) GOALS.—The goal of the services provided under this section is to provide covered individuals with the following:

''(1) Mentoring, workshops, and instructional videos designed specifically for covered individuals on how to start or expand a small business concern.

''(2) Tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to identify a business opportunity, including how to—

''(A) draft a skills profile, business plan, and transition plan;

''(B) identify sources of capital; and

''(C) connect with local resources for small business concerns.

''(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The services provided under this section shall include—

''(1) regular individualized mentoring sessions, to take place over the course of a year, to support development of the business plans of covered individuals and the growth of covered individuals as entrepreneurs;

''(2) assistance with identifying of local resources for small business concerns for covered individuals;

''(3) assistance with identifying sources of capital, and when appropriate, assistance with preparing applications for loans and other funding opportunities; and

''(4) workshops on topics specifically tailored to meet the needs of covered individuals.

''(d) SURVEY.—The Service Corps of Retired Executives shall survey covered individuals who received services under this section to assess the satisfaction of such covered individuals with such services.

''(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on the performance and effectiveness of the services provided under this section, which may be included as part of another report submitted to such committees by the Administrator, and which shall include—

''(1) the number of covered individuals mentored under this section;

''(2) the number of hours of mentorship provided by the Service Corps of Retired Executives under this section;

''(3) the demographics of covered individuals who received services, including age, gender, race, and ethnicity;

''(4) a summary and analysis of surveys conducted under subsection (d); and

''(5) any additional information the Administrator may require.''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 5065, the Prison to Proprietorship for Formerly Incarcerated Act.

Madam Speaker, I commend the sponsors of this legislation, Mr. JEFFRIES from New York and Mr. BURCHETT from Tennessee, for their commitment and dedication to providing opportunities to the formerly incarcerated, giving them a chance to bring their business ideas to fruition, and, in turn, offering hope for a better life.

After paying their debt to society, former inmates return to their communities with hopes and goals of starting fresh. Unfortunately, for numerous reasons, many end up being locked out of the labor market.

It is my firm belief that entrepreneurship is a great way to help individuals overcome the barriers to reentering the workforce. For the formerly incarcerated, it can be the difference between successfully reintegrating back into a community or returning to prison.

This bill complements the Prison to Proprietorship Act by requiring the Service Corps of Retired Executives, SCORE, to provide entrepreneurship training via mentoring, workshops, and training videos to individuals upon their release from Federal prison. The mentorship will be invaluable in helping these folks launch small businesses, and the workshops will help connect them with their community and other small business owners.

As Ben Franklin once said: Tell me and I forget; teach me and I may remember; involve me and I will learn.

Entrepreneurship can be one of the best options for gainful employment, and SCORE, with more than 300 chapters across the country and the Nation's largest network of volunteer expert business mentors, is uniquely positioned to teach and provide this business advice to those reentering society.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to support this bipartisan piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5065, the Prison to Proprietorship for Formerly Incarcerated Act.

As our committee heard in a hearing on this topic last fall, up to 60 percent of people released from prison will remain unemployed after a year. It is not surprising, then, that half of all former inmates recidivate. In other words, they commit another crime after they have been released within 3 years of release from prison.

This is not good for them, and it is certainly not good for society. We want these former prisoners to be constructive members of our communities.

Small business ownership can provide steady employment to nonviolent individuals, which can drastically lower the risk of recidivism.

This bill, H.R. 5065, the Prison to Proprietorship for Formerly Incarcerated Act, directs the SBA Administrator to work with the Bureau of Prisons to provide entrepreneurship counseling and training services for those who have served time in Federal prison. This counseling will be conducted by SCORE, a resource partner of the SBA and the Nation's largest network of volunteer expert business mentors, with more than 10,000 volunteers in 300 chapters.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for their bipartisan work on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), the chair of the House Democratic Caucus and sponsor of the bill.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend, the distinguished gentlewoman from the Seventh Congressional District of the great State of New York and the chairwoman of the Small Business Committee, for yielding and for her tremendous leadership.

I rise in support of H.R. 5065, the Prison to Proprietorship for Formerly Incarcerated Act.

Here in America, we have a mass incarceration epidemic. Last Congress, we worked in a bipartisan fashion to pass the First Step Act to help propel formerly incarcerated individuals toward success when they return home, to reduce recidivism, and to save taxpayer dollars. But the First Step Act was just that, a first step.

That is why, together, we introduced the Prison to Proprietorship for Formerly Incarcerated Act, to address one of the many challenges faced by returning citizens. This bill is designed to make sure that formerly incarcerated individuals can use their Godgiven skills, talent, and ability to bring business and entrepreneurial activities to life in their communities.

Throughout our Federal Bureau of Prisons system, there are incarcerated individuals who have the same intellect, the same ability, and the same resiliency as some of the most successful people on Wall Street back home in New York. The difference between them can often be as simple as a lack of opportunity, not a lack of entrepreneurial spirit.

That is what this legislation is designed to change. This bill will make sure that we provide opportunities to those who have been left behind. It is designed to make sure that the American Dream is accessible for formerly incarcerated individuals, their families, and their communities.

This effort, of course, is consistent with our core values here in America, where we believe that hard work and dedication should be rewarded and that opportunities should be available to everyone.

H.R. 5065 directs the Service Corps of Retired Executives, otherwise known as SCORE, to provide mentoring, workshops, and training videos for formerly incarcerated individuals on how to launch and grow a small business. It would provide individualized business mentoring to support the development of business plans and entrepreneurial growth for recipients of prison-to-proprietorship services up to a year after their release, connect these individuals with small business networks and resources, and identify opportunities to access capital.

Madam Speaker, I thank, again, Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member CHABOT of the Small Business Committee for their tremendous leadership in this effort. I also thank the lead Republican, Representative BURCHETT from Tennessee, for his great leadership.

A philosopher once said: Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day, but teach him to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime. That is what this effort ultimately is all about.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 5065 and lift up formerly incarcerated returning citizens by providing them with entrepreneurial resources.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), and I thank him for his leadership on this legislation.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Prison to Proprietorship for Formerly Incarcerated Act, legislation I was proud to author with Representative JEFFRIES. I really appreciate his kind words.

Some individuals who have paid their debt to society deserve a second chance at success. This includes giving folks reentering the workforce a shot at entrepreneurship and small business ownership. Included in this legislation are counseling and training services for incarcerated individuals who want to start their own small businesses.

I am a firm believer in giving folks an opportunity to succeed, and this bill makes sure those who are joining society have the skills and knowledge to do so.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members who feel the same to support this important piece of legislation. I thank Representative JEFFRIES for his efforts on this bill, as well as Ranking Member CHABOT and Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. I hope I said her name correctly. I have been working on it. I thank them all for their leadership on the Small Business Committee in helping this bill come to the floor.

Madam Speaker, on a personal note, I always appreciate Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ reaching across the aisle to me and for her friendship from day one. I appreciate Ranking Member CHABOT's mentorship and for always having time for a wet-behind-the-ears freshman.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), a valued member of the Small Business Committee.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5065, the Prison to Proprietorship for Formerly Incarcerated Act, of which I am proud to be a cosponsor.

Empowering the formerly incarcerated with the skills to start their own small businesses can be a powerful benefit, both for these individuals and their communities. By creating economic opportunity, entrepreneurship also has the power to break the cycle of incarceration and reduce recidivism.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues HAKEEM JEFFRIES and TIM BURCHETT for introducing this bipartisan legislation.

I have long been a proponent of the Small Business Administration's SCORE program and how it helps burgeoning small businesses expand and grow. Mentorship can play a vital role in the success of entrepreneurs, and citizens returning to society after serving time face unique challenges when trying to start their own small businesses. Today's legislation would expand SCORE programming to help the formerly incarcerated specifically.

I know this legislation would have a positive impact in my district. Our Small Business Development Center based out of the College of Lake County is in the process, in conjunction with the local county jail, of offering entrepreneurship training to a cohort of inmates.

I am proud of the initiative of our SBDC and, in particular, its director, Mitch Bienvenue, for what he has undertaken in designing and offering this program. I look forward to hearing about the success stories of these inmates once they return to our communities.

I am excited to push this bill forward because I know that SCORE would provide these individuals with valuable mentorship that could be instrumental to their success.

No one starts a successful business on their own, and SCORE can be an invaluable pipeline for the help necessary to make the dream of running one's own small business a reality.

Madam Speaker, I thank, again, my colleagues Mr. BURCHETT and Mr. JEFFRIES for the work each of them has done on this important bill. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I have no further Members seeking time, and I am prepared to close if the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) is prepared as well.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I have another speaker.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN).

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairwoman and ranking member, and Representatives JEFFRIES and BURCHETT, for bringing this important legislation forward. I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5065, the Prison to Proprietorship for Formerly Incarcerated Act.

Incarceration rates in the U.S. are disturbingly high, and my home State of Oklahoma has the highest rates of any in our country. According to a study done by the Prison Policy Initiative, more than 1 in 100 Oklahoma adults were in jail at any given time in 2018. The numbers are even more disturbing for African Americans in Oklahoma, with nearly 4 in 100 incarcerated in 2010.

High incarceration rates have both economic and human costs. They are

costly to taxpayers and crippling to communities, which lose so many individuals to incarceration.

While Congress has spent time focusing on how people end up in prison, we have not committed enough time focusing on how to prevent formerly incarcerated individuals from returning.

While Oklahoma and other States have also made positive steps in criminal justice reform to reduce the unnecessarily harsh prison sentences, releasing individuals is only one step in decreasing incarceration rates.

According to the Justice Center's National Reentry Resource Center, employment after an individual is released from prison is the single most important predictor of recidivism. Sadly, 75 percent of incarcerated individuals are still unemployed after a year of being released from prison, causing them too often to resort to criminal activity, leading back to prison.

H.R. 5065 addresses the critical issue of employment and helps break this devastating cycle by creating a program where SCORE association volunteer business counselors can mentor formerly incarcerated individuals.

The counselors provide formerly incarcerated individuals with entrepreneurial development training and workshops to help them utilize their skills and gain new experience to go into workplaces or run businesses of their own.

□ 1515

Helping individuals find a job and career opportunities after leaving prison is a critical step in addressing our Nation's high incarceration rate and ensuring those who have gone to prison don't return.

I am proud to cosponsor this legislation and encourage my colleagues to vote for H.R. 5065.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, entrepreneurship has the power to equip those returning from incarceration with tools to overcome barriers to employment, which they often face upon their release.

Recidivism rates in America remain today, unfortunately, alarmingly high; yet, entrepreneurship can be a pathway to success and an antidote to recidivism for the formerly incarcerated.

This bill is designed to help individuals reacclimate to society, utilizing their desire to start and own a small business. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Entrepreneurship has always been a bedrock of American life, and it is particularly important for those who have to overcome employment barriers.

Today's legislation will provide opportunity and hope for those who face steep challenges to employment. By requiring SCORE to provide mentorship to those who completed the Prison to Proprietorship program, we can ensure that the investment made for increasing instruction will be fully utilized upon release for those who opt to launch a small business.

With the cost to incarcerate a Federal inmate of nearly $100 a day and more than $36,000 a year, it makes economic sense to invest in training and give these folks the tools they need to succeed.

I thank both Representatives JEFFRIES and BURCHETT for leading this important effort, and I also thank Ranking Member CHABOT and his staff for working with us to increase opportunities and resources for those who seek to rebuild their lives.

Madam Speaker, 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. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5065.

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.

CAPTURING ALL SMALL BUSINESSES ACT OF 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5130) to amend the Small Business Act to adjust the employment size standard requirements for determining whether a manufacturing concern is a small business concern, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5130

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 ''Capturing All Small Businesses Act of 2019''.

SEC. 2. EMPLOYMENT SIZE STANDARD REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(a)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and subject to the requirements specified under subparagraph (C)'' after ''paragraph (1)''; and

(2) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by inserting ''(including the Administration when acting pursuant to subparagraph (A))'' after ''no Federal department or agency''; and

(B) in clause (ii)(I) by striking ''12 months'' and inserting ''24 months''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5130, the Capturing All Small Businesses Act of 2019, which lengthens the employee-based calculation formula used to determine the size of a small business.

Let me begin by recognizing Congressman VEASEY and commending him for his dedication to our small business community. Mr. VEASEY is a valued member of the Small Business Committee, and I can attest to his unwavering commitment to America's 30 million small businesses.

H.R. 5130 is the result of those endeavors, and I am pleased that he worked closely with Congressman HERN to move this measure forward. I thank them both for their collaboration.

It is irrefutable that, as Federal contracts become larger in size and scope, one or two sizable contracts can force a small business out of the small business category prematurely. When this happens, small firms lose access to contracting set-asides and must compete against much larger firms without having built the capacity to do so. Many small businesses forced into this situation opt to restrain their growth or sell, rather than compete in an imbalanced marketplace.

We simply cannot let this happen. H.R. 5130 addresses this matter by doubling the employee-based calculation to 24 months instead of the 12-month standard currently being used.

Just like the Runway Extension Act, a companion bill we passed last year, H.R. 5130 helps us keep up with the current contracting trends by alleviating the effects of sudden growth caused by a sizable contract.

H.R. 5130 grants small firms with additional time to grow and mature. Furthermore, it provides parity between the benefits extended to those subject to the employee and the receipt-based size standards.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5130, the Capturing All Small Businesses Act of 2019.

Our next two bills focus on a long-standing goal of our committee: increasing small business access to the Federal marketplace.

The U.S. Government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the

world. It is very important that small businesses have ample opportunity to compete for Federal contracts.

A vibrant small business presence in Federal contracting increases competition, increases quality, and, most importantly, lowers prices for the American taxpayer. All of these things are good. This bipartisan legislation will make it easier for small firms to compete against larger firms.

Madam Speaker, this bipartisan legislation will increase our small businesses, and it will encourage them to grow successfully and competitively into the midsize marketplace.

We have heard too many stories of small businesses successfully providing significant value to the Federal Government and growing at a steady pace only to hit a wall once they grow out of their small size threshold. We need to ensure that there is a pathway for sustained development for our Nation's small manufacturers, and this bill takes us a step in the right direction.

I want to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), who all worked together and showed great leadership on this issue and, again, did it in a bipartisan manner. So I thank all three of them.

Madam Speaker, I urge the bill's adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), a valued member of the Small Business Committee and sponsor of the bill.

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 5130, the Capturing All Small Businesses Act, bipartisan legislation that I sponsored to protect our Nation's small businesses against being prematurely forced out of the small business category due to sudden growth.

This legislation lengthens from 12 to 24 months the time period used by the SBA to determine the average number of employees a business has. Alongside revenues, the calculation of the average number of employees is one of the size standards used by SBA to determine if a business is still small.

By extending SBA's calculation period for employee-based size standards, Congress recognizes that the current 12-month timeframe can have detrimental effects on small businesses that experience temporary spikes in employment. These additional 12 months recognize that many factors, including large contracts or seasonal contracts and seasonal employment, can cause a small business to take on extra employees but only take them on temporarily while, in fact, they are still a small business for the majority of year.

In my home State of Texas, which has a great economy, small businesses make up 99.8 percent of all businesses and employ 4.7 million Texans.

When I am back at home, one of things that I do is a program called Marc Means Business, where I go and visit businesses to learn about what other people do in their jobs. It has been great for me to be able to do this. I have had this experience working alongside constituents and employers and employees in the area.

Small business is really the lifeblood of our economy, so anything that we can do to help them will be a benefit for the entire State of Texas and the economy.

I want to end my remarks by giving a special thanks to Congressman HERN from Oklahoma for being a colead of this legislation, and I want to give a special thanks to Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for really taking small business seriously. As the chair of this committee, she came down to Dallas/Fort Worth and had an opportunity to talk in person with small businesses about some of the things that they need. I just really want to thank her and Ranking Member CHABOT for taking the time to really take small businesses in this country seriously.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield such as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN) and thank him for his leadership in working on this legislation.

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, it is not always that you work together, being from Oklahoma, with somebody from Texas, but it was really great to work with somebody on this particular bill.

I rise today in support of H.R. 5130, the Capturing All Small Businesses Act.

I would like to thank my colleague, Representative VEASEY from Texas, on his leadership on this important legislation which will help small business manufacturers gain a greater competitive edge in the open marketplace.

This bill provides parity with another important small business bill that the committee passed which was signed into law nearly a year ago. The previous bill extended the runway for revenue-based small businesses, allowing them to stay smaller for a longer period of time.

Rapid growth in small businesses can sometimes push them out of a small business status before they are prepared to tackle the challenges of a large corporation. While revenue-based and employee-based firms differ in many respects, one thing remains constant: Competing in the open marketplace when a firm is not ready to leave the small business arena can have disastrous effects on a small business's growth trajectory.

There is a reason why so many small businesses compare this transition to jumping off a cliff. Oftentimes, small firms cannot compete against the giants in their particular industries, eventually fail, stay small, or become acquired into a large company's supply chain.

None of these outcomes promote growth for small businesses, and none of these options are good for competition. Therefore, it is critical that we ensure our small manufacturers are capable of successfully and smoothly transitioning out of the small business space and into the open marketplace without falling off of this cliff. That is exactly what this bill does for small manufacturers.

By extending the measurement of a small manufacturing concern's size from a rolling 12-month average to a rolling 24-month average, we provide these small businesses with more time to build their competitive edge and infrastructure so they are better equipped to handle the more robust competition once they graduate out of the small business space.

In short, H.R. 5130 is a good, commonsense policy aimed at encouraging small business growth and competition at the highest levels.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) and thank him, also, for his leadership in working on this important legislation.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5130, the Capturing All Small Businesses Act of 2019.

As a member of the Small Business Committee, I have personally heard from many business leaders who tell me that the guidance and the resources provided by SBA can be instrumental for success in the open marketplace.

Often, these tools pave the way for rapid growth; yet, as these businesses experience success, hire more employees, and grow our economy, the owners can be hesitant to expand their operations beyond certain parameters, fearing that, if they become too successful too quickly, the resources provided by the SBA would be no longer available.

H.R. 5130 would address their concerns by allowing companies to maintain their designated status, encouraging them to continue growing and graduate into successful businesses.

I thank my colleague, Mr. HERN from Oklahoma, for this important legislation. I thank our chair, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and our ranking member, Mr. CHABOT, for their bipartisanship. This is important legislation, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support it.

□ 1530

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

Madam Speaker, in closing, this bipartisan bill allows small firms to have the additional time, as a small business, to solidify their competitiveness and infrastructure and achieve greater success when they eventually must compete against much larger companies.

After all, about 70 percent of the jobs created in America are created by

small businesses, so we need to help them in every way we can.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank all of the Members who spoke here this afternoon on the floor for their leadership in this important area. I would urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, supporting our small business community and ensuring that they are able to thrive is the top priority for me and the Small Business Committee that I chair.

H.R. 5130 supports the small business community by providing them with additional time to grow and mature.

By extending the lookback in the employee-based size standard, H.R. 5130 allows small firms an opportunity to gradually and successfully transition out of the small business category.

Most importantly, this bill ensures equal treatment of small business concerns by granting manufacturing firms the same benefits provided to concerns subject to the receipts-based formula.

I congratulate Mr. VEASEY and Mr. HERN for bringing forward a commonsense and bipartisan solution.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5130, 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. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5130.

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.

UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES ACT OF 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5146) to amend the Small Business Act to require contracting officers to take a small business concern's past performance as part of a joint venture into account when evaluating the small business concern, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5146

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 ''Unlocking Opportunities for Small Businesses Act of 2019''.

SEC. 2. PAST PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF JOINT VENTURES FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

Section 15(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) PAST PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF JOINT VENTURES FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—With respect to evaluating an offer for a prime contract made by a small business concern that previously participated in a joint venture with another business concern (whether or not such other business concern was itself a small business concern), the Administrator shall establish regulations—

''(A) requiring contracting officers to consider the record of past performance of the joint venture when evaluating the past performance of the small business concern; and

''(B) requiring the small business concern to inform the contracting officer what duties and responsibilities the small business concern carried out as part of the joint venture.''.

SEC. 3. PAST PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF FIRST-TIER SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTORS.

Section 8(d)(17) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(17)) is amended to read as follows:

''(17) PAST PERFORMANCE RATINGS FOR CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTORS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by a small business concern that performed as a first tier subcontractor on a covered contract (as defined in paragraph 13(A)) that is submitting an offer for a solicitation, the prime contractor for such covered contract shall submit to the contracting agency issuing the solicitation or to such small business concern a record of past performance for such small business concern with respect to such covered contract.

''(B) CONSIDERATION.—A contracting officer shall consider the record of past performance of a small business concern provided under subparagraph (A) when evaluating an offer for a prime contract made by such small business concern.''.

SEC. 4. RULEMAKING.

(a) SBA RULES.—Not later than the end of the 120-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall issue rules to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Not later than the end of the 120-day period beginning on the date that rules are issued under subsection (a), the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised to reflect such rules.

SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5146, the Unlocking Opportunities for Small Businesses Act of 2019, which will eliminate barriers to entry for small businesses seeking to perform as prime contractors in the Federal marketplace.

As the largest buyer of goods and services in the world, the Federal Government needs contractors it can rely upon, and knowing how a business performed previously is a strong predictor of its ability to successfully perform in the future.

However, one of the challenges small businesses experience while offering their products and services to the Federal Government is showing that they have relevant past performance. Usually, the government relies on the past performance records it compiles. However, such information solely on the small business may not exist. Thus, small businesses cannot effectively compete for contracts.

Moreover, small businesses cannot develop the appropriate past performance without winning a prime contract first.

H.R. 5146 offers a solution to this dilemma by allowing small businesses to leverage other types of past performance information. Specifically, it requires contracting officers to consider a joint venture's past performance record when evaluating an offer of any of its members.

Similarly, it requires the acceptance of past performance information generated by a contractor on its subcontractor when reviewing an offer from the latter to serve as prime.

With this change, H.R. 5146 provides small businesses additional ways of showing they possess relevant past-performance experience. Moreover, by requiring acceptance of joint venture and subcontracting past-performance information, this bill advances uniformity government wide.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5146, the Unlocking Opportunities for Small Businesses Act of 2019, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. HAGEDORN), and the two gentlemen from Pennsylvania, Dr. JOYCE and Mr. EVANS, for their leadership on this legislation and, again, working together in a bipartisan manner, which will reduce significant barriers to small contractors in the Federal marketplace.

As we have heard from our colleagues, obtaining relevant, past-performance information is critical for a small business to be competitive for a contractor award. Unfortunately, Federal agencies take a narrow view on what they might consider as relevant past performance for a prime contract opportunity.

This limits a small business' ability to compete for contracts that they would otherwise be a perfect fit for, which is detrimental both to the small business and to the government. In short, the important thing for a Federal agency to know is whether a business is capable of successfully completing the specific task being requested.

If the small business can show that it has successfully performed that type of work in the past, it should be able to use that as evidence that it can complete the task in the future. It is that simple.

This bill will not only unlock prime contracting opportunities for small businesses, but it will also have the additional positive impact of eventually growing the industrial base, increasing competition, and, again, most importantly, lowering costs to the taxpayer.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. HAGEDORN), and I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this legislation.

Mr. HAGEDORN. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman for his words, and I would first like to commend Chair VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member CHABOT for their leadership and their bipartisanship, demonstrating that a committee like ours can do very good work. I think our committee is an example for many others here in the House, so I thank them for that.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5146, the Unlocking Opportunities for Small Businesses Act, which is very important legislation. It was found through hearings and discussions with small businesses who wanted to be prime contractors with the government, the committee found that small businesses were having difficulties. Because of the criteria and so forth, the government wouldn't take into consideration, for instance, as Mr. CHABOT and the chair said, their experience as subcontractors.

So we wanted to do something about that. And I want to thank my friend, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, who helped me, and also coauthored the bill and collaborated with us on this bill, along with my friend from Pennsylvania, the good Dr. JOYCE. I thank the gentlemen for all of their work.

It is like the title of the bill says, we are going to unlock opportunities for small business contractors seeking prime contracting with the Federal Government. Unfortunately, small contractors are stuck in a catch-22.

In order to receive a prime contract, Federal agencies require evidence showing that the contractor is capable of doing the work, but they will generally only accept past performance conducted as a Federal prime contractor as proof of this experience.

Therefore, companies can't obtain prime contracts if they lack a record of performance, but companies can't get the prior performance experienced without winning prime contracts. So it goes around in a circle.

For many small businesses throughout southern Minnesota and our Nation, winning prime contracts is the key to sustained growth. Making the leap from subcontracting or teaming with other companies to prime contracting, as we discussed, can be exceedingly challenging due to this dilemma.

This assessment of a contractor's capabilities, based only on their prior experience as a prime contractor, does a great disservice to many qualified companies who have performed vital work for the government.

The work small contractors have performed in those roles may have great relevance to the contract as it is bid, however, they are unable to showcase their capabilities due to the agencies' narrow focus on prime contracting experience.

These limitations not only prevent growth for small businesses but have a larger impact on the Federal Government's industrial base. More and more, small businesses are taking their considerable talents to the private sector rather than working with the Federal Government.

Past performance rules, such as this one, are way out of step with today's economy, and they undermine the Federal Government's ability to efficiently seek qualified and capable businesses willing and able to work with the Federal Government.

By removing this barrier to entry for small businesses, our bill gives them incentive to rejoin the Federal contracting community and even persuades new businesses to enter the Federal marketplace. The more small businesses we can attract, the more competition will increase and we will obtain better results and outcomes for the American taxpayer.

This bill opens up a world of prime contracting opportunities for small contractors, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting H.R. 5146.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), the vice chair of the Small Business Committee.

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the chairperson of the Small Business Committee, Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, for yielding. The gentlewoman has, in the 3 years that I have been here, led this committee in a very positive direction, and also as the ranking member before she became chair. Ranking Member CHABOT has also been a partner in this effort. I thank him too for his leadership of working together.

I thank Mr. HAGEDORN from the great State of Minnesota, which is one of my favorite places—Sleepy Eye, Minnesota—the gentleman knows that I know about Sleepy Eye—as well as Mr. JOYCE, who is a colleague from Pennsylvania. I thank my colleagues for their leadership on this bill.

The well-being of our communities depend in part on what we do to create circumstances where small businesses can thrive. When small businesses thrive, Americans enjoy great economic security. In my home city of Philadelphia, minorities constitute about 65 percent of the population. Yet, they constitute 80 percent of those in poverty.

Coupled with the fact that the city has a poverty rate of nearly 25 percent, creating economic opportunity for minorities is critical to advance well-being: financially, physically, and socially.

We, as Members of Congress, have tools in our toolbox to address economic disparity. One of those is H.R. 5146. This bill will allow small businesses to compete more fairly with large businesses by permitting small businesses to create past performance records.

A past performance record is integral to winning federal contracts, but small businesses are prevented from establishing one.

Most of the work of minority-owned small businesses does not count towards past performance, such as work in joint ventures or as subcontractors to prime contractors.

This hurts small businesses' ability to bid, compete, and win contracts as primes. In turn, it impairs the business' ability to grow, create jobs, and contribute economically to the community.

□ 1545

With the passage of this bipartisan bill into law, we will create circumstances where all small businesses, including minority-owned small businesses, will be better equipped to compete and thrive.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chair again for her leadership and the staff, too, for working together collectively to make this happen. I invite all of my colleagues to support passage of this bill.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE). I thank him for his leadership and for working so hard on this legislation.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5130, the Capturing All Small Businesses Act. As a member of the Small Business Committee, I have personally heard how important this act is.

Additionally, I want to speak today in support of H.R. 5146, the Unlocking Opportunities for Small Businesses Act, introduced by my friend and colleague, Mr. HAGEDORN from Minnesota, and my fellow Pennsylvanian, Mr. EVANS.

Federal contracts provide many businesses across the Nation with the opportunity to receive stable funding through which they can develop a reliable workforce, supply chain, or line of production. These contracts can be a lifeline to small businesses looking to grow or expand. Unfortunately, as designed, the current system limits smaller companies' chances to acquire these contracts.

This legislation implements a much-needed change to allow small businesses to use their previous experience to demonstrate their merits and to strengthen their abilities to compete for Federal contracts.

This is an important step in leveling the playing field for small businesses looking to grow their footprint in the Federal market. I look forward to the positive impact that this legislation will have on countless small businesses that I represent in south central and southwestern Pennsylvania and across our great country.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, again, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. HAGEDORN) and the two gentlemen from Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS and Dr. JOYCE, for their leadership on this important piece of legislation.

Increasing Federal contracting opportunities for small firms is a win-win situation. The taxpayers get better value from their tax dollars, and small firms grow and spur our economy forward.

This is really commonsense, bipartisan legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it, and again, I thank the gentlewoman from New York, the chairwoman of the committee, who, once again, has shown that she is working together in a collegial and bipartisan fashion. We really do appreciate that. That is one of the reasons that all four of the bills we have taken up this afternoon have had both Republicans and Democrats working together. That doesn't happen in every committee, but it does happen in the Small Business Committee, and I thank her for that.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. HAGEDORN), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), and Dr. JOYCE from Pennsylvania for their work on H.R. 5146 to make it easier for small businesses to pursue Federal prime contract opportunities.

In the Small Business Committee, we recognize the crucial role small businesses play in providing goods and services to the Federal Government. That is why we are always searching for ways to simplify the contracting process. H.R. 5146 achieves this by requiring contracting officers to accept relevant past performance information obtained by a small business while performing as a subcontractor or in a joint venture.

With this bill, we reiterate our steadfast commitment to the small business community. Moreover, it will encourage small businesses with relevant past performance experience to bid on prime contracts, which, in turn, will have the effect of promoting the growth of the industrial base, enhancing competition, and decreasing costs.

In closing, I thank Ranking Member CHABOT for his support for these four bills. When passed, they will bring the total number of small business bills approved by the House of Representatives to 27. That is not a small feat, and I appreciate the gentleman's support and that of the members of the committee who have rolled up their sleeves and worked together to help our Nation's 30 million small businesses succeed.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to follow our lead and move expeditiously to approve these bills. I urge my colleagues to support 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 New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5146, 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.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT STAKEHOLDERS IN 5G COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER AND ADHERE TO ''THE PRAGUE PROPOSALS''

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 575) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all stakeholders in the deployment of 5G communications infrastructure should carefully consider and adhere to the recommendations of ''The Prague Proposals'', as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 575

Whereas 5G, the next generation (5th generation) in wireless technology, promises the next evolution of communications and information technology services, applications, and capabilities across every sector of business, government, entertainment, and communications;

Whereas the United States, Europe, China, and others are racing toward 5G adoption and upgrading existing networks, which will drive subsequent advances in artificial intelligence, machine learning, smart homes, smart cities, robotics, autonomous vehicles, and quantum computers;

Whereas 5G will make possible the automatization of everyday activities and the use of the full potential of the Internet of Things;

Whereas these developments, while evolutionary, could include risks to important public interests, including privacy, data security, public safety, and national security;

Whereas in a highly connected world, disruption of the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of communications or even the disruption of the communications service itself can seriously hamper everyday life, societal functions, the economy, and national security;

Whereas the security of 5G networks is crucial for national security, economic security, and other United States national interests and global stability;

Whereas operators of communications infrastructure depend on a complex supply chain of technology from a global market of suppliers and service providers;

Whereas government security officials and experts from 32 countries came together in Prague in May of 2019 to work out guidelines for the deployment and security of 5G networks;

Whereas representatives agreed that ''[m]ajor security risks emanate from the cross-border complexities of an increasingly global supply chain which provides [information and communications technology] equipment. These risks should be considered as part of the risk assessment based on relevant information and should seek to prevent proliferation of compromised devices and the use of malicious code and functions.''; and

Whereas the Prague 5G Security Conference adopted security recommendations, which have come to be known as ''The Prague Proposals'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives—

(1) urges all stakeholders in the deployment of 5G communications infrastructure to carefully consider adherence to the recommendations of ''The Prague Proposals'' (as described in section 2) as they procure products and services across their supply chain; and

(2) encourages the President and Federal agencies to promote global trade and security policies that are consistent with ''The Prague Proposals'' and urge our allies to embrace the recommendations of ''The Prague Proposals'' for their 5G infrastructure.

SEC. 2. PRAGUE PROPOSALS.

The text of ''The Prague Proposals'' is as follows:

(1) ''POLICY''.—

(A) ''Communication networks and services should be designed with resilience and security in mind. They should be built and maintained using international, open, consensus-based standards and risk-informed cybersecurity best practices. Clear globally interoperable cyber security guidance that would support cyber security products and services in increasing resilience of all stakeholders should be promoted.''.

(B) ''Every country is free, in accordance with international law, to set its own national security and law enforcement requirements, which should respect privacy and adhere to laws protecting information from improper collection and misuse.''.

(C) ''Laws and policies governing networks and connectivity services should be guided by the principles of transparency and equitability, taking into account the global economy and interoperable rules, with sufficient oversight and respect for the rule of law.''.

(D) ''The overall risk of influence on a supplier by a third country should be taken into account, notably in relation to its model of governance, the absence of cooperation agreements on security, or similar arrangements, such as adequacy decisions, as regards data protection, or whether this country is a party to multilateral, international or bilateral agreements on cybersecurity, the fight against cybercrime, or data protection.''.

(2) ''TECHNOLOGY''.—

(A) ''Stakeholders should regularly conduct vulnerability assessments and risk mitigation within all components and network systems, prior to product release and during system operation, and promote a culture of find/fix/patch to mitigate identified vulnerabilities and rapidly deploy fixes or patches.''.

(B) ''Risk assessments of supplier's products should take into account all relevant factors, including applicable legal environment and other aspects of supplier's ecosystem, as these factors may be relevant to stakeholders' efforts to maintain the highest possible level of cyber security.''.

(C) ''When building up resilience and security, it should be taken into consideration that malicious cyber activities do not always require the exploitation of a technical vulnerability, e.g. in the event of insider attack.''.

(D) ''In order to increase the benefits of global communication, States should adopt policies to enable efficient and secure network data flows.''.

(E) ''Stakeholders should take into consideration technological changes accompanying 5G networks roll out, e.g. use of edge computing and software defined network/network function virtualization, and its impact on overall security of communication channels.''.

(F) ''Customer—whether the government, operator, or manufacturer—must be able to be informed about the origin and pedigree of components and software that affect the security level of the product or service, according to state of art and relevant commercial and technical practices, including transparency of maintenance, updates, and remediation of the products and services.''.

(3) ''ECONOMY''.—

(A) ''A diverse and vibrant communications equipment market and supply chain are essential for security and economic resilience.''.

(B) ''Robust investment in research and development benefits the global economy and technological advancement and is a way to potentially increase diversity of technological solutions with positive effects on security of communication networks.''.

(C) ''Communication networks and network services should be financed openly and transparently using standard best practices in procurement, investment, and contracting.''.

(D) ''State-sponsored incentives, subsidies, or financing of 5G communication networks and service providers should respect principles of fairness, be commercially reasonable, conducted openly and transparently, based on open market competitive principles, while taking into account trade obligations.''.

(E) ''Effective oversight on key financial and investment instruments influencing telecommunication network development is critical.''.

(F) ''Communication networks and network service providers should have transparent ownership, partnerships, and corporate governance structures.''.

(4) ''SECURITY, PRIVACY, AND RESILIENCE''.—

(A) ''All stakeholders including industry should work together to promote security and resilience of national critical infrastructure networks, systems, and connected devices.''.

(B) ''Sharing experience and best practices, including assistance, as appropriate, with mitigation, investigation, response, and recovery from network attacks, compromises, or disruptions should be promoted.''.

(C) ''Security and risk assessments of vendors and network technologies should take into account rule of law, security environment, vendor malfeasance, and compliance with open, interoperable, secure standards, and industry best practices to promote a vibrant and robust cyber security supply of products and services to deal with the rising challenges.''.

(D) ''Risk management framework in a manner that respects data protection principles to ensure privacy of citizens using network equipment and services should be implemented.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 575.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 575. This bipartisan legislation was introduced by Mr. FLORES and Mr. SOTO, both of whom are members of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which I chair.

The bill before us expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that all stakeholders in the deployment of 5G communications infrastructure should carefully consider and adhere to the recommendations adopted at the Prague 5G Security Conference in May 2019 known as the Prague Proposals.

These proposals serve as a cybersecurity framework for the adoption and deployment of 5G networks and were agreed upon last year in Prague at a meeting of over 30 Western-allied nations, as well as technical experts and equipment manufacturers. This framework acknowledges the risks posed by untrusted 5G network equipment offered by Chinese telecom providers such as Huawei.

The Prague Proposals form the basis for a coordinated approach to shared security as we begin to transition to the next generation of wireless network technologies.

The Communications and Technology Subcommittee has done extensive work this Congress on security implications of 5G technologies. I thank Mr. FLORES and Mr. SOTO for the good work they have done in bringing this important legislation to the floor. I also thank the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Chairman ENGEL for working with the Energy and Commerce Committee to advance this legislation.

Madam Speaker, this is a good bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2019.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE, JR.,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H. Res. 575, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all stakeholders in the deployment of 5G communications infrastructure should carefully consider and adhere to the recommendations of ''The Prague Proposals,'' the Committee on Foreign Affairs agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs 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 issues within our jurisdiction. I ask you to support the appointment of Committee on Foreign Affairs conferees during any House–Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Finally, thank you for agreeing to include a copy of our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H. Res. 575.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, January 6, 2020.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Energy and Commerce and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 575, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all stakeholders in the deployment of 5G communications infrastructure should carefully consider and adhere to the recommendations of ''The Prague Proposals,'' so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I agree that your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within your jurisdiction. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your Committee to any House–Senate conference on this legislation.

I will place our letters on H. Res. 575 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, JR.,
Chairman.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 575, a resolution to encourage all stakeholders involved in the deployment of 5G communications technology to adhere to the Prague Proposals.

The Prague Proposals resulted from the Prague 5G Security Conference earlier last year, where representatives from 32 countries met to discuss concerns about equipment supplied by certain vendors that pose a threat to national security. With 5G poised to support an array of critical functions and services over the next decade, it is imperative that we ensure the equipment used to build these networks is secure.

By encouraging all stakeholders at home and abroad to abide by these principles, we are sending a strong message that we are taking the security of our networks seriously.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO), who is a valuable member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and who has done extensive work on this legislation.

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman DOYLE and Ranking Member LATTA, as well as Representative FLORES, for all of their work and the work of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

It is essential that the United States be at the forefront of the deployment and development of 5G technologies. 5G is the infrastructure that will allow our country to be the leader in the 21st century economy.

There is fundamental importance of internet connectivity across the country for both metropolitan and rural areas, highlighting both cities and rural areas, and this is a need that telecom technology must be developed in a practical but secure way. In a district like mine, we have urban, suburban, and rural, so we look out for all of these different areas.

The equipment and services in U.S. communications networks provide critical infrastructure for 5G deployment, making them appealing targets for foreign adversaries. For these companies in particular, experts have noted that China has ''the means, opportunity, and motive to use telecommunications companies for malicious purposes.''

We have seen this problem in Chinese telecom chips made by companies like Huawei and other supply chain security issues that have been making news as of late.

We started local efforts in Florida's Ninth Congressional District, along with the University of Central Florida and others, to produce components that are tamper-resistant sensors developed at national foundries, like the BRIDG facility in central Florida. But we must do more.

For these reasons, I am proud to be the Democratic colead on H. Res. 575. This resolution provides a sense of the House of Representatives that developers of 5G technologies abide by wireless technology recommendations made at the Prague 5G Security Conference.

Some of these Prague Proposals include communications networks and services be designed with resilience and security in mind, and every country is free, in accordance with international law, to have security requirements.

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

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Florida an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. SOTO. Policies governing 5G deployment should be guided by principles of transparency and equitability. Stakeholders should conduct regular vulnerability assessments and risk mitigation of products. And customers must be able to be informed about the origin of components in software that affect the security level of the products they use.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman DOYLE, Mr. FLORES, Mr. LATTA, and others for their great work, and I urge everyone to support H. Res. 575.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES), and I applaud him on his hard work on this legislation.

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I thank GOP leader LATTA for yielding me time to support our bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of our resolution, H. Res. 575, which I introduced with my colleague DARREN SOTO from Florida, expressing strong support for the Prague Proposals, a set of 5G security recommendations agreed to by officials from the U.S. and 31 other countries during a conference in May 2019.

5G communication networks have the potential to transform the way we live. Collaboration with our international partners is paramount in the development of secure network architecture for the interconnected world of the future.

5G networks will have the capacity to support innovative technologies such as telemedicine, remote surgery, interconnected devices on the Internet of Things, and, importantly, bring high-speed broadband to the far reaches of rural communities to close the digital divide.

But if the underlying network that these services operate on is not properly secured, bad actors will be able to exploit vulnerabilities to disrupt critical infrastructure, harming public safety and jeopardizing national security. It is imperative that we secure our networks on the front end of deployment to avoid potentially catastrophic consequences down the road.

Recognizing these risks, the U.S. and those 31 other countries came together with representatives from the EU and NATO to agree on a set of commonsense principles necessary to maintain a secure, resilient network for next-generation communication.

These proposals urge 5G stakeholders across the global supply technology chain to institute practical, proven solutions to mitigate risks and to protect against security threats. Among these proposals, the conference of 32 countries recognized the need for information sharing and encouraged regular risk assessment tests to mitigate vulnerabilities, while taking into consideration technological changes that will address the risks we may encounter in the future.

Our resolution expresses the House of Representatives' support for these recommendations as an encouragement for stakeholders, government entities, and our international partners to work together to secure our 5G networks.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. SOTO for his work, and I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, from the comments that we have heard on the floor today, it is so important that we pass this piece of legislation. It is a good piece of bipartisan legislation, and I urge its support from this House.

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

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, in closing, I echo what my good friend, Mr. LATTA, says. This is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 575, as amended.

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

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: ''Resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all stakeholders in the deployment of 5G communications infrastructure should carefully consider adherence to the recommendations of 'The Prague Proposals'.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURE 5G AND BEYOND ACT OF 2020

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2881) to require the President to develop a strategy to ensure the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure in the United States and to assist allies and strategic partners in

maximizing the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems, infrastructure, and software, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2881

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 ''Secure 5G and Beyond Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. STRATEGY TO ENSURE SECURITY OF NEXT GENERATION WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this Act, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

(b) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President, in consultation with the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, the Secretary of Commerce, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of National Intelligence, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of Defense, and consistent with the protection of national security information, shall develop and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a strategy—

(1) to ensure the security of 5th and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure within the United States;

(2) to assist mutual defense treaty allies of the United States, strategic partners of the United States, and other countries, when in the security and strategic interests of the United States, in maximizing the security of 5th and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure inside their countries; and

(3) to protect the competitiveness of United States companies, privacy of United States consumers, and integrity and impartiality of standards-setting bodies and processes related to 5th and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure.

(c) DESIGNATION.—The strategy developed under subsection (b) shall be known as the ''National Strategy to Secure 5G and Next Generation Wireless Communications'' (referred to in this Act as the ''Strategy'').

(d) ELEMENTS.—The Strategy shall represent a whole-of-government approach and shall include the following:

(1) A description of efforts to facilitate domestic 5th and future generations wireless communications rollout.

(2) A description of efforts to assess the risks to and identify core security principles of 5th and future generations wireless communications infrastructure.

(3) A description of efforts to address risks to United States and national security during development and deployment of 5th and future generations wireless communications infrastructure worldwide.

(4) A description of efforts to promote responsible global development and deployment of 5th and future generations wireless communications, including through robust international engagement, leadership in the development of international standards, and incentivizing market competitiveness of secure 5th and future generation wireless communications infrastructure options.

(e) PUBLIC CONSULTATION.—In developing the Strategy, the President shall consult with relevant groups that represent consumers or the public interest, private sector communications providers, and communications infrastructure and systems equipment developers.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall develop an implementation plan for the Strategy (referred to in this Act as the ''Strategy implementation plan''), which shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) A description of United States national and economic security interests pertaining to the deployment of 5th and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure.

(2) An identification and assessment of potential security threats and vulnerabilities to the infrastructure, equipment, systems, software, and virtualized networks that support 5th and future generations wireless communications systems, infrastructure, and enabling technologies. The assessment shall, as practicable, include a comprehensive evaluation of the full range of threats to, and unique security challenges posed by, 5th and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure, as well as steps that public and private sector entities can take to mitigate those threats.

(3) An evaluation of available domestic suppliers of 5th and future generations wireless communications equipment and other suppliers in countries that are mutual defense allies or strategic partners of the United States and a strategy to assess their ability to produce and supply 5th generation and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure.

(4) Identification of where security gaps exist in the United States domestic or mutual defense treaty allies and strategic partners communications equipment supply chain for 5th and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure.

(5) Identification of incentives and policy options to help close or narrow any security gaps identified under paragraph (4) in the United States domestic industrial base, including research and development in critical technologies and workforce development in 5th and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure.

(6) Identification of incentives and policy options for leveraging the communications equipment suppliers from mutual defense treaty allies, strategic partners, and other countries to ensure that private industry in the United States has adequate sources for secure, effective, and reliable 5th and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure equipment.

(7) A plan for diplomatic engagement with mutual defense treaty allies, strategic partners, and other countries to share security risk information and findings pertaining to 5th and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure equipment and cooperation on mitigating those risks.

(8) A plan for engagement with private sector communications infrastructure and systems equipment developers and critical infrastructure owners and operators who have a critical dependency on communications infrastructure to share information and findings on 5th and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure equipment standards to secure platforms.

(9) A plan for engagement with private sector communications infrastructure and systems equipment developers to encourage the maximum participation possible on standards-setting bodies related to such systems and infrastructure equipment standards by public and private sector entities from the United States.

(10) A plan for diplomatic engagement with mutual defense treaty allies, strategic partners, and other countries to share information and findings on 5th and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure equipment standards to promote maximum interoperability, competitiveness, openness, and secure platforms.

(11) A plan for diplomatic engagement with mutual defense treaty allies, strategic partners, and other countries to share information and findings on 5th and future generations wireless communications infrastructure and systems equipment concerning the standards-setting bodies related to such systems and infrastructure equipment to promote maximum transparency, openness, impartiality, integrity, and neutrality.

(12) A plan for joint testing environments with mutual defense treaty allies, strategic partners, and other countries to ensure a trusted marketplace for 5th and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure equipment.

(13) A plan for research and development by the Federal Government, in close partnership with trusted supplier entities, mutual defense treaty allies, strategic partners, and other countries to reach and maintain United States leadership in 5th and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure security, including the development of an ongoing capability to identify security vulnerabilities in 5th and future generations wireless communications systems.

(14) Options for identifying and helping to mitigate the security risks of 5th and future generations wireless communications systems and infrastructure that have security flaws or vulnerabilities, or are utilizing equipment sourced from countries of concern, and that have already been put in place within the systems and infrastructure of mutual defense treaty allies, strategic partners, and other countries, when in the security interests of the United States.

(15) A description of the roles and responsibilities of the appropriate executive branch agencies and interagency mechanisms to coordinate implementation of the Strategy, as provided in section 4(d).

(16) An identification of the key diplomatic, development, intelligence, military, and economic resources necessary to implement the Strategy, including specific budgetary requests.

(17) As necessary, a description of such legislative or administrative action needed to carry out the Strategy.

SEC. 4. LIMITATIONS AND BRIEFINGS.

(a) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Strategy and the Strategy implementation plan shall not include a recommendation or a proposal to nationalize 5th or future generations wireless communications systems or infrastructure.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the authority or ability of any executive branch agency.

(b) PUBLIC COMMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall seek public comment regarding the development and implementation of the Strategy implementation plan.

(c) BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 21 days after the date on which the Strategy implementation plan is completed, the President shall direct appropriate representatives from the executive branch agencies involved in the formulation of the Strategy and Strategy implementation plan to provide the appropriate committees of Congress a briefing on the implementation of the Strategy.

(2) UNCLASSIFIED SETTING.—The briefing under paragraph (1) shall be held in an unclassified setting to the maximum extent possible.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The National Telecommunications and Information Administration shall, in coordination with other relevant executive branch agencies—

(1) implement the Strategy;

(2) keep congressional committees apprised of progress on implementation; and

(3) not implement any proposal or recommendation involving spectrum licensed by the Commission unless the implementation of such proposal or recommendation is first approved by the Commission.

(e) FORM.—The Strategy and Strategy implementation plan shall be submitted to the appropriate committees of Congress in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2881.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2881, the Secure 5G and Beyond Act, which directs the President to develop the Secure Next Generation Mobile Communications Strategy in consultation with heads of the FCC, NTIA, and the Department of Homeland Security, as well as the DNI and the Secretary of Defense. The bill then requires the development of a strategy implementation plan to be carried out by NTIA.

This bipartisan legislation was introduced by Ms. SPANBERGER and five other House Members, including Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. O'HALLERAN, both members of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which I chair.

The Secure Next Generation Mobile Communications Strategy is intended to:

First, ensure the security of 5G and future generations of mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure in the United States;

Second, assist our mutual defense treaty allies and strategic partners in maximizing the security of 5G networks and infrastructure and future generations of mobile telecommunications systems in their countries; and

Finally, protect the competitiveness of U.S. companies, the privacy of American consumers, and the integrity of standards-setting bodies against political influence.

As our Nation works to deploy 5G wireless technologies and develop next generation communications networks, we need a national strategy that brings together an all-of-the-above government approach to ensuring this critical infrastructure. We also need to work with our strategic allies and international partners to ensure the security of their communications networks as well.

Madam Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation. I applaud Ms. SPANBERGER for introducing it. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2881, the Secure 5G and Beyond Act of 2020.

In today's digital age, we rely on our communications networks for everything from grocery shopping to applying for jobs. In the past decade, we have upgraded from 2G to 4G and are now in the process of entering the fifth generation of communications networks to accommodate Americans' demand for access.

Making a simple transaction online is second nature for many Americans, and we expect the network on which the information is transmitted to be secure. The legislation before us is a step forward in enhancing network security.

It requires the President, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, to develop a strategy to ensure the security of 5G and future generations of telecommunications systems and infrastructure.

The administration must also identify potential security threats or vulnerabilities and promote responsible international development in deployment of networks.

Lastly, the bill requires a strategy implementation plan and charges the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to carry it out.

It is essential that the administration continues to take steps to secure our networks, and this bill provides direction to do just that.

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

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN), a valuable member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE), and Mr. LATTA for the opportunity. I also thank Congresswoman SPANBERGER for her great work on this and the introduction of the bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Secure 5G and Beyond Act.

This spring, I joined a bipartisan group of lawmakers to cosponsor this important legislation to protect next generation telecommunications systems and mobile infrastructure in the United States.

According to a 2018 NATO report, Huawei, a Chinese multinational technology company and supplier of 5G technology, could be exploited by China to engage in espionage, monitor foreign corporations and governments, and support Chinese military operations. In fact, earlier this year, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph Dunford, called the potential risks of a Chinese-built 5G network a ''critical national security issue'' for the United States.

To combat these potential threats, our bill requires the administration to develop an unclassified national strategy to protect U.S. consumers and assist allies to maximize the security of their 5G telecommunications systems.

The next generation of telecommunications systems is going to revolutionize our economy, and it is important that every corner of our country has access to the latest technology, especially the area I represent, rural Arizona, and the rest of rural America. With the rapid expansion of new technology infrastructure, it is critical that these systems are secure and the privacy of all Americans is protected.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 2881.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS).

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2881, which is critical to protecting the security of our Nation and for the advancement of 5G.

H.R. 2881, or the Secure 5G and Beyond Act, tasks the Federal Government with developing strategies to protect against some of the vulnerabilities with cutting-edge five generation, or 5G, wireless communications systems.

The rapid development of 5G cellular technologies is another example of the resolve and innovative spirit unique to the United States economy.

Madam Speaker, 5G will pave the way for first-of-their-kind products and services and will more reliably give consumers quick and easy access to information necessary to live and work in the digital age; but the potential threats these advancements pose to our national security, to that of our allies, and to consumer privacy cannot be overstated, which is why I am urging my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to vote for this important legislation.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER).

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 2881, the Secure 5G and Beyond Act.

First, I thank my fellow members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs for approving this legislation, and I thank the House Energy and Commerce Committee for passing my bill out of committee on a strongly bipartisan basis last year as well.

I also thank my colleagues, Representative BROOKS, Representative O'HALLERAN, Representative ROONEY, Representative SLOTKIN, and Representative STEFANIK, for joining my effort to protect the next generation of U.S. telecommunications systems. I am proud to have such a strong bipartisan coalition backing my bill.

I also thank my colleagues in the Senate, Senator CORNYN and his bipartisan colleagues, for their work in prioritizing this very important issue.

When you turn on the TV, you might hear a lot of commercials advertising 5G and the expansion of U.S. 5G networks. It is true: This technology holds incredible potential for future economic growth here in the United States, particularly in our rural communities, as they rely on these high-speed technologies to connect to the rest of the world.

However, the adoption of certain 5G wireless technologies present many serious national security challenges for our country and the American people. Chinese companies like ZTE and Huawei continue to grow their global 5G footprint around the world, and as their equipment becomes more integrated into the economies of the United States and our allies, China's leverage grows, as does the threat of Chinese exploitation.

It is difficult to overstate the long-term effects of the global transition to 5G. An article in The Atlantic earlier this week said: ''The rollout of speedy, new cellular networks is a geopolitical turning point.'' And China is working hard to take advantage of this rare moment.

Unfortunately, China's long-term strategy and ambitions extend far beyond global commerce and communications. For example, a 2018 NATO report warned that Huawei's close ties to the Chinese Government could lead to Huawei's 5G technology being used to spy on adversaries, monitor foreign companies and governments, and support Chinese military operations, all of which could be targeted at the United States and the American people.

The adoption of Chinese 5G could invite a deluge of foreign influence, espionage, and interference into U.S. mobile networks and wireless systems.

But, simultaneously, China's innovation edge is also growing through companies like Huawei and ZTE. As of February 2019, Chinese tech companies owned 36 percent of all key 5G patents, while U.S.-based companies only owned 14 percent.

This makes clear to me that the United States needs a comprehensive strategy, a strategy to respond to this growing level of economic competition and to protect against the security risks posed by ZTE, Huawei, and other 5G-focused companies.

From afar, we have seen how China disregards the privacy of its own people, and we should be very wary of China's growing 5G influence in the West. We need a game plan to defend our mobile networks.

The United States, the country responsible for so many of the remarkable developments of the digital age, needs to strengthen our resilience against potential cyber threats directed against American families, companies, and consumer data. That is why I am proud to lead the Secure 5G and Beyond Act.

Madam Speaker, my bill would require the administration to develop a public strategy to protect U.S. consumers, companies, and Federal agencies against potential threats posed by emerging 5G technologies. By developing a national interagency strategy, we can better identify where security gaps currently exist—and we can work to close them.

Additionally, my bill would help spur new 5G research and development here at home, something that is critical for central Virginia and the rest of the United States.

In the face of potential Chinese dominance in the 5G space, the Secure 5G and Beyond Act would put our country and its companies on a path toward achieving and maintaining greater security and a competitive edge.

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But in our interconnected world, we cannot do it alone. This bipartisan legislation would also encourage our allies to pursue similar strategies.

As we look ahead to future generations of wireless technology, we need to deploy a strong, evidence-based approach toward improving our cyber defenses.

Last year, then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford called the rise of Chinese 5G networks a critical national security issue. This bill recognizes that fact and does something about it.

We can continue to achieve faster internet speeds and wider connectivity across America, but this bill makes sure that these exciting achievements are accompanied by a smart strategy, one that can successfully prevent foreign influence in our 5G networks and keep our citizens safe.

Today, I call on my colleagues to pass the Secure 5G and Beyond Act of 2020.

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

Again, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE), the chairman of the subcommittee, for making sure this bill came to the floor today, because we have to win this race for 5G as a Nation, because we have to make sure that it helps every segment of our society.

The legislation is going to help us develop a strategy to ensure the security of 5G and future generations of telecommunication systems and infrastructure. And we also must identify potential security threats for vulnerabilities and promote responsible international development and deployment of networks. So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to recognize the good work the gentlewoman from Virginia has done on this bill. A former CIA agent, and someone that knows a lot of these issues inside and out, she has worked very hard, and brought us a very good piece of legislation.

It is a good bill. I urge all my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2881, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. 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.

PROMOTING UNITED STATES WIRELESS LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2019

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4500) to direct the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information to take certain actions to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in communications standards-setting bodies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4500

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 ''Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2019''.

SEC. 2. REPRESENTATION AND LEADERSHIP OF UNITED STATES IN COMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS-SETTING BODIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in standards-setting bodies that set standards for 5G networks and for future generations of wireless

communications networks, the Assistant Secretary shall, in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology—

(1) equitably encourage participation by companies and a wide variety of relevant stakeholders, but not including any company or relevant stakeholder that the Assistant Secretary has determined to be not trusted, (to the extent such standards-setting bodies allow such stakeholders to participate) in such standards-setting bodies; and

(2) equitably offer technical expertise to companies and a wide variety of relevant stakeholders, but not including any company or relevant stakeholder that the Assistant Secretary has determined to be not trusted, (to the extent such standards-setting bodies allow such stakeholders to participate) to facilitate such participation.

(b) STANDARDS-SETTING BODIES.—The standards-setting bodies referred to in subsection (a) include—

(1) the International Organization for Standardization;

(2) the voluntary standards-setting bodies that develop protocols for wireless devices and other equipment, such as the 3GPP and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; and

(3) any standards-setting body accredited by the American National Standards Institute or Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall brief the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on a strategy to carry out subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) 3GPP.—The term ''3GPP'' means the 3rd Generation Partnership Project.

(2) 5G NETWORK.—The term ''5G network'' means a fifth-generation mobile network as described by 3GPP Release 15 or higher.

(3) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ''Assistant Secretary'' means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(4) CLOUD COMPUTING.—The term ''cloud computing'' has the meaning given the term in Special Publication 800–145 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, entitled ''The NIST Definition of Cloud Computing'', published in September 2011, or any successor publication.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.—The term ''communications network'' means any of the following:

(A) A system enabling the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing.

(B) Cloud computing resources.

(C) A network or system used to access cloud computing resources.

(6) NOT TRUSTED.—The term ''not trusted'' means, with respect to a company or stakeholder, that the company or stakeholder is determined by the Assistant Secretary to pose a threat to the national security of the United States. In making such a determination, the Assistant Secretary shall rely solely on one or more of the following determinations:

(A) A specific determination made by any executive branch interagency body with appropriate national security expertise, including the Federal Acquisition Security Council established under section 1322(a) of title 41, United States Code.

(B) A specific determination made by the Department of Commerce pursuant to Executive Order 13873 (84 Fed. Reg. 22689; relating to securing the information and communications technology and services supply chain).

(C) Whether a company or stakeholder produces or provides covered telecommunications equipment or services, as defined in section 889(f)(3) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 1918).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4500.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4500, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2019. This bipartisan legislation was introduced by Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mrs. BROOKS.

The Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2019 directs the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to encourage participation by American companies and other stakeholders in standards-setting bodies, such as the 3GPP and the IEEE, and to offer technical assistance to those stakeholders that elect to participate in the course of developing standards for 5G networks and future generations of communications networks.

Other governments around the world are engaging in the standards-setting process for 5G and other advanced telecommunications technologies. Countries such as China and Russia are doing so directly and through companies that are closely allied with their governments.

This engagement is, at least in part, intended to skew the standards for these next-generation technologies to favor their national interests and their companies.

This legislation will give the stakeholders the ability to better engage in policy choices that are being made today by these standard-setting bodies, and which will have far-reaching implications for the development of 5G and other advanced communications technologies in the future.

We want to ensure that the United States continues to lead the world in advanced communications technologies and deployments and ensuring that these standards meet the needs of the United States and our partners. This is critical to that end.

I want to thank Mr. WALBERG. I want to thank Mrs. DINGELL and Mrs. BROOKS for the good work they have done in bringing this important legislation to the floor.

I would also like to thank the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Chairman ENGEL for working with the Energy and Commerce Committee to advance this legislation.

This is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, January 3, 2020.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 4500, Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2019, the Committee on Foreign Affairs agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs 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 issues within our jurisdiction. I ask you to support the appointment of Committee on Foreign Affairs conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Finally, thank you for agreeing to include a copy of our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 4500.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, January 6, 2020.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Energy and Commerce and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4500, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2019, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. 1 agree that your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within your jurisdiction. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your Committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will place our letters on H.R. 4500 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,
Chairman.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4500, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2019.

Our communications networks are critically important assets for facilitating domestic and international commerce.

For decades, the U.S. has led the development of wireless technology with like-minded nations. With the deployment of the next-generation wireless technology, 5G, expected to skyrocket in 2020, we must continue to focus on bolstering foundational elements to make sure the United States continues to lead on future advancements.

As these standards are set in global, industry-led standards bodies, we must enhance participation by U.S. companies and remain vigilant that bad actors don't game the system for their own economic and national security interests. To keep accountability and ensure proper transparency, we must encourage participation by trusted parties.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration plays a central role in these efforts as the executive branch agency with technical experience. They have decades of expertise working with industry and other stakeholders to develop these technical standards globally. I would like to thank the dedicated career staff who work tirelessly to advance U.S. global wireless leadership.

As we move into the next decade, it is vital that we continue to enhance participation in critical standards-setting bodies and preserve U.S. wireless leadership.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for all of his leadership.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4500, the Promoting U.S. Wireless Leadership Act of 2019, which we are considering now.

This bill, on which my colleague and good friend from Michigan, Mr. WALBERG, has taken the lead, and my good friend from Indiana, Mrs. BROOKS, the three of us have worked closely and in a bipartisan fashion to direct the NTIA to encourage participation by trusted American companies and other stakeholders in international standards-setting bodies. This is about American competitiveness.

In short, it helps ensure that America's interests are protected, and that companies have a seat at the table, as the world is deciding what 5G is going to look like. The policy choices that are being made right now will have lasting implications for 5G technology development around the world. It is imperative that the United States have a strong voice in these decisions, so we can continue to lead in an increasingly competitive market. We cannot give up a competitive edge or give it to another country.

The Energy and Commerce Committee advanced this bill, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it today.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and I thank her very much for her work on this legislation.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the legislation we have been talking about today, not only H.R. 2881, the Secure 5G and Beyond Act of 2020, but now, H.R. 4500, Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2019.

I want to commend my colleagues, the chair of the subcommittee, Chairman DOYLE, Ranking Member LATTA, as well as my colleagues that I have been working with, Representative SPANBERGER from Virginia, and Representatives DINGELL and WALBERG from Michigan. We have come together because we know that these two bipartisan bills are critically important to secure our communications networks and protect our next-generation telecommunications systems and the mobile infrastructure in the U.S. from dangerous foreign actors.

As the cofounder and the co-chair with my colleague from Michigan of the 5G Caucus, we understand how important it is that our laws protect 5G innovation; but also how critically important it is to keep our citizens and country safe.

I also represent a portion of Indianapolis, Indiana, an original test site for 5G. Our city has seen the benefits of 5G firsthand and we are continuing to see those benefits grow as we progress. Indianapolis was the first city in the country where both Verizon and AT&T tested, developed, and have deployed 5G technology.

Purdue University has partnered with these companies to create a 5G acceleration zone that will serve as an incubator for research and development in exciting new technologies for 5G. And that is why the Secure 5G and Beyond Act of 2019 is so important, to protect the country from potential cyber threats, while ensuring innovation continues to move forward.

But we need the administration to develop a national strategy to maximize the security of those 5G systems.

With the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2019, it will make sure that we are at the forefront; that the U.S. remains at the forefront in the conversation by bringing appropriate industry and government experts to the standards-body table.

As our world becomes even more interconnected through new technologies and innovations than it already is today, it is important that we ensure our national security and our global competitiveness within these industries.

So I am proud to be an original cosponsor of both of these bills. I urge our body to support securing the innovation of 5G while protecting the competitiveness of U.S. companies and the privacy of U.S. citizens.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), and I thank him also for his hard work on this legislation.

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member and the chairman for moving this bill forward.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4500, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2019.

I am pleased my colleague from Michigan, Representative DINGELL, worked with me on this important legislation to enhance United States leadership in the development of wireless standards.

Michigan's economy has become resurgent, in no small part, thanks to the renewed focus under past-Governor Snyder on STEM education and technical careers in the IT field.

As co-chair of the 5G Caucus, I understand the importance of bringing not only these technical jobs to Michigan, but also the jobs that will come as a result of leading the world on 5G deployment. As industry continues to send their best and brightest to these global technical standards-setting bodies, we must continue supporting them with necessary technical expertise and continue leading the world in wireless innovation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4500, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2019.

Make no mistake; the United States is in a race to modernize and build out the next generation of wireless infrastructure. As with countless other industries, we have seen how American leadership can benefit not only Americans, but consumers around the globe.

This bill, sponsored by my good friend and colleague, Mr. WALBERG of Michigan, would ensure Federal and private coordination and cooperation when it comes to American participation in standards-setting bodies.

□ 1630

We all know by now the potential concerns associated with technology that we can't fully trust. By ensuring that we have representation on essential standards-making bodies, such as the International Organization for Standardization, we will have a seat at the table to help guide these policies in a helpful and secure direction.

As many of my colleagues in this body would agree, a forward-leaning effort in this space will have positive effects long down the line.

I thank my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee for their work on this, and I urge all of my colleagues to support the underlying legislation.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG).

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I rise today in support of H.R. 4500, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act.

American companies have time and again proven themselves as global leaders in developing and deploying new technology. To ensure we maintain our competitive edge and advance future wireless capabilities, the government must work with the private sector to position the U.S. as a global leader in the development of 5G standards.

H.R. 4500 fosters this relationship by encouraging companies and other stakeholders to participate in international standards-setting bodies while also offering technical assistance to participants.

With China seeking to erode our technical advantage at every turn, it is more important than ever to promote American leadership and innovation in our telecommunications networks.

I thank Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mrs. BROOKS for sponsoring this important legislation.

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

It is absolutely important that the United States develop these standards so that we can stay at the top of 5G deployment. As I mentioned in the earlier bill, we want to make sure that 5G is out there to support everyone across the United States. Because of that, we have to make sure that we have these standards in place.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this is a good bill. I urge all of my colleagues to support it. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4500, 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.

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:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 779;

Adoption of House Resolution 779, if ordered; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2881.

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.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 535, PFAS ACTION ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 779) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 535) to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 225, nays 193, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 2]

YEAS—225

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

NAYS—193

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
Gooden
Gosar
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Van Drew
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—12

Buchanan
Crawford
Gabbard
Granger
Hunter
Kind

Lewis
Loudermilk
McEachin
Nadler
Serrano
Simpson

□ 1702

Messrs. MCKINLEY and RUTHERFORD changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 199, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 3]

YEAS—217

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

NAYS—199

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crenshaw
Cunningham
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
Gooden
Gosar
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McAdams
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spanberger
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Van Drew
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—14

Buchanan
Crawford
Ferguson
Gabbard
Granger
Hunter
Kind
Lewis
Loudermilk
McEachin
Nadler
Newhouse
Serrano
Simpson

□ 1712

Mr. POSEY changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. GOTTHEIMER changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay'' on roll call No. 3.

MOMENT OF SILENCE COMMEMORATING THE NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TUCSON, ARIZONA, SHOOTING

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, this is a very emotional day for me. This is the day, 9 years ago, that Gabby Giffords was shot and wounded in Tucson, and Federal Judge John Roll was killed.

Gabby had been my mentor in the State legislature. She was somebody I looked up to and admired. She had gone to Scripps College, and I was so happy when my daughter Ashley got accepted at Scripps, because that is where Gabby had gone. She is just outstanding in every single way and remains so, and thank heaven for that.

I was a law clerk for Judge John Roll, another outstanding man. I have to tell you, this is so personal for me. I grew up hunting in rural Arizona, and I was a very strong advocate for the Second Amendment—still am—but we have to do something about gun violence in this country.

I thank my colleagues for standing here with me: Speaker PELOSI, the Senators, and all of the Arizona delegation. We stand united today in wanting to honor Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and Federal Judge John Rolls.

I ask all to please rise for a moment of silence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will observe a moment of silence.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, if I may, I want to mention the other people who were killed that morning and wounded, and I yield to my colleague RUBEN GALLEGO to read the names.

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, Christina-Taylor Green, a 9-year-old girl; Dorothy ''Dot'' Morris; Federal Chief Judge John Roll; Phyllis Schneck; Dorwan Stoddard; Gabriel ''Gabe'' Zimmerman, Gabby's outreach director.

Also wounded: Bill Badger; Ron Barber, former district director and former Congressman; Ken Dorushka; James Fuller; Randy Gardner; Congresswoman Gabby Giffords; Suzi Hileman; George Morris; Mary Reed; Pam Simon, Gabby's outreach coordinator; Mavy Stoddard; Jim Tucker; and Kenneth Veeder.

SECURE 5G AND BEYOND ACT OF 2020

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. 2881) to require the President

to develop a strategy to ensure the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure in the United States and to assist allies and strategic partners in maximizing the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems, infrastructure, and software, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 3, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 4]

YEAS—413

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
Gooden
Gosar
Gottheimer
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marshall
Mast
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meadows
Meeks
Meng
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Olson
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouda
Rouzer
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yarmuth
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—3

Amash
Higgins (LA)
Massie

NOT VOTING—14

Bacon
Buchanan
Crawford
Gabbard
Granger
Holding
Hunter
Kind
Lewis
Loudermilk
McEachin
Nadler
Serrano
Simpson

□ 1724

Mr. REED changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, for personal reasons, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall No. 2—Previous Question, ''nay'' on rollcall No. 3—H. Res. 779, and ''yea'' on rollcall No. 4—H.R. 2881.

DON'T FORGET OUR VETERANS

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

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Mr. Speaker, with the escalation of conflict in Iran, we are currently living through uncertain times. Today and every day the safety of Americans is my priority, and I am grateful for the brave men and women in our armed services who put their lives on the line for our safety.

While we are all united in supporting our troops in service, we must always remember our veterans at home.

Throughout my district, I have heard so many stories from veterans and their loved ones who have told me just how difficult the transition back to civilian life can be.

Our veterans should not have to worry about putting a roof over their family's heads, having access to quality healthcare, and obstacles to pursuing further career opportunities.

Although we can never fully repay them for their service and sacrifice, we must all be committed to ensuring that veterans and their families have access to all of the benefits they have earned from their service.

Let's not forget our troops, our veterans, and all the brave women and men in uniform who sacrifice each day for our Nation.

□ 1730

RECOGNIZING WINNERS OF GIRL SCOUTS SILVER AWARD

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize three incredible young ladies from my district who recently received the Girl Scouts Silver Award.

Saylor Purks, Presley Lomel, and Amanda Whittlesey are freshmen at high schools in Hillsborough County. To earn their Girl Scouts Silver Award, these young ladies were tasked with creating a project that would make a change for the better in their school or neighborhood.

After witnessing their classmates engaging in vaping, the students chose to present an antivaping presentation about the growing issue and the dangers of tobacco use.

This message couldn't be more timely. Saylor, Presley, and Amanda shared their presentation during the 2019–2020 back-to-school orientation, and they hope their message can be shared at all middle schools and high schools nationwide.

I would like to personally thank these brilliant young leaders for taking the time and initiative to educate their peers. I am sure we will see more outstanding things from these very special young ladies in the future.

SUPPORT CANCER SCREENINGS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues for passing my important cancer screening bill as part of the critical healthcare bill.

The Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act was added to the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, H.R. 3, right before it passed on December 12.

My bill would allow Medicare to cover the costs when cancerous polyps are removed during colorectal cancer screenings. No longer will patients have to wake up to a surprise charge after their screening. These are charges that could cost from $400 to $20,000. It will improve the health and save the lives of millions of Americans.

My father, former Congressman Donald Payne, Sr., died from colorectal cancer. I introduced this bill so that more fathers, brothers, and sons can survive this deadly cancer.

RECOGNIZING TROUT UNLIMITED AWARD WINNER JAMES ''BIG JIM'' HIBBERT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Centre County veteran James ''Big Jim'' Hibbert, a retired Marine Corps staff sergeant.

Big Jim Hibbert honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and the Army for more than 19 years during six overseas deployments, including three combat deployments.

In 2019, during a meeting of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Jim met a young Army veteran in mental distress after his medications had been changed. The veteran had lost his job and was experiencing a mental health crisis.

Jim had been trained by mental health professionals in listening skills as a part of Trout Unlimited's Streamside Mentor program. He immediately took action, establishing a rapport and assisting the suicidal veteran.

Ultimately, Jim helped save his life that day. Because of this selfless act and for his commitment to his fellow veterans, Jim is being recognized by Trout Unlimited's Veteran Service Partnership program.

Big Jim Hibbert continues to serve and support his fellow veterans every day, and I thank Big Jim.

HONORING MAYOR RICHARD HATCHER

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazing public servant and an iconic Hoosier, Mayor Richard Hatcher.

As one of the first African American mayors of a major American city, Mayor Hatcher was a constant source of inspiration not only across Indiana but throughout our Nation and around the world.

His history-making election in 1967 as Gary, Indiana's first Black mayor showed the power of the possible, that even in a State once controlled by the Ku Klux Klan, a person of color could rise above hatred and into the halls of power.

Mayor Hatcher's example of advocating for economic justice, civil rights, and equality for every American is why so many of my colleagues and I are elected public servants. His death is a sad loss for all Americans, but his legacy and his work will live on. We must all work together to continue his quest for greater representation and rights for all.

Mr. Speaker, I send my deepest condolences to Mayor Hatcher's loved ones, and I thank him for a life well lived.

RECOGNIZING TINY HOUSE PROJECT FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Cindy Kelley and the Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless for their work in the Tiny House Project for Homeless Veterans.

In November 2019, phase one of the Tiny House Project was officially completed. In this part of the project, Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless provided 23 veterans, two spouses, and five pets with places to live. Phase two of the project began on December 1 and will house an additional 24 veterans.

Unfortunately, veteran homelessness is one of the most persistent issues facing those who risked their lives to serve our country.

I could not be more proud than to have a project like this one in the First Congressional District of Georgia with such an innovative solution to ensure our veterans are taken care of when they return home.

Along with Ms. Kelley and the Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless, I would like to thank the other members of our community that were integral in this project, including the Home Depot Foundation, Chatham Foundation, Nine Line Foundation, Dustcom Limited, Hansen Architects, Thomas & Hutton, Better Life Properties, Joe Marchese Construction, Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church, Sydney Rangeley, Tom Taylor, and Henry and Suzanne Croci.

TRUMP'S TRADE DEALS WILL NOT BRING BACK LOST JOBS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, President Trump is scheduled to arrive in Toledo, Ohio, for his first campaign rally of 2020.

Does he know that Ohio has lost 286,332 manufacturing jobs since the first NAFTA went into effect and even more jobs during his Presidency? President Trump will not bring back those jobs.

And since his NAFTA 2 passed, called the USMCA, the U.S. automotive companies have announced plans to expand production in Mexico. GM is closing numerous U.S. plants, including in Ohio, while making popular models in Mexico. Ford is even making its new electric Mustang in Mexico, the first Mustang not to be made in the United States of America.

American manufacturing workers who find reemployment are typically taking pay cuts. What is more, the President has nothing to say or do about providing for pensions for over 60,000 Ohioans who are going to have them cut substantially because he does not support the Butch Lewis Act, which passed this Congress in this House and is waiting for passage over in the other body.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to end my comments by saying that maybe the President, when he lands, should announce that Toledo's F–16 Air Guard fighter wing should get a complement of F–35s, which that unit has duly earned.

HONORING COACH JOHN FURLOW

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, every time I come home from Washington, D.C., I am welcomed by the sight of Clements High School.

Clements High School has a marquee on the corner of Sweetwater and Elkins that tells information about their school. That marquee was heartbreaking for the Ranger Nation this past week. One of our icons, tennis coach John Furlow, ''Mr. Clements,'' put on angel wings and flew to Heaven last Thursday.

Coach Furlow was our coach since 1983. He wasn't just content with winning titles. He wanted each of his players to win with class, dignity, and respect the Furlow way.

His players loved him. They loved the fact that coach always had warm Shipley Do-Nuts for that bus ride at 6 a.m. before dawn for a Saturday meet. When they were coming home, they had to stop at Whataburger.

Coach, thank you for the Shipleys, the Whataburger, and for your love. All of us are better off because of you. I

will close with your final statement: ''Once a Ranger, always a Ranger.''

INCLUDE SCHOOLS IN INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, recently, I went on a tour of a public elementary school in my district, a school I attended.

As I describe what I saw, I want everyone in this body to imagine having to send your child to a school with these conditions: mold-covered ceilings, exposed wires and pipes, and lead paint chipping down the walls.

These issues are felt across my city of Philadelphia. Three schools in my district have had to close this school year because of asbestos.

Schools should foster an environment that stimulates intellectual curiosity. Instead, our students and teachers are surrounded by health hazards. That is why I urge this House, later this year, when we consider a comprehensive infrastructure package, to ensure that we include rehabbing and rebuilding America's schools.

We cannot leave our Nation's kids and educators behind.

RECOGNIZING ATLANTIC/CAPE CASA

(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. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the various CASA branches throughout our region that have dedicated themselves to vulnerable children in southern New Jersey.

CASA stands for a court-appointed special advocate. They are selfless volunteers who act as the child's voice during legal proceedings. These volunteers specialize in understanding the physical and emotional needs of the child and work tirelessly until finding them a permanent home, preferably with family members or with an adopted family.

Because of organizations like CASA, abused or neglected children have present, trustworthy adults in their lives who sympathize with their struggles, who understand them, and who fight on their behalf.

Therefore, I thank all the CASA branches in our district for protecting the youth of south Jersey and ensuring that every child has a caring home. I thank them for their good work, for their love, and for the difference that they make in people's lives.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HUBERT LEROY REYNOLDS

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Brother Hubert Leroy Reynolds, an Air Force veteran who spent 35 years working for the Federal Aviation Administration after he got out of the military.

Hubert was a stellar member of our community, a mentor of young people, an active member of the Carey Tercentenary AME Church, and a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Although I sometimes wore different colors, black and gold, I am still proud to call him my brother.

Brother Hubert, may you rest in peace.

TRUMP DAMAGED IRAN'S ABILITY TO SOW UNREST

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, the United States has adopted an aggressive, proactive approach of gathering intelligence on our enemies and removing those individuals who seek to cause us harm in order to save American lives.

President Trump did just that. On January 3, our military, acting under the direction of our Commander in Chief, killed Iranian General Soleimani to protect the lives of Americans and to end his reign of terror in the Middle East.

The actions of our President and our military have damaged Iran's ability to sow unrest in the Middle East, and we have no doubt saved countless lives by removing a terrorist who intended to harm our Nation.

We must continue to support our troops serving abroad, and we must remain vigilant in our fight against terror and our ongoing efforts to bring lasting peace to the Middle East.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT TRUMP ON IRAN

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to commend President Trump for his actions in dealing with Iran.

The White House has shown restraint up to this point, since Iran has been a bad actor going all the way back to 1979, one of the largest sponsors of terror the world has ever seen.

The President has been patient, and, finally, with the actions recently at the embassy, took that step to eliminate General Soleimani, which was needed in order to not only send a message but stop a lot of the carnage.

Moving forward, we hope for and wish for true freedom for the people of Iran so that they would be able to live more like they did pre-1979, with the freedom, especially for women, to associate as they please.

This is not about regime change, and it is not about wanting to start a war. It is about, indeed, helping our neighbors and our colleagues in the Middle East to have stability from the state sponsor of terror.

□ 1745

THE MATH IS ALWAYS THE MATH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUNNINGHAM). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I will cover two or three different subjects today, a little different than we typically come and we walk through some of the economic data and the concept of I believe the greatest threat to our society is not telling the truth about the scale of the unfunded liabilities, the promises we have made and the fact of the matter that there is no mathematical way we keep those promises.

I have the blessing of being here in Congress. I have been here 9 years, and I have grown to just this intense frustration that we do math through a partisan lens.

We have a family saying: The math always wins; the math always eventually wins. So why is it so hard in this place to actually tell the truth, to own a calculator and say: Here is what is going to happen; here are our demographics, but here are also the good things that are working?

Another thing I actually got from my father years ago is: Figure out what works, and do more of that; figure out what doesn't work, and do less of that.

So think about this.

Over the Christmas break, I did lots and lots of reading and was absolutely just furious and frustrated with a number of columns that I came across talking about the 2-year anniversary of tax reform where we rewrote much of the tax code to grow the U.S. economy, and we had some of the, I will call them, the smartest—at least, the most well-known—economist commentators on the left side trashing the tax reform.

Except, you will notice, if any of you pull up those articles—if you are willing to—go back and look at the fact they use almost no math in them. There are no numbers: We just didn't like this. We thought they should have done this.

Having the blessing of being on the Committee on Ways and Means, having the blessing of having worked on the tax reform, I do understand much of what the corporate portion of tax reform was based on: the Obama administration's recommendations and modeling to make us competitive in the world again.

But, once again, we work in a place where, if I walk into the room and I am a conservative and I say the sky is blue, instantly, there is this knee-jerk reaction from my brothers and sisters

on the other side—and, please, understand, we are sinners, too—who say, no, it is not.

The math is the math.

So just for the fun of it, I pulled up a number of the headlines from 2 years ago when we were working on tax reform, when we had just finished tax reform. Liberal columnist after liberal columnist basically spoke of Armageddon, spoke that the world is going to fall apart, said this is going to crush and hurt people.

Mr. Speaker, understand, the last 2 years have been some of the most remarkable progress in modern U.S. history for the working poor.

We come behind these microphones and we pretend we care about the poor, particularly the working poor. Do you understand what is happening in the math? Because the math will always win, and the math is the truth.

When we did tax reform a couple years ago, did you think we would live in a country with more jobs than workers, where the bottom 10 percent of workers, income-wise—what we refer to as the working poor—would have wages growing more than two times the mean and, in some quarters, almost four times the mean in wages?

I know the math gets a little confusing, but it is important. You can't walk around here and say you care about the poor, particularly the working poor, and then not have some little joy in your heart about what has gone on the last 2 years, particularly this last year.

Remember, last year, a woman with no partner in the house had a 7.6 percent growth in wages. We are seeing remarkable growth in wages for the very folks who have been most dispossessed over the previous decade. And, yes, I will have a chart that actually shows that.

Why is the truth off your calculator seen through partisan lenses? Why can't we just take a breath and say, hey, something really is working. Was it tax reform? Was it some of the things done regulatory-wise?

Because, remember, if you go back just a couple years ago—and I have sat on the Joint Economic Committee now for a few years—we were being told, with the headwinds of our demographics, we were in for stagnation. Do you remember 4 years ago? 5 years ago? 3 years ago? That was the new normal.

Do we get an apology from the folks who wrote these headlines that had been so dramatically wrong?

Let's just walk through some of the tax reform data so we are actually living in the reality of the math, and there is a simple point I want to make.

2017 fiscal year, so the end of the fiscal year, and then during that time we were working on tax reform, do you know what the growth and receipts were for this country? They were 1 percent. They were 1 percent—functionally, not even at inflation. We were falling behind. And this is under the old tax code that the writers of those headlines were functionally defending.

Do you know what tax receipts—we don't call it revenues; we call it receipts—were at the end of last fiscal year, the one we ended at the end of September? We grew slightly more than 4 percent in our receipts.

Now, we still have a spending problem around here. We have a tremendous demographics problem. That is one of the other things we never tell the truth about is the substantial portion of our spending is actually driven by our demographics, which isn't Republican or Democratic.

We are getting older very quickly as a society. But, once again, are we able to get up in front of our groups at home or fellow Members of Congress and not see the math through partisan lenses, because the math is the math.

Our birthrates have collapsed as a society. Remember, we had only 12 States last year, in really good economic times, that actually had growth in their birthrates, and some of those were just by a couple hundred.

We need to tell the truth about the math.

And I have been coming behind this microphone almost every week we are here saying there is a unified theory of, if you do the things that are necessary in tax reform, as we are talking about right now, and do the things necessary in immigration, do the things in labor force participation, encouragement, if you do the things in adoption of technology that crashes the price of healthcare, if you do these things and bring them all together, we can make the math work where we do not get crushed, as a nation, by our debt.

But we can't even do simple things by agreeing upon it. We can't even agree when the math actually says it worked. We still have to spin it through partisan lenses.

So the chart next to me is just very, very, very simple. It is '17, '18, '19 receipts—not revenues, receipts. Do you notice something?

Remember, the columnists before, the economists, my brothers and sisters on the left were telling us revenues are going to crash, it is the Armageddon, this is the Apocalypse—except for one small problem: We have had some of the fastest growing revenues we have had in modern times.

The math is the math.

And, look, I have been there. I have been one of those who believe something. You get the data, and you have to swallow and say: I was wrong.

Except this place is incapable of stepping up and saying: Hey, something is working. Maybe we should figure out what is working and find a way to do more of it.

Because, once again, this has been some of the most remarkable wage growth for our brothers and sisters, particularly in the lower quartiles. I hate that terminology, but if you want to designate the working poor, we have had more movement.

And there are a couple modelers out there—I don't know if the numbers will be real—looking at the 2019 fiscal year and saying that might be the first year where wage and equality actually stayed flat or didn't grow or maybe even shrank because those at the lower income spectrum have had the fastest growing wage movement. Why can't we take some joy in that and work on it?

The fact of the matter is the math is the math. So a simple point: 2017.

One more time, 2017, the fiscal year before tax reform, 1 percent growth in revenues, receipts; last fiscal year, over 4 percent growth under the new tax code.

How is that possible?

It turns out it is, and it was possible in a really joyous way because people were working.

If you take a step back and think of so many of the programs we have as the safety net to help our brothers and sisters when they are in hard times, there should have been dramatically less demand on those programs because so many people were working.

If you look at the BLS numbers, Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers, the numbers that have moved back into the labor force were now—what?—over 63 percent labor force participation. I can show you an economic paper from 3 or 4 years ago saying we were never going to get close to that again until we get through the baby boomers.

Something is working.

We are seeing numbers where hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of thousands of people are coming back into the labor force who were not even looking. Why isn't this joyful?

Look, let me relay a simple experience.

The Phoenix area, we have a homeless campus. I have been, on and off, involved with it for many, many years. I believe we do something very, very well. We do a concentration of services with many churches and charities: Over here, dental work; over here, you get your ID; over here, there is like 24-hour-a-day AA meetings and here are some bunk beds for those; over here, St. Joseph the Worker that will help individuals get work, the Catholic charity. And they have a situation where they have a stack of job opportunities because there is such a labor shortage in the Phoenix market.

I am very pleased we just worked out a deal, or they worked out a deal, with Lyft to help deal with the transition barrier of getting these individuals to work.

But shouldn't there be joy in this body and our society that there is such a labor shortage that businesses and organizations are taking chances on the folks we used to just completely write off?

□ 1800

Remember, it was only a couple of years ago, we would give speeches around here; if you hadn't finished high school, if you hadn't developed certain skills you were going to be part of the permanent underclass. We were writing

you off. We were walking away from you as a society.

And guess what happened?

Something happened, whether it be the Tax Code or other things that we have done that there is such a demand for their labor, for their work, and their wages are going up faster than any other quartile.

You can't come behind these microphones and give speeches about how you care, and then not actually take a step back and say, something is working. How do we do more of it?

So let's actually take a look at the reality of the math of the last couple of decades. The red line are the high-income earners. The blue line are those in the 25 percent or lower quartile. So let's call it the bottom-25-percent quartile.

And I know this geeks out, but let's go to about 2010 and over. And you see through 2010, 2015, about 2016, higher-income earners were winning the battle. Huge separation. They were making money, while that lower population that we were walking away from, that didn't have the high school education, didn't have the higher skill set, their wages were crashing.

And then something happened over here. That's about the time of tax reform. Do you notice the separation?

It turns out their labor became valuable, became something in demand, became something that employers had to pay more for. Isn't that what we were trying to accomplish? It is in the math.

So it frustrates me that you will come across these articles that completely demagogue tax reform; refuse to actually use the math; and then not embrace the fact that it has been one of the most remarkable couple of years in modern history in the United States of the working poor starting to see their wages move forward, move up, their labor having value in our society again.

Look, for many of us, we truly believe economic growth is moral. It helps families; it helps individuals; it helps self-worth. It produces opportunity.

Yet, we seem to completely turn the discussion of the things that create that economic growth into a partisan battle, a partisan malaise. And it breaks my heart, because the chart I just put up, this is the greatest threat not only to my 4-year-old daughter, but I believe to every American.

Do you understand what is coming at us?

This is a 30-year chart. It is not inflation-adjusted. But the math is true and honest because it is done by an outside group that is nonpartisan.

If I strip Social Security and Medicare out of the 30-year number—we have $23 trillion in the bank. If you pull Social Security and mostly, it is mostly Medicare, back in, the promise, these are earned promises that we have a moral obligation to keep, we are $103 trillion in debt. This is over the next 30 years.

Isn't that an incredible moral obligation for this body to tell the truth on? Because these sorts of numbers, you can take every dime of the rich and you don't get anywhere near it. You can cut the benefits, and you still don't get—you cannot deal with these numbers and not crash the U.S. economy and crash the world economy by doing so.

Our office, and a handful of others, we have been trying to make the argument: tax reform, grow the economy. Incentives to be in the labor force, grow the economy. Legalize technology that can crash the price of healthcare because so much of this Medicare here, that is the massive driver of the debt.

We can have disruptions. Do you realize almost 30 percent of that Medicare spending is just going to be diabetes? So investment in diabetes research is a smart investment.

But also, so are other technologies. The thing you can blow into that instantly tells you you have the flu, and allowing it, that technology, to be part of how you keep yourself healthy.

But the reality here is, there is no magic bullet. You have got to grow the economy. And we have demonstrated the growth in these 24 months since we did tax reform it is working. One of the pillars is working. How do we build off of it? Because you don't try to make major policy changes in a time of economic stress. Do it in a time when you actually have economic stability and build off of it, because this is the greatest threat to our society. It is demographics. It is not Republican or Democrat.

It is baby boomers. There are 74 million of us who were born in an 18-year period. We earned our benefits. The problem is—what is it? For the Medicare spending, we will put in, what? $150,000. We are going to take out close to $500,000. Now multiply that difference by 74 million. These are the issues that should be driving every bit of policy.

The simple way is to give this a thought experiment: the next 5 years, just the growth—next 5 years, just the growth of Social Security, Medicare, and the other healthcare entitlements, just the growth, equals the entire Defense Department spending.

So if you start to do that math, you could functionally get rid of every portion of discretionary spending except defense, and you buy yourself 5 years.

I know this is uncomfortable. It is very hard to go home and talk to constituents that, on the Republican side, we can take care of waste and fraud. On the Democrat side, we can tax rich people more. That math is completely fraudulent.

Why is it so hard to pull out a calculator?

I accept we work substantially in a math-free zone, but when we do math, don't see it through the lenses of partisanship. It is math.

So, look, I wanted to do a little cheerleading for my home. I am blessed to be from Arizona. We have worked really hard to be friendly to those who are willing to come to our state and open up new businesses. We have worked really hard to limit the bureaucracy. We have worked really hard to make it easy, as a State, for you to file paperwork online, to do these things efficiently, and our State has benefited.

We are functioning at the very top of economic growth, population growth. There have actually even been quarters in the last couple of years where we have also had the fastest wage growth.

But it is a demonstration that many, many Americans are making economic decisions, packing up their lives in a lot of parts of the country and moving to places like Arizona. I think we are number three in total growth. And when you consider we are only a State of about 7.25 million people, when you add, you know, when you do the per population growth, we are at the very top.

Arizona, we should be very, very proud. We have been very disciplined. We have built good infrastructure. We have managed our water supplies. Power, electrical power is abundant. And we have been friendly to those willing to bring businesses because they create jobs, they create opportunities. They create growth in wages.

Now, it looks like the rest of the country is starting to see the headlines. So a community I grew up around, Scottsdale, I believe, just got rated number one for being able to find a job. Much of the rest of the community, incredibly well.

But think of some of the—I am trying to build an argument here that if economic growth is moral, then you see headlines like this, where when we do surveys about food insecurity, food insecurity is the lowest in a decade because of that economic growth, because of those folks that we were writing off just a couple of years ago who now, their labor is in demand, their wages are up, and we start to see headlines like ''Food Insecurity At a Decade Low in Arizona.''

Why is it so hard to understand doing smart tax policy, doing so many other smart economic policies truly are the path to helping our brothers and sisters who have less?

We always start and end with this chart. If we care about what is actually going on, if Congress intends to keep the promises to Americans for their Social Security and Medicare, if we believe it is a moral obligation of our society to keep that promise, then you need to deal with the reality that the unfunded liabilities are monstrous.

There is a path, but it is not a path of paying off the debt. It is basically a path of, I believe, in our model in our office, staying about 95 percent debt to GDP, so we don't blow up and get through the demographic bubble that is those of us who are baby boomers. But we have to do everything. You have to have that and legalize technology that crashes the price of so

many things, makes the environment cleaner, makes healthcare much more affordable and available. Employment, we have to do everything for those who are older, to encourage them to participate in the labor force. Add some ''spiffs,'' add some benefits.

How do we get millennial men that are still dramatically underperforming in showing up in the labor force?

About a year ago, we had an amazing breakthrough, mathematically-wise, millennial females entering the workforce.

Every policy that moves through here we should test; does this benefit economic growth?

When we work on immigration policy, are we doing a talent-based immigration system, where we don't care about your religion, your gender, or who you cuddle with or anything like that? We care about the economic vitality you bring to our society.

How do we encourage family formation?

Think of that. This one article here talks about only 12 States actually had positive birth rates over the previous year.

I know we get caught up in today's shiny object; you know, whether it is the we hate the President side of this room, or we feel we are stuck defending. And we are completely missing what is going to end up driving all public policy in the next couple of years, and that is the fact that we are going to be crushed by our debt.

There is a path. My fear is this current Congress, are we actually capable of doing complex policy, lots of complex policy on every issue, and seeing it as a unified theory to maximize economic vitality so we actually have the receipts, so we keep the promises that we go home and tell our constituents we are working for? But, yet, then we come here and we deny basic math.

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

□ 1815

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RICHARD GORDON HATCHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to come before the House this evening to celebrate the memory of a major trailblazer in our Nation, one who was a fierce crusader for justice and equality, an American who was a quiet man, with a quiet demeanor, but a giant in terms of his accomplishments, his courage, and the things he did not only for his local constituency, the city of Gary, Indiana, but the African American community and America at large.

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking of the one and only, the first Black mayor of Gary, Indiana, Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher.

Sadly, Mayor Hatcher passed away at the age of 86 on the 13th of December, 2019. Although he is no longer with us, his legacy lives on. His legacy, his work, his love, his sacrifices continue to be felt in these very Halls of Congress, throughout the city hall of Gary, Indiana, and indeed, throughout these State legislative halls, these halls of municipal governments in cities all across this Nation.

Mayor Hatcher was one who carved and made a way for African Americans who are elected officials even to this very day. When Mayor Hatcher was first elected mayor of Gary, Indiana, there were but few elected officials of African American descent in the Nation, but there now exists over 10,000 African American elected officials. In some supernatural sense, because of the hard work, the insight, the courage, and the commitment of Mayor Hatcher, his sterling example, we all stand on the shoulders of Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher.

Mayor Hatcher's surprise victory over the political machine in Gary, Indiana, in 1967 was indeed a watershed moment for Black political participation in this Nation. Along with the election of Mayor Carl Stokes, the first African American mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, Mayor Hatcher became the first Black mayor of a major U.S. city, the city of Gary, Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, in his two decades of service as Gary's mayor, Mayor Hatcher fought valiantly in his beloved Gary and throughout his beloved Nation for fair political representation for those whose voices had been previously dismissed, disregarded, and downright ignored for most of American history.

When Mayor Hatcher was elected to lead a deeply segregated Gary, Indiana, only two of the city's department heads were African Americans, in a city that was actually over 50 percent African American. Within 10 years of Mayor Hatcher's tenure as mayor, 25 of Gary's 40 department heads were African Americans.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, those who worked for Gary's government began to look more like Gary's citizens, those who were supposed to be working on behalf of the citizens of Gary, Indiana.

As mayor of Gary, Mayor Hatcher worked very closely with his congressional delegation and the Democratic administration in the White House. He secured millions of dollars in Federal funding for job training programs for Gary's citizens and subsidized housing for Gary's citizens, building up a vibrant economy in his beloved city of Gary, similarly and singlehandedly, in some instances, ensuring that those communities that were previously underserved received their fair share of city services, Federal funding, and Federal dollars.

Mayor Hatcher's herculean efforts to ensure fair representation extended far beyond Gary. As a young man, I was inspired and intrigued by the electoral and political processes and systems because of the tenure, political career, and outstanding accomplishments of Mayor Richard Hatcher.

Mayor Hatcher was a visionary, a man who not only talked the talk, but he walked the walk. On the streets of Gary, he was highly visible.

With all of that, his vision even surpassed and transcended Gary. In 1972, he organized the inaugural and historic National Black Political Convention in Gary. I was there. I attended. I saw it in action. This National Black Political Convention convened with two goals: establishing an independent Black political agenda and electing more Black officials to public office. Never before, not at any time, had this been done.

Over 8,000 individual American citizens attended this historic occasion, including some who are icons even today in our Nation, including Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Coretta Scott King, Betty Shabazz, Bobby Seale, and my colleague from Chicago, Congressman DANNY K. DAVIS. Many, many others were involved, inspired, educated, and learned the value of the vote and heard for the first time that a voteless people is a hopeless people, all because of the single vision of this one American giant, Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and humbled to speak in this well about this giant of a man, telling all who have a listening ear and a seeing eye about the work of Mayor Hatcher and that historic National Black Political Convention. It was not just fighting the windmills, Don Quixote-like. It produced results.

At the time of this convention, there were just 14 African American Members of Congress, just 14. Today, there are 56 African American Members of Congress, 56 living and breathing, hard-working Members of this Congress who are a result of the vision of Mayor Hatcher and who were inspired by his life and what he had accomplished.

He was our inspiration. He gave all of us an exceedingly high standard that we live by even today.

□ 1830

Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher spurred a wave of Black civic participation that reverberated all throughout America. In 1973, just 1 year, 365 days, after the Gary convention, Detroit elected its first African American mayor, Mayor Coleman Young, Atlanta elected its first African American mayor, Mayor Maynard Jackson, and Los Angeles elected its first African American mayor, Mayor Tom Bradley. All across this Nation, major cities all across this Nation saw a witness, and participated and celebrated the election of mayors in major cities all across this Nation.

The legacy, the inspiration, the example, the instruction just didn't stop in 1973. Even some 10 years later,

Mayor Harold Washington was elected mayor of the city of Chicago following the Gary model.

Congressman DAVIS and I were on the front lines in Mayor Washington's election. He challenged us to register 50,000 new voters, and we rose up to the challenge, a la just like being cognizant of what was going on in Gary, Indiana.

That voter registration, that election rocked the entrenched Chicago political establishment, political machine. The renowned Richard J. Daley's Democratic machine was overturned in 1983, inspired in no small respect by Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher in the city of Gary, Indiana.

It just didn't stop there, Mr. Speaker. The story didn't end there. It kept developing, it kept materializing. The civic awakening that was started in Gary, Indiana, with the election in 1967 of Mayor Hatcher, which ensued with the election of Mayor Harold Washington, inspired a young man who was living in Los Angeles to move to Chicago, Gary's neighbor. He wanted to be a part of what was going on in Chicago, in Gary, Indiana, in urban areas, and major cities throughout the Nation. It inspired him, a young law student named Barack Obama, to move to Chicago, to the south side of Chicago to start community organizing and ultimately to become a State senator from the State of Illinois, then to become the U.S. Senator from the State of Illinois, and then finally to become President of these United States.

So in no uncertain terms, the overwhelming outstanding achievements, the miraculously determined achievements of Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher led to the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States.

Mayor Hatcher was pivotal in Reverend Jesse Jackson's transcendent 1984 and 1988 Presidential campaigns.

In 1988, Mayor Hatcher served as his campaign vice chairman, and Reverend Jackson in that historic campaign earned over 6.7 million votes and Reverend Jackson, through the hard work and the inspiration of Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher, won 11 primary contests.

You can't undervalue, underestimate how important that was. This happened before the election of Barack Obama.

We all stand indebted to Richard Gordon Hatcher and his life, the life that he lived and the life that he led.

Mayor Hatcher's victory was a clarion call to all of us who aspired and are inspired to serve as elected officials in our Nation.

If we work hard, harness the imagination, speak to the real need of our constituents, we could also raise our voices in the spirit of equity and fairness, justice; that we could all stand not only in the well of the Congress, but in the State houses, in the city halls of our Nation and of States and municipalities all over this country, even in the White House.

We miss Mayor Hatcher. We will miss his counsel.

Again, he was a man who was not a self-promoter. He was quiet, in some sense professorial, in some sense laid back, but a mighty, mighty, mighty, mighty warrior, a mighty man, a giant.

I am just grateful for all that he has done for this Nation, all that he has done for poor people all across this Nation, for the middle class all across this Nation, all that he has done for African Americans not only in Gary, and certainly in Gary, but in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit, other places all across this Nation.

He inspired young people, young professionals to look at public service as being an honorable pursuit, an honorable career, profession, and get in there and do something not just for yourself, but do something for your Nation, for your community, and for people who need a voice, those who are voiceless.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my condolences to Mayor Hatcher's family, his wife, Ruthellyn, his daughters, and let them know that our prayers are with them, and their loss is great, our loss is great. We lost a friend, we lost a colleague, we lost a champion, but in some sense, we lost someone who was a steadfast, rock solid inspiration to us all.

We mourn the loss of this American giant, former Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), a gentleman who represents the city of Gary right now, another man of unmatched wisdom and intellect, the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, and my friend and colleague.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I deeply appreciate Mr. RUSH yielding time to me. I also thank him for organizing this Special Order. I thank my colleague from Chicago, Mr. DAVIS, for participating, and earlier today, ANDRÉ CARSON, a Member from Indianapolis, for also expressing deep regard for Mayor Hatcher.

Mr. Speaker, I also appreciate the gentleman's eloquence in describing the incredible contribution that Richard Gordon Hatcher made to our world and, in particular, those most in need. He is absolutely correct: it certainly transcended the city of Gary and his immediate responsibilities.

Everyone here knows the vast and immeasurable contributions that Mayor Hatcher has provided to advance the cause of civil rights and racial equality in all of our communities and throughout our Nation.

On a personal level, I would note that my father, John Visclosky, also was mayor of Gary. While the mayors may not have always agreed on every issue, Mayor Hatcher always treated my father with respect and grace, and for that, I will always be grateful.

Everyone he met and worked with was treated with similar dignity and respect.

Mayor Hatcher's value of respect is one we should all strive to emulate.

It was through this value that he became a trailblazer for the city of Gary and our Nation. It was also through his selfless leadership and desire to bring other people along that led to countless other trailblazers for civil rights.

One of those trailblazers who was inspired by Richard Gordon Hatcher, as Mr. RUSH pointed out so eloquently, was my predecessor from the First Congressional District of Indiana, Representative Katie Hall.

□ 1845

When Mrs. Hall was sworn into office as U.S. Congressperson from the First District, she became the first Black woman from Indiana to serve in the United States House of Representatives. Again, as Mr. RUSH pointed out, there are many more African Americans in this Chamber today.

Representative Hall was also the Member of Congress who sponsored the legislation that was signed into law that established Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday as a Federal holiday. As we take time honoring Dr. King this month, let us remember that that legislation's sponsor was mentored by Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher.

As a resident of Gary, I would conclude by saying that I knew Richard first and foremost as a dedicated husband and a proud and loving father and grandfather. In his three beloved daughters and six grandchildren, it is plainly evident that he has instilled his exemplary dedication to hard work, the value of education, and a commitment to public service.

Again, I appreciate that this time was organized. Let us never lose sight of the example that Mayor Hatcher provided for all of us to follow.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the gentleman from Indiana for his candid remarks, and he also stands in the wonderful splendor of Mayor Hatcher's legacy and of his work and his commitment to public service.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), who is my colleague, my true friend, my coconspirator.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, let me, first of all, thank Representative RUSH for his leadership, his vision, his diligence, and how well he has reminded us of those glory years during the 1960s and 1970s that we call movement years.

As I looked at the photograph of Mayor Hatcher, I couldn't help but smile thinking that, in 1967, that is the way we looked. We obviously had more hair. It was a different color.

And it is a great reminder of what it was like during that period of time. There was so much momentum in the air in terms of hope for change in America from what America had been to some to what America was to become.

I was thinking that, with just a little different twist, I might have ended up in Gary, Indiana, rather than in Chicago, Illinois; because, as we were leaving the South, coming to other places

to live and work, I didn't know that I had a bunch of relatives who lived in Gary who were also involved in politics: the Allen family who grew up, some of them, with Mayor Hatcher at the same time. My cousin Dozier Allen, and then his son, who is now on the county board, and his cousin, who was on the county board before that, Roosevelt Allen. If I had known that the Allens were there and were my cousins, I might have gone to Gary instead of coming to Chicago.

But I remember 1967. I remember 1972. I can remember those huge crowds of people who converged on Roosevelt High School where the National Black Political Convention was taking place and all of the eloquent speakers who were there: poets, Baraka, Ron Dellums, and Charlie Diggs from Detroit. It was the most exciting thing I had ever done, I mean, just to be in the presence of all this action.

It seemed as though each speaker would be more eloquent and more compelling than whoever spoke before them. And, of course, Mayor Hatcher, as the host and the person who had brought everybody together, was just off the charts.

You have pointed out how much his presence, not only on an individual basis, means as a motivator, stimulater, and activator for so many others throughout the country who decided they wanted to do this. They could do this because Richard Hatcher had shown the way.

And the individual cities that looked at Gary.

Of course, Gary was a different Gary: steel mills, steel jobs, opportunities, people were flocking. So a lot of folks who don't look at history in terms of understanding and knowing how things became and have become the way that they were, I mean, it is good to see Gary on the way back.

It has been good to work with Mayor Rudy Clay, with Mayor Karen Wilson, and with others who are using what Mayor Hatcher did.

It is good to know his daughter. It is good to have come in contact with the individuals who are there who have refused to give up.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. VISCLOSKY for being a real part of the rebirth and redevelopment and reconstitution and reinstitution of Gary, Indiana, to become one of our cities that we knew in the past and so we can think of what is yet to come.

I thank Congressman RUSH again for his vision. I thank him for his foresight, for his insight, and for giving us to share, along with Representative CARSON and Representative VISCLOSKY and himself, so that people who really didn't know the history of Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher might have a better understanding of what his presence has meant, not just to Gary, but to America.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, as I close this significant moment in the annals of this Congress, let me just say to the family of Mayor Hatcher once again, as I reflect on my public career, as I reflect on all of us who are public officials who represent African American communities, as I reflect on all public officials, but particularly those of us who have historically been denied the opportunity to serve, I want to thank this wonderful man for giving me and others the audacity: the audacity to act, to believe, to run, to get elected, to lead.

Mr. Speaker, I give thanks to Mayor Hatcher for showing us the way to contribute, to add our voices to the plight of those who are seeking the American Dream, and for giving us the audacity, the audacity to act.

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

PUT MANUFACTURING ECONOMY AT THE FOREFRONT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) for 30 minutes.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize a new year and a new decade in which we find ourselves, the second half of this session of the 116th Congress, an incredible delegation of individuals who have come together on behalf of the American people, for the American people, to usher in an agenda of renewal, of standing up for everyday hardworking Americans: to protect their healthcare; to advocate for infrastructure and good, sound infrastructure spending; as well as to stand up for hardworking Americans who have always played by the rules and have worked for their retirement savings, my pensioners back home in Michigan.

It was a delight to close out the end of the decade back home in my district with so many of my beloved constituents and the community members who make us so strong.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that on January 3, 2020, this new year, this new decade, 1 year from when this Congress was sworn in, this session of Congress was sworn in, the headline became pronounced that industrial activity has come down to its lowest point since 2009, since the heart of the recession, with production, inventories, and new orders falling.

These are real headlines. These are headlines that affect the heart of America. And while so much hums in our national media and in our national news, this is a reality for so many. This is a reality for Michigan's 11th District.

We were delighted, we were pleased to see us pass the USMCA overwhelmingly bipartisan for the manufacturers, for the manufacturing economy, for the hardworking union members who will get a better deal because we are advocating for buy American content.

We know the road to implementation will be long, but it is an implementation that the suppliers in my district, from Auburn Hills down to Plymouth, an implementation they are planning for. Yet the reality is such that a manufacturing recession hangs before us, a manufacturing recession as marked by low levels of productivity.

□ 1900

Over the last 6 months of 2019, manufacturers lost a net of 23,000 jobs and average hours worked fell to its lowest levels in 8 years. Who is talking about this? Your Congresswoman from Michigan's 11th District is talking about this here tonight.

The reality of tariffs has cost us. Tariffs imposed have cost U.S. corporations $34 billion as of October 2019, as marked by that day since they were implemented.

Also, as October 2019 has marked, manufacturing taxpayers have paid $1.8 billion in 2019 in additional tariffs, in additional money. I talk to these employers. I talk to these small businesses. I talk to the lifeblood of the American economy, and they are paying more. They are squeezed. Their margins are tight. Can this continue? No, it cannot.

So that agenda that we are ushering in here the first month of 2020, is that we do not forget that we need to address the problem of tariffs for our manufacturers. We have given certainty with USMCA. We knew we needed to give that certainty, in part, because the jobs were going to go elsewhere. The investment was going to be made elsewhere. It wasn't going to be made in the American workforce.

We are in a global race to compete. We have got to compete as Americans. We have got to compete as manufacturers in small communities, in suburban communities like the ones that I have the privilege and honor of representing. Comprised within that are the people who are going to work every single day: in snowstorms, in rainstorms, on sunny days, in the middle of summer, putting food on the table.

We look at wages and we ask ourselves as we are now in this third decade of this millennium of this century: What has transpired with wages? The alarming headline as we were closing out 2019 was that the richest, the wealthiest 500 individuals increased their wealth in 2019 by $1 trillion, by over $1 trillion, when wages for our middle class have remained stagnant; where wages for the lowest earners in our economy—we are still advocating to raise the minimum wage from $7, just about. It is the year 2020.

Who is working those jobs, by the way? Single mothers; people who have played by the rules and who have children, who aren't just working temporary jobs. This is the promise of America. This is the dream of America, Mr. Speaker, that we are representing, and that I am fighting for all of you, where my sleeves are rolled up. The things that I am eyeing here.

Because if we don't start addressing this, we stop winning. We stop having

an American-first agenda. So we have got to put the manufacturing economy at the forefront. We have got to look at the plight of exports. We saw that with the USMCA, the passage of the USMCA.

Over 95 percent of the world's consumers are outside of American borders. We want to sell the best-in-class, American-made product from Michigan by the best-in-class Michigan workforce to the world. We want to get it into these markets.

So we look at how we can be smart. We can look at the things that we did during the big recession, right, the big recession of 2008–2009, and what got us out of that, the strategies and the policies that we put forward in export agenda, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker knows this from where the gentleman sits. I acknowledge my friend from South Carolina who is in a port destination.

We got smart about how we sold American product. We invested in small business, awards—the States Small Business Act is what I am talking about. It awarded money through the Small Business Administration to States like Michigan. We qualify for these dollars. This was $200,000 that the State of Michigan got and made awards to companies who applied, who met the qualifications, the small businesses, and gave them seed money that they matched with their own money to go sell their products in Europe and overseas and to different consumers. The results were exponential. That money paid for itself.

Then the political tides changed and we got rid of it, and we are still here 10 years later trying to figure out how we are going to make those investments.

Well, let's go back and look at the States Small Business Jobs Act of 2010. Let's figure out how we can get in front of a manufacturing recession. It is technical. Look at auto sales. They are down. They are down in 2019. Not as dramatic as it was in 2008 when we had the largest drop in automotive sales in the history the automobile.

Auto sales are down because hardworking men and women put things on the line. They went on strike. They asked for better healthcare. They asked for fair wages. They asked for retirement packages. When we talk about middle-class job growth, when we talk about growing our middle class, what are we talking about? We are talking about lifting people out of poverty.

The facts are clear: productivity is not at its highest level. Productivity is at some of its lowest level, and inequality is at some of its highest level; inequality matched by wage disparity, Mr. Speaker.

Then we have this interesting reality with our skills gap in this country, and this is something I hear all over my district. Every time I am talking to a manufacturer, or an educator, or a champion in my community, it is: Where are we going to find the workers?

Just today, I was talking with folks from the coding organization, Hour of Code, and they gave me a few minutes. And I had the opportunity to be reminded that we have tens of thousands of open computer science jobs in this country, and we are not graduating the level of computer scientists that we need to graduate to fill those jobs.

We have got to invest in our own. This is something in Michigan we know very well. We have got great universities. Our students stick around. We want them to stick around. That is part of my charge here. It is what I am trying to represent as your Member of Congress, the attraction agenda, the boomerangs, those who maybe took a job or an educational opportunity elsewhere but have come back to invest in our community. We see that all over. We see that in the rich innovation transpiring throughout the district: two-to-one patents in autonomous vehicle technology; 75 percent of the R&D taking place here.

And then we remind ourselves, in the previous Congress, in the 115th Congress, there was a big tax bill that got passed into law. It was so partisan in certain respects. And now, the effects of this tax bill are playing out. Who has benefited and who hasn't? The wealthiest individuals, Americans, have seen their wealth increase by over $1 trillion. Our middle class is still paying. They are not seeing the growth that they have expected to see.

Many large, multinational corporations are paying nothing in taxes, while we all pay, and, yet, our deficit has ballooned yet again. In this case, it ballooned astronomically, Mr. Speaker. It ballooned by $1.5 trillion as projected from this tax scam.

When are we going to start investing in the middle class? That is what we are up to here. That is what the second part of this session of Congress is about, the infrastructure guarantee. When we say, guess what? Every single American has got the right to clean and safe drinking water, to fresh air to breathe, to safe and maintained roadways and bridges so we can continue to create jobs.

This is why I created the Congressional Plastic Solutions Task Force in partnership with our Congressional Recycling Caucus. We have a plastics problem globally and in this country. Why? Because of a fallacious trade war, tariff war, that has been started.

China stopped taking our recycled goods. They stopped taking our plastics. So you talk to your municipalities, and who is paying? They are. Who is paying? You are; our taxpayers, yet again; our communities, yet again. If you didn't know that, your municipality of residence pays to do the recycling.

Now, let's think about this really clearly, because I believe we have the greatest opportunity to create and awaken an incredible supply chain in recycling technology in this country.

As the chair of the Research and Technology Subcommittee of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I had a hearing about this. It was absolutely brilliant: industry, research, academia, and my municipality—Paul Sincock, the Plymouth City manager—all saying the same thing: Give us standards. Mark the goods. Tell us what to do with them. And then let's think about how we can invest, and pilot, and inspire; more so, get strategic about how we actually want to do recycling in this country to create jobs.

Because if we think about the sorting and the materials and what goes into it, the onus is on all of us. It is on us as a Federal Government and as a partner with local government, State government, and individual consumers, and the companies who want to see the reuse of these materials.

So we are quite enthusiastic about these opportunities, but it begins with investing in R&D, research and development. And this is what kind of gets my goat with the tax bill that was passed before I got here. Because according to the International Monetary Fund, only one-fifth of the tax gains to businesses were directed toward capital and R&D expenditures, so we are not seeing that investment going to the new technologies that will create the new jobs, that will employ more people.

We know it is exciting. We know it is there. We know if we gave every municipality in this country the opportunity to recycle to their full potential, to reduce, reuse, reuse those materials, we would not only gain back those materials that we have sourced, but we would have new jobs as a result of that.

Mr. Speaker, as we talk about the jobs and as we look at the skills that our employers are looking for, that we are training for in this year 2020, in this new decade, some reference that we are in this fourth industrial revolution of which I am a champion.

This is where I came out of before I was in this body. I was working in the industrial Internet of Things space, collaborating with nonprofits and universities and community colleges and local school districts, like my good friends in Novi Community School District.

We had a lot of fun and we are identifying those skills. We have identified them. We codified the job roles: technology and computer skills; digital skills; an understanding of the ones and zeros; programming skills for robots and automation.

□ 1915

These are things that have great meaning to those of us in Michigan's 11th District because I am home to the company that has the largest robot, with FANUC in the world in Rochester Hills/Auburn Hills.

It is really quite exciting, working with tools and different techniques, different technical skills and critical thinking.

These are things that don't know partisan lines, by the way. These are things that make you stand up and say: I am going to be a champion for this, addressing the root pain that is seeping into our economy.

These are realities. Last year, Michigan lost 6,200 factory jobs, yet we are creating and innovating at exponential rates. We decided to go it alone with tariffs, and we are paying the price. We are being squeezed.

I believe we can all work together to solve this. I am not being a naysayer because we all know we need to hold China accountable. This is something that has been a project of mine throughout my career, which is how to take on the bad actors with the illegal dumping, the currency manipulation, the stealing of our patents, and the unfair playing field that affects our workforce.

We still know that we value American work and that we value the craftsmanship and what goes into making a regional economy like mine hum in really exciting and exponential ways. We understand that, and we recognize that we can come together in meaningful ways.

We also continue to call on the Senate to pass the bills that we have sent forward, the many bipartisan bills, the very bipartisan Butch Lewis Act, to protect the pensions of our hardworking Americans, those who did everything right and are still waiting.

I have not forgotten in 2020 that we are still working to get that deal done. We are still working to increase the wage. This is something in Michigan that we voted on, to increase the minimum wage, to raise the wage. One job should be enough. Your valued work should be enough.

We are not seeking to overregulate and get rid of good deals, but what we are looking to do, Mr. Speaker, is to stand up for individual, hardworking Americans, those who are counting on us. It is incumbent upon us.

We sit in this body of 435 individuals. They increased that number the last time in 1913. Many, many years later, the population has grown.

History is important, my friends. I encourage you to read your history. I encourage you to learn the facts and figures of our past and embrace how that has changed our future. We are in some trying times.

We closed out 2019 in this session of Congress with some things that I was very proud of. I got my first bill signed into law, the Building Blocks of STEM Act—bipartisan and bicameral—signed by the President on December 24, I believe it was, a bill that will support investments in early childhood education. I want all of my Michiganders lining up for this. It is the National Science Foundation. We get a lot of NSF dollars, millions, in Michigan.

The investment in early childhood education, Mr. Speaker, is priceless. That continuity for those jobs in the future is how we get in front of the skills gap. That is how we start addressing some of the rumblings in our regional economy.

We also, though, recognize that the headlines that we have embraced in this new year and in this new session of Congress have many Americans concerned. Many individuals are asking: What is going to happen? What is taking place in the Middle East? What does this mean for my family?

Constituents say to me: ''I have teenage sons. Are they going to be drafted?'' We take that responsibility that the Congress is charged with very seriously.

Mr. Speaker, I look to this, which is that President Barack Obama gave us the words that change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. He said: ''We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change we seek.''

That is what our House majority is about. That is what our For the People agenda is representing. That is what we are taking up this week when we say no to war, Mr. Speaker.

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

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 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2040

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER) at 8 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 83, IRAN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. MORELLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116–371) on the resolution (H. Res. 781) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces to engage in hostilities in or against Iran, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEWIS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for January 7 and today.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, January 9, 2020, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2019, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, KRISTINA JETER, EXPENDED BETWEEN NOV. 19 AND NOV. 22, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Kristina Jeter	11/20	11/21	Luxembourg		542.69		n/a				542.69
	11/21	11/22	Belgium		369.10		2,984.93		n/a		3,354.03
Committee total					911.79		2,984.93		0		3,896.72

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

KRISTINA JETER, Dec. 20, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO SPAIN, EXPENDED BETWEEN NOV. 30 AND DEC. 3, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Hon. Frank Pallone	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Hon. Raul Grijalva	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Hon. Kathy Castor	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Hon. Betty McCollum	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Hon. Suzanne Bonamici	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Hon. Julia Brownley	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Hon. Jared Huffman	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Hon. Scott Peters	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Hon. Debbie Dingell	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Hon. Mike Levin	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Hon. Sean Casten	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Hon. Joe Neguse	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
RADM Brian Monahan	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Ms. Wyndee Parker	11/30	12/3	Spain		1,219.62		533.20/(3)				1,752.82
Ms. Kate Knudson Wolters	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Mr. Drew Hammill	11/30	12/3	Spain		1,219.62		533.20/(3)				1,752.82
Mr. Kenneth DeGraff	12/1	12/4	Spain		1,219.62		(3)/706.05				1,925.67
Ms. Emily Berret	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Mr. Julio Obscura	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Ms. Ana Unruh Cohen	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Mr. Richard Obermann	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Mr. Rick Kessler	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Ms. Lora Snyder	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		686.05/(3)				1,499.13
Ms. Alison Cassady	12/1	12/4	Spain		1,219.62		1,355.05				2,574.67
Mr. Paul Irving	12/1	12/3	Spain		813.08		(3)				813.08
Committee total					23,579.32		3,813.55				27,392.87

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. NANCY PELOSI, Dec. 20, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ZOE LOFGREN, Dec. 17, 2019.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 5146, Unlocking Opportunities for Small Businesses Act of 2019, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3423. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a report titled ''Current Challenges in Recruiting and Retaining Mental Health Professionals'', pursuant to Senate Report 115-290, page 211; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3424. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a Periodic Report on the National Emergency Caused by the Lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979 for February 26, 2019 — August 25, 2019, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627) and 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3425. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 19-067, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3426. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer, Department of Defense, Armed Forces Retirement Home, transmitting the Performance and Accountability Report and Senior Medial Advisor Report for fiscal year 2019, pursuant to 24 U.S.C. 411(h); Public Law 101-510, Sec. 1511 (as added by Public Law 107-107, Sec. 1403); (115 Stat. 1259); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3427. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 23-189, ''Medical Marijuana Plant Count Elimination Temporary Amendment Act of 2019'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3428. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 23-184, ''Alcoholic Beverage Enforcement Amendment Act of 2019'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3429. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 23-185, ''Alcoholic Beverage Control Board License Categories, Endorsements, and Hourly and Percentage Rate Amendment Act of 2019'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3430. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 23-186, ''Alcoholic Beverage Procedural and Technical Amendment Act of 2019'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3431. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 23-187, ''Charter School Property Tax Clarification Amendment Act of 2019'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3432. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 23-188, ''Manufacturer and Pub Permit Parity Amendment Act of 2019'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3433. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Office of Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy, designation of acting officer, and change in previously submitted reported information, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3434. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period October 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a (H. Doc. No. 116—93); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

3435. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River System Reservoirs for 2020, pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Project Act of September 30, 1968; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3436. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting a compilation and summary of reports received from chief district judges detailing each public event conducted in accordance with the law's requirements during the previous fiscal year, pursuant to Public Law 115-237, Sec. 4(b)(1); (132 Stat. 2449); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3437. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Training, Qualification, and Oversight for Safety-Related Railroad Employees [Docket No.: FRA-2019-0095, Notice No.: 2] (RIN: 2130-AC86) received December 30, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3438. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Grove City, PA [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0590; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AEA-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3439. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Pittsfield, MA [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0563; Airspace Docket No.: 19-ANE-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3440. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace, St. Simons, GA, and Brunswick, GA; Revocation of Class E Airspace, Brunswick, GA; and, Amendment of Class E Airspace, Brunswick, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0591; Airspace Docket No.: 19-ASO-15] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3441. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation and Amendment of the Class E Airspace; Lafayette, LA [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0613; Airspace Docket No.: 19-ASW-9] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3442. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31287; Amdt. No.: 3883] received January 2, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3443. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31288; Amdt. No.: 3884] received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3444. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0992; Product Identifier 2019-NM-197-AD; Amendment 39-21016; AD 2019-25-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3445. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0813; Product Identifier 2019-SW-006-AD; Amendment 39-19787; AD 2019-22-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3446. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0704; Product Identifier 2019-NM-132-AD; Amendment 39-19813; AD 2019-24-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3447. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0698; Product Identifier 2019-NM-109-AD; Amendment 39-19814; AD 2019-24-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3448. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0406; Product Identifier 2019-NM-059-AD; Amendment 39-21006; AD 2019-24-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3449. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0326; Product Identifier 2018-NM-166-AD; Amendment 39-19808; AD 2019-23-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3450. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0604; Product Identifier 2019-NM-072-AD; Amendment 39-19812; AD 2019-23-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3451. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0960; Product Identifier 2019-CE-049-AD; Amendment 39-19805; AD 2019-23-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3452. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0980; Product Identifier 2019-NM-180-AD; Amendment 39-21004; AD 2019-24-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3453. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0487; Product Identifier 2019-NM-044-AD; Amendment 39-19810; AD 2019-23-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3454. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; the Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0252; Product Identifier 2019-NM-048-AD; Amendment 39-21007; AD 2019-24-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 2, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 2932. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, and for other purposes (Rept. 116–370, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCGOVERN: House Resolution 781. Resolution providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces to engage in hostilities in or against Iran (Rept. 116–371). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2932 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Omitted from the Record of January 7, 2020]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Foreign Affairs discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4500 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CASE, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 5552. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to affirm that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act's prohibition on the unauthorized take or killing of migratory birds includes incidental take by commercial activities, and to direct the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to regulate such incidental take, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 5553. A bill to prohibit transportation by rail of crude oil with a Ried vapor pressure of more than 9.5 pounds per square inch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 5554. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to ensure that vehicles in Federal fleets comply with certain low greenhouse gas emission standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 5555. A bill to make certain improvements in the provision of medical care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 5556. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct an analysis of the need for women-specific programs that treat and rehabilitate women veterans with drug and alcohol dependency and to carry out a pilot program regarding such programs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BUCK (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GIANFORTE, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia):

H.R. 5557. A bill to codify a final rule of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to endangered and threatened species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 5558. A bill to promote American leadership in vehicle manufacturing, job creation, improved air quality, and climate protection through domestic manufacturing of low- and zero-emission vehicles and development of electric vehicle charging networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 5559. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the January 8th National Memorial in Tucson, Arizona, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. CARSON of Indiana):

H.R. 5560. A bill to amend chapter 77 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify certain due process rights of Federal employees serving in sensitive positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 5561. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to require one-stop delivery systems under such Act to offer services through internet websites and to direct the Secretary of Labor to develop standards and best practices for such websites, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. WRIGHT, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. BRADY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. FLORES, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. ROY, Mr. OLSON, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. VELA, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 5562. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4650 East Rosedale Street in Fort Worth, Texas, as the ''Dionne Phillips Bagsby Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. BERA, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. OMAR, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COX of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SIRES, Ms. WILD, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. KEATING, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. CROW, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SOTO, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. COOPER, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KILMER, Mr. WELCH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. TRONE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. RYAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. KIND, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Ms. PORTER, Mr. CASE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. CORREA, Mr. NEAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. MENG, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. STANTON, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. LOWEY, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H. Con. Res. 83. Concurrent resolution directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces to engage in hostilities in or against Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MEADOWS (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. CLINE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WALKER, Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. YOHO, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SPANO, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. RIGGLEMAN):

H. Res. 780. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that upon adoption by the House the Speaker of the House is required to transmit without delay articles of impeachment to the Senate and must do so immediately; to the Committee on Ethics, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

152. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of New Jersey, relative to Senate Resolution No. 163, urging the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation establishing a safe daily level of cannabidiol consumption; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

153. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Resolution No. 244, urging the President and Congress of the United States to enact a law prohibiting an airline from

counting breast milk or breast pumps against the airline's carry-on limit or restricting passengers from carrying breast milk onto the aircraft; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

154. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, relative to Amended House Concurrent Resolution No. 10, urging the federal government to designate certain drug cartels operating as foreign terrorist organizations; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and 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. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 5552.

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

Article IV, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution

''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 Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 5553.

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

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

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 5554.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 5555.

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

Article I Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 5556.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 5557.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 5558.

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

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 5559.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5560.

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. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 5561.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 5562.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7 : The Congress shall have Power ''To establish Post Offices and post Roads''

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 19: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 303: Mr. HAGEDORN.
H.R. 490: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 587: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 589: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 616: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.
H.R. 628: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 651: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 662: Ms. FINKENAUER.
H.R. 707: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 816: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 838: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida and Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 874: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 877: Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 906: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
H.R. 1011: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 1133: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 1156: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 1171: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. LAMB.
H.R. 1179: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
H.R. 1195: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 1196: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 1230: Mr. POCAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 1266: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. BROWN of Maryland.
H.R. 1321: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 1329: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 1355: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 1400: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1434: Mr. JORDAN and Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 1444: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 1754: Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KELLER, and Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 1857: Mrs. LAWRENCE.
H.R. 1864: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 1873: Mr. LATTA and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 1886: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 1903: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 1923: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 1948: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.
H.R. 1975: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 1978: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 2070: Mr. STEIL.
H.R. 2071: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
H.R. 2074: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 2167: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2178: Mr. ALLRED, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mrs. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 2182: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2208: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 2354: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 2435: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2441: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 2456: Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CLAY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SCHIFF, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 2468: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 2482: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2529: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 2571: Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 2616: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2637: Ms. NORTON and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 2651: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 2662: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2693: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 2694: Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. BERA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 2708: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 2775: Mrs. DEMINGS and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 2825: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 2829: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 2850: Mr. NADLER, Mr. CORREA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. DEAN, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 2868: Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 2895: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 2931: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 2977: Mr. HOYER and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2986: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3061: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 3079: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 3114: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 3121: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 3165: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 3235: Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH.
H.R. 3241: Mr. CRIST.
H.R. 3250: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 3312: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 3414: Mr. BRINDISI.
H.R. 3446: Ms. LOFGREN, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3524: Ms. PRESSLEY.
H.R. 3536: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 3582: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 3593: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 3636: Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 3708: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 3735: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 3762: Mr. SIRES, Mr. COURTNEY, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 3799: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 3879: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 3884: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 3957: Mr. MCEACHIN.
H.R. 3971: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 3979: Mr. ROY and Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 4022: Mr. BROWN of Maryland.
H.R. 4092: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 4101: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 4153: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
H.R. 4194: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 4220: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 4228: Mr. LEWIS and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4230: Ms. WEXTON.
H.R. 4321: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4346: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 4393: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 4426: Mr. CRIST.
H.R. 4564: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 4589: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 4681: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 4705: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. SPANO.
H.R. 4723: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 4768: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4801: Ms. NORTON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. TRONE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 4820: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 4890: Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 4894: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 4945: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4964: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 4978: Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 5151: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 5191: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. TRONE, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. YOUNG.
H.R. 5199: Ms. GABBARD and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 5200: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 5231: Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 5234: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 5243: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 5244: Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 5255: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 5297: Mr. COLE, Mr. BOST, and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.R. 5298: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 5311: Ms. HAALAND.
H.R. 5350: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5383: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KHANNA, and Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 5394: Mr. WALKER.
H.R. 5396: Mr. MULLIN and Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 5424: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 5434: Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 5447: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 5450: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 5453: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 5483: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 5517: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5543: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. PORTER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. COOPER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. HOYER, and Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
H.J. Res. 48: Ms. ESHOO.
H.J. Res. 66: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BEYER, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. COHEN.
H.J. Res. 76: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. CRIST, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GOMEZ, and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H. Res. 374: Mr. WALBERG.
H. Res. 452: Mrs. LAWRENCE and Mr. SARBANES.
H. Res. 694: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VARGAS, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H. Res. 714: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H. Res. 745: Mr. COHEN and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 or rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative ROB WOODALL (GA–7), or a designee, to H.R. 535, the ''PFAS Action Act of 2019,'' does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in Clause 9 of Rule XXI.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

75. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, TX, relative to requesting that Congress propose, pursuant to Article V, a constitutional amendment establishing English as the official language of the United States in which all Federal Government business is to be conducted; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

76. Also, a petition of Council of the District of Columbia, relative to Resolution 23-278, calling upon Congress to enact legislation granting security and permanent legal status to residents living under the Temporary Protected Status program and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, including parents of United States citizens and recipients of these programs, to expand family-based legal immigration and to ensure the prevention of separation of families as a result of immigration status; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

77. Also, a petition of the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, FL, relative to Resolution No. 2019-689, urging the United States Congress to enact the Holocaust Insurance Accountability Act of 2019; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary.

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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, the giver of grace, in these turbulent and tempestuous times when we do not know what a day may bring, You continue to be sovereign. Morning after morning, we continue to receive Your new mercies.

Lord, sustain our lawmakers with Your unfailing love that is as high as the heavens. May our Senators know that, in everything, You continue to work for the good of those who love You and who are called according to Your purpose for them. Pour out upon our legislators the riches of Your mercy so that they may stay steadfast in faith.

Eternal God, hear us as we pray. We need stronger hearts, greater faith, and clearer perception.

We pray in Your mighty 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. CRAMER). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FEDERALIST 62

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, there is a story that we often hear about in high school and government classes where George Washington is said to have told Jefferson that the Senate was created to ''cool'' House legislation as a saucer is used to cool hot tea.

Whether that is historically accurate or not, it is a good summation of the role of the U.S. Senate. Now I am going to quote from Federalist 62 what Madison said. He could have made this quote a little easier to understand, but here it is anyway: ''The necessity of a senate is not less indicated by the propensity of all single and numerous assemblies to yield to the impulse of sudden and violent passions, and to be seduced by factious leaders into intemperate and pernicious resolutions.''

That is the end of Madison's quote, Federalist 62.

Now, considering Madison's admonition, it should be no surprise to anyone whatsoever that the Senate passes fewer bills than the House and always has. But how come those who parrot the partisan talking points that the Senate is a legislative graveyard don't also talk about the over 200 Senate bills on Speaker PELOSI's desk?

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

IRAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I had planned to discuss the corrosive political games that the Speaker of the House continues to play with the solemn issue of Presidential impeachment, but the deadly serious events of yesterday evening threw those political squabbles into the starkest possible relief.

I was troubled but not surprised by reports that Iran fired ballistic missiles at U.S. forces in Iraq last night. As I have warned, the threat posed by Iraq has been growing for years, and this threat will continue even beyond the death of Tehran's master terrorist, Soleimani.

We must remain vigilant in the face of serious threats posed by Tehran. Apparently, these strikes did not kill or wound Americans, but they demonstrate the significant progress Iran has made over the last decade in building a large, long-range, and accurate ballistic missile force. Many of us have long cited the absence of any constraint on Iran's sophisticated missile program as one of the primary shortcomings of the Obama Iran deal, and this strike stands as a reminder to the world of this growing threat.

We rightly talk a lot in this Chamber about American interests, but last night was another stark reminder that Iran and its proxies have been a cancer on Iraq's sovereignty and Iraq's politics for some time.

Tehran has long shown disregard for Iraqi lives. Just in the last few weeks, its militia proxies have slaughtered innocent Iraqi protesters, and it has launched ballistic missiles at its territory. The millions of Iraqis who have been taking to the streets for months to protest have understood this perfectly well.

I spoke to the President last night. I am grateful for his patience and prudence as he and his Cabinet deliberate on how to respond appropriately to the latest Iranian provocation. As a superpower, we have the capacity to exercise restraint and to respond at a time and place of our choosing, if need be. I believe the President wants to avoid conflict or needless loss of life but is rightly prepared to protect American lives and interests. I hope Iran's leaders do not miscalculate by questioning our collective will and launching further attacks. For our part, I certainly hope our own congressional deliberations do not give Tehran a reason to question our national will.

Top officials will provide a classified briefing to Senators today. As I have

said before, I hope all Senators will wait for the facts before they pass judgment on the recent strike on Soleimani. Patience, caution, and restraint can sometimes be in short supply around here, but when matters of national security are at hand, it is imperative that we seek out the facts, restrain our partisan urges, and concentrate on protecting our country.

For this reason, it has troubled me that Speaker PELOSI responded to the earliest reports yesterday by leaping to blame ''needless provocations'' by our administration. In other words, she was blaming the United States.

So let's be clear. We can and should debate how to responsibly respond to Iranian threats, but the notion that our administration is to blame for Iranian aggression—that is nonsense. Utter nonsense.

For 40 years since the founding of the Islamic Republic, Iran has consistently pursued aggression against the United States, against Israel, and against its Arab neighbors. The question before us is not who is to blame for the aggression. It is how best to deter and defend against it.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I do need to say a few words about the other serious matter occupying the Congress.

Late last year, Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats sped through a slapdash impeachment of President Trump in 12 weeks because they insisted the need to undo the 2016 election was urgent—urgent, they said.

Since then, the same people have spent 3 weeks dragging their heels and refusing to proceed to a Senate trial. Supposedly, the explanation for this shameless game playing is that Speaker PELOSI wanted leverage—leverage—to reach into the Senate and dictate our trial proceedings to us.

I have made clear from the beginning that no such leverage exists. It is nonexistent. Yesterday, we made it clear it will never exist. A majority of the Senate has decided that the first phase of an impeachment trial should track closely with the unanimous bipartisan precedent that all 100 Senators supported for the first phase of the Clinton trial back in 1999. There will be no haggling with the House over Senate procedure. We will not cede our authority to try this impeachment. The House Democrats' turn is over. The Senate has made its decision.

The 1999 precedent does not guarantee witnesses or foreclose witnesses. Let me say that again. It neither guarantees witnesses nor forecloses witnesses. It leaves those determinations until later in the trial, where they belong. I fully expect the parties will raise questions of witnesses at the appropriate time.

I would remind my friends on the other side that I strongly suspect that not all of the potential witnesses would be people the Democrats are eager to hear from. The Senate will address all of these questions at the appropriate time, and that is for the Senate and the Senate only to decide, period.

Now even fellow Democrats are expressing public concern over the Speaker's endless appetite for these cynical games. Here is what the senior Senator from Connecticut told the press yesterday. He said: ''I think the time has passed. She should send the articles over.'' And the senior Senator from West Virginia said: ''I think it needs to start; I really do.'' And the junior Senator from Maine said: ''I think it is time for the Speaker to send the articles over.''

My Democratic friends are losing patience, just as the American people are losing patience. The country knows this absurdity should not go on. So what do the American people say?

A recent Harvard-Harris poll found that 58 percent of Americans believe Speaker PELOSI should send the articles to the Senate, not continue holding them up. Let me say that again. This is a Harvard poll. It found that 58 percent of Americans believe Speaker PELOSI should send the articles to the Senate, not continue holding them up. In the same survey, 77 percent believe Democrats need to accept the same structure as the Clinton trial rather than hold out for special new rules. So we are beginning to hear from the American people how they view this standoff.

We all know that Senators have a diversity of opinions about President Trump, about the House inquiry, and about the optimal structure for a trial. But notwithstanding all of this, no Senator—no Senator—should want the House of Representatives to steamroll institutional norms and dictate our business to us.

Haven't enough toxic new precedents been set in recent months? Hasn't the House broken enough constitutional china already?

This is not about the current Speaker and the current President. Do my colleagues believe this is what a future Democratic President would deserve? Do they believe it is good for the country?

There is a reason the Constitution reads the way it does. The House has the sole power of impeachment. They have exercised it. It is the Senate to whom the Founders gave the sole power to try all impeachments, end of story.

Yet, even as her fellow Democrats are jumping ship, the Speaker is trying to double down. Yesterday evening, in the midst of these deadly serious events, Speaker PELOSI put out yet another statement saying that she has no intention to end her political game playing. At the very same time that a global crisis was unfolding in realtime, she published yet another ''Dear Colleague'' letter saying that she intends to keep our Commander in Chief in this limbo indefinitely.

I am glad Democratic Senators are losing patience with this. I would urge my friend the Democratic leader to listen to his own Members. My distinguished colleague from New York, as the minority leader in the U.S. Senate, is a senior Member of an independent branch of our bicameral legislature.

The Senate is not a creature of the House. The Democratic leader does not need to continue to be in thrall to the Speaker. He does not need to keep colluding with outside efforts to supplant the judgment of his own colleagues. Stand up for the Senate. Stand up for our institutions. Stand up for the country.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew H. Solomson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, the Department of Defense confirmed reports that Iran launched missiles at a number of our installations in Iraq that housed U.S. and coalition forces. As details continue to emerge, it appears that there have been no casualties. We commend the professionalism and bravery of our servicemembers and other personnel in harm's way.

While we are thankful that there were no casualties and we are thankful for the safety of American forces and personnel in the region, I condemn the attack by the Iranian Government and remain concerned about the risk of further escalation of hostilities in the Middle East. Now, more than ever, the

United States must be clear-headed and sure-footed about what comes next. The American people do not want a war with Iran, and the President does not have the authority to wage one.

Yesterday, we learned that the President had ordered the deployment of at least as many as 4,500 soldiers to the region—potentially more. Beyond Iraq, the U.S. military now has more than 70,000 troops in the Middle East, from Kuwait to Qatar, to Afghanistan, to the UAE, to Saudi Arabia, to Jordan, Oman, and Bahrain.

The President has promised to get the United States out of these forever wars in the Middle East, but the arrow is headed in the wrong direction.

Mr. President, how many more is it going to be? How long will they remain abroad? What is their objective? How will we assure their safety? Will more be deployed in the weeks and months ahead?

These are urgent questions. The administration must answer them. But so far, there has been a profound lack of information provided to Congress from the Department of Defense concerning what the Department is doing in response to Iran.

So I join Senators REED and DURBIN in requesting regular briefings and documents from the administration detailing the number of troops the President has deployed and plans to deploy in support of contingency plans with respect to Iran. We need to know if the administration is committing additional troops to the region and for how long.

Our letter urges the administration to clarify to the American people and our military that international law prohibits the deliberate targeting of cultural sites and that such an order would be unlawful and should not be followed.

The American people, rightfully, have serious concerns about a war with Iran and whether we are safer today because of this President's foreign policy, which is so often impulsive and erratic. I am afraid these impulsive and erratic actions throughout the world are making us less safe.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. President, now, on impeachment, yesterday, Leader MCCONNELL announced that he has the votes to pass a partisan resolution to set the rules for the impeachment trial of President Trump. It was another unfortunate confirmation that Leader MCCONNELL has no intention of working with the minority to establish rules of a fair and honest trial that examines the evidence, hears from witnesses, and receives the relevant documents.

I have asked Leader MCCONNELL repeatedly to sit down and negotiate a plan where we would have witnesses and documents, and he has refused. Instead, Leader MCCONNELL, by his own admission, took his cues from the White House when it came to setting the parameters of a trial. Rather than engaging in any serious negotiation with the Senate minority, he only spent time trying to convince his caucus that we should punt the questions of witnesses and documents to a later date.

I have explained why this proposal makes very little sense from the perspective of having a fair trial. The evidence should inform arguments in a trial. Evidence should not be an afterthought. Why would it make sense for both sides to present their entire case and then decide whether the Senate should request the evidence that we already know is out there?

It is extremely telling that Leader MCCONNELL and Senate Republicans are not willing to take a forthright position on whether we should call witnesses and request documents. They can only say that the issue should be addressed later. Their only refuge—not much of one—is to kick the can down the road. No one—no one—has advanced an argument as to why the four eyewitnesses we have proposed should not testify. No one has advanced an argument as to why the three specific sets of documents related to the charges against the President should not be provided. Republicans can only get behind kicking the can down the road because they know we have the full weight of the argument on our side. There is virtually no argument why we shouldn't have witnesses and why we shouldn't have documents.

I want to make one thing very clear: There will be votes—repeated votes—on the question of witnesses and documents at the trial. The initial votes will not be the last votes on the matter. Republicans can delay it, but they cannot avoid it. And when those votes come up, Senate Republicans—not Leader MCCONNELL, who has already cast his lot completely with the defendant, the President—will have two crucial things to worry about.

First, if the Senate runs a sham trial without witnesses, without documents, and without all of facts, then the President's acquittal at the end of the trial will be meaningless. A trial without all the facts is a farce. The verdicts of kangaroo courts are empty.

Leader MCCONNELL is fond of claiming that the House ran the ''most rushed, least thorough, and most unfair impeachment inquiry in modern history.'' I know that is his talking point, but, in truth, Leader MCCONNELL is plotting to run the most rushed, least thorough, and most unfair impeachment trial in modern history. If the Senate rushes through the President's impeachment, if we actually fail to try the case, as the Constitution demands, then the true acquittal the President craves will be unobtainable.

The American people will see right through a partisan trial and understand that a rush to judgment renders that moot. They will understand that, when you don't want witnesses and documents, you are afraid of the truth and that you are covering something up, and that the likelihood is strong that you did something very wrong. That is common sense. That is what all the polling data shows most Americans believe.

Second, when the Senate has votes on witnesses and documents, my Republican colleagues will have to answer to not just the President. The American people do not want a coverup. Whatever their view of the President, the American people want the Senate to have a fair trial. All the data shows that, with two more polls in the last few days. Every Senator will be under massive public pressure to support a fair trial that examines all the facts.

The American people understand the gravity of the charges against the President. The House has impeached the President for using the powers of his public office to benefit himself. The President was impeached because the House believes he tried to shake down a foreign leader into investigating his political opponent, pressuring a foreign power to interfere in our elections. He was impeached because he undertook an unprecedented campaign of obstruction to prevent Congress from investigating his wrongdoing.

The Articles of Impeachment suggest the President committed a grave injury to our democracy. The conduct they describe is exactly what the Founders most feared when they forged the impeachment powers of Congress.

If the Senate fails to hold a fair hearing of those charges, if one party—the President's party—decides to rush through a trial without hearing all the facts, witnesses, and documents, it will not just be the verdict of history that falls heavy on their shoulders. The American people, in the here and now, will pass a harsh judgment on Senators who participate in a coverup for the President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

IRAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last night Iran fired more than a dozen ballistic missiles at two military bases in Iraq where American troops were based. It was a brazen escalation with dangerous implications for the United States and the world.

We are fortunate. As of today, at this moment, none of our personnel have been reported to have been harmed, but the outrageous act was a clear and unsurprising retaliation to President Trump's killing of Iranian General Soleimani.

Our first order of business must be the safety of our military and civilian personnel in Iraq and the region, and I call on the Trump administration to make that the highest priority. Another immediate requirement is that the Congress step up and play one of the most important and long-neglected constitutional roles that we can envision. Article I, section 8, of the U.S. Constitution is clear in stating that the power to declare war is an explicit authority and power of Congress, as it

should be. One should never send our sons and daughters into conflict without the knowledge and consent of the American people. Our Founding Fathers were wise in making sure that this awesome power did not rest with a King-like leader but with the people's elected representatives. I have made this same argument regardless of whether the occupant of the White House was a Democrat or a Republican.

Some have had the audacity to argue that the 2001 authorization for the use of military force approved by this Congress to respond to the September 11, 2001, attacks or the 2002 AUMF, the war with Iraq, apply to the situation today in Iran. That is clearly wrong.

Let me be clear. I cannot imagine that anyone—anyone—who took either of those votes nearly 20 years ago—and I was here at that time—thought that they were approving a war with Iran two decades later. I certainly didn't.

This Congress should not be a troubling rubberstamp for President Trump's worst instincts by marching into another war in the Middle East. Simply, it is time for Members of this important body to show some courage and do their constitutional jobs. If you want a war with Iran, step up and face your constituents and record your vote accordingly.

The War Powers Resolution I filed last week, with the leadership of Senator TIM KAINE of Virginia, will be a first step regarding Congress's role in any conflict with Iran but not a last step. Ultimately, this President cannot start a war with Iran without the approval, under the Constitution, of Congress, and the Republican leadership should not roll over and play the role of lapdog when it comes to such a serious, life-and-death matter.

Tragically, this escalation with Iran—and the heightened risk to our personnel and security interests—was entirely predictable, except, it appears, to President Trump and Secretary Pompeo. The question was never the simplistic canard over whether killing Soleimani, a genuinely loathsome terrorist actor, was warranted or not, but, clearly, whether taking him off the face of the Earth was in the best interest of the United States.

Would such an act really advance the cause and interest and policies of our country or precipitate another war in the Middle East? The answer is increasingly upon us, and we here must debate this crisis before President Trump drags us even closer to this precipice.

Mr. President, sadly, President Trump's erratic and incoherent policies toward Iran have greatly contributed to the current crisis.

Before taking office, Iran's nuclear weapons program was halted in a historic agreement President Obama negotiated in cooperation with our European allies, China, and Russia.

Iran continued its malign behaviors in the region, but containing them was much easier without the threat of a nuclear bomb.

President Trump petulantly withdrew from the nuclear agreement and tried to starve Iran of benefits it was to receive from that deal.

He pursued an incomprehensible erratic policy of regime change by trying to flatter and meet with Iranian President Rouhani to negotiate a supposedly better deal . . . threating Iran militarily . . . and tightening sanctions.

Those efforts were going nowhere. Iran was lashing out at American interests, we were alienated from our key allies, and Iran inched closer to restarting its nuclear program.

And in just the last week alone, President Trump's impulsive actions managed to reverse the recent Iraqi protest sentiment that wanted Iran to stop meddling in its politics, leading instead to a vote this weekend in the Iraqi parliament to expel all U.S. forces.

Similarly, after months of anti-government protests in Iran, he almost instantaneously united Iranian public opinion in hostility toward the U.S.

Iran now announced it is restarting its nuclear program and our interests around the region are on high alert and are at risk from further Iranian attack for considerable time to come.

Tragically, all President Trump has to show for his foolish, quote, ''maximum pressure'' campaign is an enflamed region, attacks on our personnel, the U.S. military potentially being evicted from Iraq, greater U.S. troop deployments to the Middle East, and an America less safe and on the brink of war.

Most certainly not ''all is well.''

Have we learned nothing from the thousands of lost lives and injuries and trillions of dollars spent on the war in Iraq—a war sold to this country on false pretenses?

Are we going to be led to yet such another fiasco by some of the same voices around President Trump who have yet to account for their failures in their disastrous war in Iraq?

Will my Republican colleagues finally show some backbone to an unchecked, uninformed, and untrusted President about to bumble into another war in the Middle East?

For the sakes of the sons and daughters who would be sent to any war with Iran, I certainly hope so.

I see that my colleague from Illinois is here and has asked for permission to speak on the floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL GEORGE DESOMBRE

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I am here to speak on two matters.

The first is the nomination for Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand of Michael DeSombre. The Kingdom of Thailand has been a longtime U.S. ally and is a key partner for our efforts in the Southeast Asia region, both economically and militarily.

Unfortunately, this nominee has failed to reach out to either me or my colleague and my senior Senator, DICK DURBIN, both of whom are his home-State Senators. He has not reached out to me. So I am asking my colleagues to please vote no on cloture on Michael DeSombre to be our Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand until such time as I am able to have a chance to sit down with him.

IRAN

Mr. President, now I would like to speak on the attacks from Iran.

''All is well.'' That is what Donald Trump said just hours after a dozen missiles were fired at two U.S. military bases last night. That is what he said as thousands of troops are readying to deploy to the Middle East, to a hotbed of anger, where wearing an American flag on your shoulder gets more dangerous by the day. That is what he said as his own Nation careens toward a reckless and unauthorized war of his own making, born out of his illiteracy in matters ranging from foreign policy to common sense.

Donald Trump never deigned to put on the uniform of this great Nation, using his father's money to buy his way out of military service when his country needed him in Vietnam.

Let me make something clear to Donald Trump. All is certainly not well when war is on the horizon, just because you want to look like the toughest kid on the playground. I am incredibly thankful that no Americans were killed last night in Iran's rebuttal attack, but some missed missiles should be no cause for celebration for the President. Just because there weren't fatalities yesterday doesn't mean there will not be any tragedies tomorrow.

We got into this situation because of Trump's glibness, because he liked the feeling of thumping his chest and the roar it got from FOX News, because he was so enamored by maximum pressure that he laughed at the idea of even minimum diplomacy. Now America is less safe as a result. So, no, Mr. President, all is certainly not well.

Sadly, Trump's glibness is shocking but not surprising. Last weekend, he was at his golf course in Florida, while more and more American troops were packing their rucks and getting ready to deploy 7,000 miles east. He was tweeting from Mar-a-Lago while the Iraqi Parliament was voting to expel U.S. servicemembers from their nation. He was rubbing shoulders with fellow millionaires from the comfort of his ritzy country club while the U.S.-led coalition against ISIS was announcing that we no longer have the resources to fight ISIS in Iraq and that, instead, we have to hunker down and focus on protecting our troops from the acts of revenge that Iran has promised are on the way.

A potential global conflict is veering closer by the hour, and it is because of Donald Trump. It is because of his impetuousness and his ignorance. It is because, once again, he has been manipulated by a hostile regime into decisions that further their goals while endangering the security of the Nation

Trump is actually supposed to be leading.

When I deployed to Iraq in 2004, I saw firsthand just how eager the country was to shake off Iran's influence. I watched as the anti-Iran protests continued long after I flew my last mission, as young Iraqis spoke out against Iran while I was back in Baghdad just this past spring, as protests roiled as recently as last month, when tens of thousands of Iraqis flooded the streets, raising voices and picket signs, demanding that their government crawl out from under Tehran's thumb.

Now, after Donald Trump decided to kill Major General Qasem Soleimani on sovereign Baghdad soil, those same streets are now filled with protesters once more. Yet, this time, they are marching in solidarity with the enemy that hundreds of Iraqis died marching against just a few short weeks ago.

With one choice, Donald Trump squandered the opportunity that existed to push against Iranian influence and for greater democracy and stability in the Middle East. In one fell swoop, he somehow managed to villainize the United States and victimize Iran, our enemy, isolating us from a long-term partner in Iraq and amping up Iran's influence in a country that everyone knows is vital to our security interests throughout the Middle East.

Look, Iran didn't want Trump to kill Soleimani, but they were hungry for all that has happened as a result. They were starving to go on the offensive, desperate to change the narrative, to swing public opinion and solidify their power in Iraq, to have a new excuse to attack anyone with an American flag on their shoulder and to shrug off the restraints of the nuclear deal.

Like a pawn in a game of chess he didn't even seem to know he was playing, Trump was baited into handing them all of that. Like a child who is blind to consequences, ignorant of his own ignorance, he has given Iran everything they could have asked for in the end, making it far more likely that tomorrow—or next week or next month—more Americans will be sent into another one of the forever wars he has bragged that he, and he alone, would be able to end.

We used to have the Monroe Doctrine and the Truman doctrine. Now we have the Trump doctrine, in which the leader of the free world, the Commander in Chief of the greatest fighting force ever assembled, gets manipulated again and again by dictators of hostile regimes. We have already seen it too many times since he was sworn into office. We have seen it played out on the streets of Venezuela and the deserts of northeast Syria. We have seen him get manipulated by tyrants in Pyongyang and Riyadh, subjugated by despots in Moscow and Ankara, as our allies laughed—literally laughed—at him behind his back.

All these dictators and hostile regimes know. They have realized the same thing: The President of the United States is as easy to control as a toddler. Sweet-talk him or thump your chest and issue a few schoolyard threats and you have got him. He will fall for it every time, doing your bidding as if it is his own. I wish this weren't true, but my diaper-wearing, 20-month-old daughter has better impulse control than this President. Kids in school cafeterias know not to look up when someone tells them that ''gullible'' is written on the ceiling, but I am pretty sure Donald Trump, a man who once stared directly into a solar eclipse, will be caught stealing a glance, just to be sure.

The thing is, Trump told us who he was long before he stepped into the Oval Office, and too many chose not to believe him. As a so-called businessman, he left a string of bankruptcies wherever he went, destroying both his own companies and the small businesses unlucky enough to be caught in his wake.

Now, though, as Commander in Chief, his incompetence has cost us our standing in the world, endangered our national security, and placed an even bigger target on our deployed troops. Now, the currency that he is spending isn't just the money that his father left him but the blood of the men and women who have sworn an oath to defend this Nation to their deaths.

Sixteen years ago, I was one of the many Americans deployed to Iraq, one of the many who was willing to sacrifice everything, after our Commander in Chief convinced Congress that our Nation's security depended on removing Saddam Hussein and replacing his regime with a democracy. A decade and a half later, we have spent trillions of dollars to achieve that goal. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi citizens have been killed or displaced. Thousands of our bravest have died for that goal. Thousands more have been wounded and maimed.

We did not sacrifice all of that for this President to turn our Iraqi partners into adversaries who vote to kick us out of the very democracy we helped to build.

I have friends who have done 8, 9, 10 tours in Iraq, who go each time knowing they will probably be back on that same stretch of sand in a couple of years, who proudly answer the call and who will continue to answer the call, fighting for that same patch of desert over and over again because they believe—they believe—us when we tell them that will make America safer and more secure. They gain a few feet one tour, lose an inch or two the next, watching their buddies lose limbs or lives over that same piece of ground time and again.

Those troops show up ready to do their jobs whenever we ask, no matter what. We need to honor that. We need to honor their willingness to show up and carry out the mission. Now, especially after the attacks last night, we in Congress can honor them by doing our job. We are the branch vested with that most solemn duty of declaring war, so we need to exert our constitutional control over this out-of-control toddler-in-chief and vote to prevent him from entangling us in another major war without legal authorization from Congress. In this moment, at this precipice, we need to be doing whatever we can to break the cycle of escalation. We need less chest-thumping and more diplomacy.

Don't get me wrong—I am glad this general is dead. He was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of American servicemembers over the last decades. I also want to stop Iranian influence, but this decision by this President has not done that.

If we truly want to honor our heroes in uniform, we wouldn't send them into harm's way without a clear-eyed discussion of the mission we are asking them to carry out and the consequences for both them and our Nation. Then, after we have that discussion, if we still believe war is the right path, I will vote yes. But so far, Trump has not even managed to come to us to give us his reasons for his actions. Having never sacrificed much himself, he doesn't understand our troops' sacrifices. Having never really served anything other than his own self-interests, he doesn't give a second thought to their service, treating their dedication to our Nation with the kind of reckless abandon he did the cash he blew through with each of his bankruptcies.

I don't need to remind anyone that Donald Trump is a five-deferment draft dodger. But his ignorance about military service isn't captured just by the privilege he showed when he dodged service in Vietnam—no, it is also revealed in his brazen embrace of torture, his hostility toward good order and discipline, and his stated desire to commit war crimes.

I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to recognize our Commander in Chief for who he really is. Donald Trump will never willingly cut the puppet strings that the likes of Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un are using to make him dance. We need a strong majority in the Senate to force such an action, to discuss the AUMF. Until then, small-time dictators will continue to have access to the world's most powerful marionette, and we will all suffer the consequences.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, let me say that I, along with I think most Americans, am grateful that in the rocket attacks launched last night by Iran, there were no American casualties. I think I, like most of our colleagues here in the Senate, I hope, will have an opportunity later today to hear from the administration about the state of events there and what the plans are going forward.

We all know it is a dangerous part of the world. It has been that way for decades. The Iranian influence there is a

malign influence that has put at risk and in jeopardy not only American lives but lives of countless people throughout that region.

Mr. Soleimani, who was removed in the last few days, of course, was responsible for hundreds of American deaths. His loss is something that I think people not only in this country but certainly people in that region of the world benefit from because he will no longer be able to conduct and operate and commit terrorist attacks and bring about death to people all over that region of the world.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. President, I would also like to point out, as I think most know, and most of the reporting has reflected this, that Republicans in the Senate—and yesterday Leader MCCONNELL made the statement—are prepared to take up the Articles of Impeachment when they are delivered to us by the House of Representatives. For whatever reason—and it appears that the House Democrats under Speaker PELOSI have determined that it is to their political advantage for some reason to hang on to those articles and to perhaps game this out a little bit. We, of course, don't know what that gains them. But in any event, they have not yet, after now several weeks, decided to proceed and to bring those over here to the Senate.

I would point out that it can't be because there isn't a process in place to deal with those articles when they arrive. Obviously, what Republicans in the Senate have agreed to adopt is the Clinton precedent—in other words, the precedent that was used when President Clinton went through impeachment 21 years ago. At that time, it was good enough for all of the Democrats in the U.S. Senate—by a vote of 100 to 0, a unanimous vote in the U.S. Senate—to proceed to those articles.

All Senate Republicans are simply saying is that is a good precedent. It was good enough for Democrats and Republicans back then, and it ought to be good enough for Republicans and Democrats today.

What that simply provides for is to allow both sides—the managers in the House to come over and make their argument; the President and his team to be able to put up their defense; Senators to have an opportunity to listen to those arguments and then to propound questions, to ask questions through the Chair that could be responded to, and then, at that time, to determine whether additional information, evidence, witnesses, et cetera, could be brought forward. But as a very straightforward process—one, as I said, that met with the approval of all 100 Senators, both Democrats and Republicans, back in 1999—the Clinton precedent seems to me, at least, to be a fair way in which to proceed and one that Senate Republicans have agreed to move forward with.

If and when the House Democrats under Speaker PELOSI determine they are ready to send those articles over here—it seems like maybe they are waiting for something to rescue what I think is an otherwise fairly weak argument they have to make, but when those articles arrive here, we will have a process in place in which to move forward and get this trial underway in the Senate and hopefully hear the arguments and at some point—I hope in the not too distant future—conclude this and get it behind us and move on to the work the American people sent us here to do.

Obviously, there is an election coming up in November. The first votes will start being cast just a few weeks from now in the States of Iowa, New Hampshire, and other States, followed very closely on by Super Tuesday. The election process is already underway, and I think that is the means by which most Americans believe we ought to deal with our leadership. In a democratic system of government, we have the opportunity as people to express our opinions and to voice our views in that manner. I hope that is where we can settle these political differences and disputes we have.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. President, while the House continues to be bogged down and stalled out over impeachment, the Senate is moving forward with the business that I think is important to the daily lives of the American people.

Yesterday, the Senate Finance Committee passed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement out of our committee. I serve as a member of that committee. I was pleased to vote to move this agreement one step closer to final approval by the full Senate.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement will benefit almost every sector of our economy, from manufacturing, to digital services, to the automotive industry. It will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs, boost our economic output, and increase wages for workers.

The agreement breaks new ground by including a chapter specifically focused on small and medium-sized businesses. This is the first time a U.S. trade agreement has ever included a dedicated chapter on this topic. Roughly 120,000 small and medium-sized businesses around our country export goods and services to Mexico and Canada, including a number of businesses in my home State of South Dakota. USMCA will make it easier for these businesses to successfully export their product.

South Dakota businesses and consumers will also benefit from the fact that the agreement maintains the current U.S. de minimis threshold—something I fought hard to protect.

I am also particularly excited about the benefits the USMCA will bring to farmers and ranchers. Farmers and ranchers have had a tough time over the past few years. Low commodity and livestock prices, natural disasters, and protracted trade disputes have left farmers and ranchers in my home State of South Dakota and around the country struggling.

I spend a lot of time at home talking to farmers and ranchers. Again and again, they have emphasized to me that the most important thing Washington can do to boost our Nation's farm economy is to conclude favorable trade deals. That is why I have spent a lot of time this past year pushing for adoption of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement and why I am so pleased that after a long year waiting for the House under Speaker PELOSI to take it up and act on it, we are finally going to have the opportunity to approve that trade deal in the Senate.

Canada and Mexico are the No. 1 and No. 2 markets for American agricultural products. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement will preserve and expand farmers' access to these two critical export markets, and it will give farmers certainty about what these markets will look like long term.

I am particularly excited about the improvements the agreement makes for dairy farmers. If you drive the I–29 corridor north of Brookings, SD, you will see firsthand the major dairy expansion South Dakota has experienced over the past several decades—I should say, over the past several years.

The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement will preserve U.S. dairy farmers' role as a key dairy supplier to Mexico, and it will substantially expand market access in Canada. In fact, the U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that the agreement will boost U.S. dairy exports by more than $277 million. The agreement will also expand market access for U.S. poultry and egg producers. It will make it easier for U.S. producers to export wheat to Canada.

There is so much more in this agreement.

Yesterday's Finance Committee vote was a long time coming for South Dakota farmers and ranchers. Months of delay by House Democrats left agriculture producers wondering if they would ever see the benefits of this agreement. But we have at last been able to move forward, and I look forward to full Senate passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement in the very near future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Matthew H. Solomson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

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 Matthew H. Solomson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 88, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 3 Ex.]

YEAS—88

Baldwin	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Reed
Bennet	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Roberts
Blumenthal	Hassan	Romney
Blunt	Hawley	Rosen
Boozman	Heinrich	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Jones	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	Kennedy	Shelby
Casey	King	Sinema
Cassidy	Lankford	Smith
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Loeffler	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	McConnell	Tillis
Cramer	McSally	Toomey
Crapo	Menendez	Udall
Cruz	Merkley	Van Hollen
Daines	Moran	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wicker
Enzi	Murray	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Feinstein	Peters	

NAYS—7

Gillibrand	Klobuchar	Wyden
Harris	Markey	
Hirono	Schumer	

NOT VOTING—5

Alexander	Perdue	Warren
Booker	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 88, the nays are 7.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant 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 Eleni Maria Roumel, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

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 Eleni Maria Roumel, of Maryland, to be a Judge of United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years, 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) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 4 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Barrasso	Crapo	Inhofe
Blackburn	Cruz	Johnson
Blunt	Daines	Kennedy
Boozman	Enzi	Lankford
Braun	Ernst	Lee
Burr	Fischer	Loeffler
Capito	Gardner	McConnell
Cassidy	Graham	McSally
Collins	Grassley	Moran
Cornyn	Hawley	Murkowski
Cotton	Hoeven	Paul
Cramer	Hyde-Smith	Portman
Risch	Sasse	Thune
Roberts	Scott (FL)	Tillis
Romney	Scott (SC)	Toomey
Rounds	Shelby	Wicker
Rubio	Sullivan	Young

NAYS—44

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Jones	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Udall
Duckworth	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Harris	Peters	

NOT VOTING—5

Alexander	Perdue	Warren
Booker	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michael George DeSombre, of Illinois, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, James M. Inhofe, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, Todd Young, Shelley Moore Capito, Michael B. Enzi, Lisa Murkowski, John Cornyn, Steve Daines, Lindsey Graham, Chuck Grassley, Josh Hawley, Roger F. Wicker, Marsha Blackburn.

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 Michael George DeSombre, of Illinois, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Thailand, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber wishing to vote or to change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 64, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 5 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Baldwin	Graham	Reed
Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Bennet	Hassan	Roberts
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Blunt	Hoeven	Rosen
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Braun	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Johnson	Sasse
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Leahy	Shaheen
Collins	Lee	Shelby
Cornyn	Loeffler	Sullivan
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	McSally	Toomey
Cruz	Menendez	Udall
Daines	Moran	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young
Fischer	Peters	
Gardner	Portman	

NAYS—31

Blumenthal	Harris	Schatz
Brown	Heinrich	Schumer
Cantwell	Hirono	Sinema
Carper	Jones	Smith
Casey	Kaine	Stabenow
Coons	King	Tester
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Wyden
Feinstein	Murphy	
Gillibrand	Murray	

NOT VOTING—5

Alexander	Perdue	Warren
Booker	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 64, the nays are 31.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael George DeSombre, of Illinois, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Thailand.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

IRAN

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday evening, Iran launched more than a dozen ballistic missiles against military bases in Iraq, which house U.S. troops.

After General Qasem Soleimani was killed in a targeted drone strike late last week in an act of self-defense and to deter further aggression against America and our allies, our forces were on high alert for an Iranian attack. President Trump and our military leaders emphasized that we would be prepared for whatever response Iran chose to deliver, and by all accounts we were.

If the present circumstances hold, it appears that no U.S. servicemembers were harmed during this attack last night by Iran, which is the best outcome we could have hoped for. In addition, I am glad no Iraqi troops appear to have been injured or killed in this strike as well.

While the result of this provocation by Iran could have been a lot worse, it does not diminish the fact that the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism has a sophisticated and capable ballistic program. We know that those capabilities only accelerated under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action—the so-called nuclear deal during the previous administration—as has the regime's pursuit of their nuclear aspirations.

I am confident that this administration's maximum-pressure campaign, combined with our unparalleled military capabilities, as well as the President's decisive actions that have culminated in the airstrike last week, have prevented a much worse outcome from this attack by Iran.

Last week, I had the opportunity to visit Strategic Command, STRATCOM, in Omaha, NE, where their motto is ''strategic deterrence.'' I think that is an important goal to keep in mind; that is, having the means and capabilities not only of hitting back but a message of deterrence to our adversaries to dissuade them from initiating hostilities in the first place.

President Ronald Reagan had his own notion of strategic deterrence. He called it ''peace through strength.'' I believe that is something the President's actions last week have begun to restore, no less a luminary than former GEN David Petraeus, who said, after the Soleimani attack, that perhaps—just perhaps—this would reestablish deterrence. Indeed, based on the response by the Iranian regime last night, where they obviously targeted uninhabited areas, and they wanted to save face by showing that they were doing something to retaliate but not wanting to escalate, I think General Petraeus is right on. What has happened, to this point, is reestablishing some level of deterrence.

I applaud the President for speaking to the American people this morning and making it clear that, under his watch, Iran will never ever have a nuclear weapon. In my view, this is the single most important policy objective for the United States and our allies in the Middle East.

Deterrence through strength, combined with additional economic sanctions, are designed to encourage and persuade the Iranian regime to rejoin the community of nations, which will help pave the way for a better way of life for the Iranian people and to give up these tools of terror which have characterized the Iranian regime since 1979, since the revolution—exporting that terror to other countries. There was no one more responsible for doing that than General Soleimani, who was taken out in an airstrike last week.

As we move forward, the United States and our allies can't turn back. We can't relieve this maximum-pressure campaign, and we also must remain cognizant of the dangers of creating power vacuums in the Middle East.

I also hope our allies in Germany, France, and the United Kingdom will work with us to persuade the U.N. to invoke the snapback provisions under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action to restore international sanctions and restrictions on the Iranian regime to further persuade them to join us in negotiations, which will lead to a better outcome for all. It will be helpful if our friends and allies in the UK, France, and Germany will join us in that effort.

While the United States has not purposely sought out further conflict that could lead to an unnecessary loss of life, we need to defend—we must always defend American personnel and our interests in the Middle East.

As the President has pointed out this morning, one of the things that, historically, has given Presidents like Jimmy Carter the determination to declare the blocking of the Strait of Hormuz as an act of war during his administration was our overdependence on energy from the Middle East. As the President pointed out this morning, thanks to the creativity and innovation in places like Oklahoma, Texas, North Dakota, and elsewhere, we are now largely energy independent and self-sufficient. We can now use this as a tool to engage other countries that are completely dependent on countries like Russia, Iran, and others in the Middle East for their energy needs. So this is changing the geopolitics of the world. This is not just the President taking a divisive action against the leading master of terrorism in the Middle East; the geopolitics of the world have shifted, and I hope we will all work together to take advantage of that.

As I said, I appreciate the President's courage and leadership. This must have been no easy decision, to be sure. I continue to be proud of our military leadership and the rank-and-file servicemembers who have worked so hard to protect the United States and our national interests in the Middle East and around the world.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. President, on another matter, I spoke last week on the Senate floor about some of the great things that have been accomplished this last year for our country, including my home State of Texas.

I pointed out that we notched a number of wins for the American military as well as our veterans. We sent much needed assistance to communities devastated by natural disasters, like Hurricane Harvey and others. We confirmed more qualified judges to the Federal bench. We invested heavily in securing America's elections from the sort of interference we saw occur in the last Presidential election, and I am proud to say we strengthened our fight to end the rape kit backlog.

We made strides, big and small, to improve the lives of the American people, and I am eager to add more wins to that list this year.

Unfortunately, Congress is starting this year in a rather inauspicious way, not designed to regain the confidence of the American people and our ability to do what benefits them as opposed to satisfying some partisan political interest.

High on that list of pretty embarrassing developments are the Articles of Impeachment that the House passed. Three weeks after the House said this urgent matter must be pushed through to protect the country and defend the Constitution, Speaker PELOSI is still refusing to send those Articles of Impeachment to the Senate, and we are waiting. Now, I would be happy if she never sent the Articles of Impeachment here and realizes the error of the House's ways, but I don't expect that to happen.

In the meantime, we are going to continue to confirm well-qualified nominees, as we are today, and hopefully we will be able to do work on the USMCA—the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement—which, as the Presiding Officer knows, we voted out of the Senate Finance Committee yesterday but which has to clear six other committees before it is ready for floor action. Hopefully, we will be able to get that done sooner rather than later.

With an impending impeachment trial consuming most of the oxygen here in Washington, there is not a lot of opportunity, let alone political will, to get actual legislating done.

There is a laundry list of bills we could add to our accomplishments in 2020, but there is an opportunity cost when we are squandering our time on this ill-considered impeachment mania. The time and effort we are spending on that could well be used to pass these other pieces of legislation, but these pieces of legislation wait in impeachment purgatory.

At the top of my list this year is legislation to bring down healthcare costs to the American people, particularly out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs—something I thought was a high priority for Members on both sides of the aisle as well as the White House.

Over the summer, the Senate Judiciary, Finance, and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committees passed bipartisan bills which deal with everything from high prescription drug prices to surprise medical billing. While we knew there was still additional work that needed to be done, everyone was somewhat optimistic that we could pass some combination of these bills by the end of last year. Unfortunately, that didn't happen.

Negotiations are continuing, but I had hoped we could make progress on some noncontroversial bills in the meantime, like the one I introduced to stop drugmakers from gaming the patent system.

I just read this morning that the manufacturer of HUMIRA, which is an incredible drug and the most widely prescribed drug in America, is raising their list price by 7 percent. This is a drug that has generic competitors overseas, but they are not approved here in the United States because HUMIRA has gamed the patent system by acquiring more than 120 different patents on this drug, the same one that is being sold cheaper and more widely available in Europe.

The bill I introduced with Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the Senator from Connecticut, to deal with that is called the Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act. It strikes a delicate balance of protecting innovation while increasing competition. It would be a win for every American who has felt the sticker shock at the pharmacy. This bill is a modest bill, but it represents real progress. Bipartisan support—check that box. I introduced this bill with Senator BLUMENTHAL from Connecticut, as I mentioned, and I am proud to have the support of the minority whip as well as the ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. This passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously.

Well, does it increase the deficit? No, it actually helps the deficit, so we can check that box. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the bill would save the government more than half a billion dollars over the next decade, not to mention what it might do to private insurance costs.

During simpler times, this bill would have been quickly approved by the Senate and sent to the House for their consideration and the President's signature. If we have learned anything these last few years, it is that nothing is simple here in Congress or in Washington.

So, after waiting for months, I came to the Senate floor to ask that the bill be passed. After all, it sailed through the process, and I hadn't heard a single Senator with any substantive objection to the bill. That is when the Democratic leader, the Senator from New York, came down here to block it, and he did it not once but twice. He didn't object on substance. In fact, he admitted it was a good bill. As I said, it checks every box when it comes to good legislation, so it certainly wasn't because it fell short there.

The only reason the Democratic leader objected to this legislation on two separate occasions is because of politics. He has chosen to participate in political games with a bill that is noncontroversial and straightforward, which would stop Big Pharma from abusing the patent system to increase their profits and increase prices to consumers.

At a time when he views his most critical priority as minority leader to oppose the President and, in turn, Senate Republicans, he couldn't stand to see a bill introduced by a Republican actually advance and become law. I am sure his constituents in New York can't be too happy about that because they are paying the high price of patent gamesmanship too. I can guarantee you that Big Pharma is rejoicing over his obstruction.

Well, as I said just this last week, big drug companies have already begun to announce their price increases. According to their analysis, 445 different drugs have had their prices raised already by an average of 5 percent, and we are only 1 week into the new year.

It is particularly maddening that even consensus legislation is getting caught up in this hyperpartisan environment. But I am hoping that, once this looming impeachment trial is behind us, we can find a way to work together and make some progress.

Another bill that I am anxious to see pass this year is a reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which again has gotten caught up in partisan gamesmanship. Last year the House passed an ultrapartisan bill, which both parties knew would be dead on arrival in the Senate. Our friends, the House Democrats, chose to include a variety of poison pills in order to prove a point and perhaps gain some political advantage rather than to actually get a bill to the President's desk.

Well, that is where Senator FEINSTEIN, the Senator from California, and Senator ERNST, the Senator from Iowa, to their credit, tried long and hard to try to come up with a bill that we could take up here on the Senate floor, but all of a sudden, late in the game, our friends across the aisle walked away from the negotiating table and chose to introduce a near replica of the House's partisan piece of legislation.

Unfortunately, they succumbed to the politics of the moment rather than solving the problem that would actually help support victims of violence and reauthorize that legislation. Despite our Democratic colleagues leaving those negotiations, though, our colleague from Iowa, Senator ERNST, continued to work in good faith on a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, and I am proud to be a cosponsor.

I urge the majority leader to put that piece of legislation on the floor and to do it at the earliest possible moment so that we can have a vote, we can have a debate, we can offer amendments, but we can actually get the job done rather than continuing to use this as a political football. It sends more funding and resources than the bill that the Democrats have proposed, and it authorizes the program for twice as long.

It is not just an alternative; it is a better choice for victims of sexual assault and violence. It includes a whole lot more than funding, though. It addresses a number of horrific crimes that are being committed against women and girls around the country, which are not included in our Democrat colleagues' version.

I regret that we were unable to pass a reauthorization for the Violence

Against Women Act, and I hope our colleagues across the aisle will reconsider and come back to the negotiating table and work with us so that we can finally reauthorize this program.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. President, finally, another priority that I alluded to a moment ago that I hope we can get to soon is to pass the USMCA, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which will succeed NAFTA and guide our trading relationships with Mexico and Canada into the future.

NAFTA has been a boon for our economy—especially in my State, in Texas—but it is time to bring this more than quarter-century-old agreement into the 21st century. That is precisely what the USMCA will do. It modernizes trade with our northern and southern neighbors and lays the foundation for better economies, more jobs, and greater prosperity for each of our countries.

The process of getting that bill across the Senate floor has been more than a year in the making, but we are making some progress, as I indicated, starting yesterday in the Senate Finance Committee. It was reported out with a bipartisan vote of 25 for and 3 against.

I haven't been shy about expressing my concerns about how this process has played out, especially cutting the Senate out of its negotiating position under trade promotion authority, but I do believe, on net, that this agreement is beneficial and will support it.

So I look forward to getting an opportunity, presumably once Speaker PELOSI sends the Articles of Impeachment over here and it meets its expected fate. Nobody I know expects 67 Senators to vote to convict and to remove President Trump based on the thin gruel presented by the two Articles of Impeachment that were voted on by the House in an ultrapartisan manner.

Once we get past all of that, I hope we can continue along the series of wins for our country in 2020, and I, for one, am eager to work on that. I hope we will be able to chart a path forward on an impeachment trial in the near future so that we can begin focusing on this legislation that will help the American people over the next 12 months and not squander a minute more than absolutely necessary.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I listened carefully to the comments by my colleague from Texas, Senator CORNYN, when he talked about impeachment purgatory and the fact that the Senate is unable to act on critical legislation—many bills that have already passed the House of Representatives—because of the impeachment proceedings.

Well, the impeachment proceedings have not started in the U.S. Senate. So what is the excuse? Was it the impeachment proceeding that stopped us from considering one bill in the Senate this week? Was it the impeachment proceeding that stopped us from considering one bill in the Senate last week? No, it was the conscious decision of the Senate majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader, with the Republican majority, not to call a single piece of legislation in the last 2 weeks.

There shouldn't be any surprise among the membership that we did nothing in the last 2 weeks other than a few garden-variety nominations. The fact is, we have done nothing for a long time under Senator MCCONNELL's leadership. Do you know, for the record, how many amendments were actually debated on the floor of the U.S. Senate last year in the entire calendar year? Twenty-two. Twenty-two amendments, six offered by the junior Senator from Kentucky. If I am not mistaken, all of them were defeated, but the point I am trying to make is, 22 amendments in 1 year and now the Republican majority is blaming Speaker PELOSI and the impeachment proceedings for the fact that we do nothing. It doesn't make sense, and it doesn't add up.

We are doing nothing because that is the strategy of Senator MCCONNELL. The House of Representatives has passed hundreds—not a dozen, hundreds—of bills for the Senate to consider, on every imaginable topic: issues relating to healthcare, which we heard about from the Senator from Texas; issues relating to immigration. The litany is long. Within that litany, you would think that Senator MCCONNELL could find one bill—just one—from the House of Representatives to debate on the floor of the U.S. Senate, but we don't do that in the Senate. We no longer debate under Senator MCCONNELL's leadership.

Some people look at this room and call it the Senate Chamber. That is true; it is the Senate Chamber. Now, sadly, it is more the Senate storage facility. We store on the floor of the Senate Chamber the desks of former Senators who actually legislated on the floor of the Senate. It is not a museum because there is still some active business underway, but it is a storage facility.

These desks, if they could only speak, would tell the stories of men and women who stood up on the floor and debated critical issues. I was here for some of it. Issues of war and peace—we don't take those up anymore. If a President wants to go to war in Iran, obviously, his party thinks that we shouldn't interfere with his thought process, though the Constitution states clearly we are supposed to interfere. Congress has the authority, under the Constitution, to declare war.

When issues would come up before us—important issues—in the past, we would debate them at length, whether it was health insurance for Americans, whether we were talking about questions of the disabled in America being active participants in our society, a time when Senators from both sides of the aisle stood up in this Chamber and, in a lengthy debate, passed the Americans with Disabilities Act. One was Senator Bob Dole, a disabled veteran from World War II and Republican leader; another was Tom Harkin, a Democrat from Iowa. The two of them had a bipartisan measure and a real fulsome debate that doesn't happen on this floor of this Senate Chamber anymore.

For Senators to come here and blame NANCY PELOSI, the Speaker of the House, for our inactivity is laughable. We have failed to move forward because the leadership does not want to call the bill. Senator MCCONNELL has the authority to decide what we will debate on the floor of the U.S. Senate, and he has decided we will debate nothing—nothing.

What a wasted opportunity. If America was just picture-perfect from sea to shining sea, you would say: Well, there is no reason. We don't need a Senate or a House. We know better. There are important issues we should address, issues related to challenges facing families across America; issues of the mounting student debt across this country and what it has meant to hundreds of thousands of young people and their future; the issues involving gun violence in this country, where we still have mass killings yet can't even pass one bill to keep guns out of the hands of convicted felons and people who are mentally unstable; the issue of healthcare.

I certainly agree with the Senator from Texas when it comes to the cost of prescription drugs, the No. 1 concern of families across this country. All Senator SCHUMER has asked for is that we bring this measure to the floor and let Senator CORNYN's good idea be brought to the floor with Senator DURBIN's good idea—and perhaps other Senators' good ideas—and actually have a debate right here on the floor of the Senate. It would be amazing. People would be tuned in all across America saying: You can't imagine; the Senate is alive; it is actually considering measures.

Although, we don't. Twenty-two amendments in one calendar year—it is just amazing that we have reached that point.

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Mr. President, I come to the floor to address three specific issues. One of the first is a matter that I didn't know would actually be part of my responsibility as a Senator, but over the years my staff came to me and talked to me about political prisoners in far-flung nations around the world, men and women literally in jail because they are exercising their right to speak, to be journalists, to assemble, to run for political office.

My staff said: They are forgotten. Nobody knows they are there. They languish in prisons for months and

years and sometimes die there. Nobody even mentions their name. Would you consider coming to the floor of the Senate and saying something, perhaps writing a letter to the Embassy of the country where they are being held prisoner?

I was skeptical as to whether or not that would even be worth the effort, but I have learned over the years it is. I have come to the Senate floor to raise the cases of political prisoners around the world, typically journalists or activists who found themselves jailed for defending basic freedoms we take for granted.

In some cases, with the help of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we have seen the release of some of these prisoners. Others still languish.

I bring their pictures to the floor because mentioning their names is important, but seeing them tells a story too. Raif Badawi and Waleed Abulkhair, in Saudi Arabia, and interim Venezuelan President Guaido's chief of staff Roberto Marrero continue to languish unjustly in prison. We continue to press for their release.

I always thought that trying to secure the release of political prisoners was worthwhile because it spoke to our values as Americans. I have had a chance to meet some of them after they were released.

It is an amazing feeling after someone has spent years—literally years—in prison and comes to my office in the Capitol and breaks down in tears in gratitude. It reminds me that they shouldn't be forgotten, and neither should many others.

Unfortunately, this President is too comfortable with these autocratic leaders who imprison people around the world. I wish he weren't.

That brings me to the Philippines, one of our key democratic allies in Asia. Over the Christmas break, I thought my friends were joking with me when they came to me and said: Well, I guess you will not be going to the Philippines soon. I didn't know what they were talking about.

It turns out that in my home State, in Illinois, there are many Filipino Americans. It is one of the largest immigrant groups coming to our country. What an incredible population Filipino Americans are. As I have come to know them, they have strong family values and strong religious values, and they are hard-working folks. They open these little shops and sit in them for 16 hours or 18 hours a day because that is the way an immigrating Filipino sets the stage for their son and daughter to have a better life.

Over the holiday recess, the President of the Philippines, President Duterte, announced that he was banning Senator PATRICK LEAHY of Vermont, as well as myself and Senator ED MARKEY of Massachusetts, from ever visiting the Philippines. I was kind of shocked to see that. I didn't expect that.

What precipitated this reaction? He also, incidentally, threatened to restrict the travel of all Americans to the Philippines. For some time, several of us, including Senator LEAHY and Senator MARKEY, have been advocating for the release of Filipina Senator Leila de Lima. Senator de Lima was a former head of the National Human Rights Commission of the Philippines and an internationally recognized human rights champion critical of President Duterte's extrajudicial killings.

What did that lead to? Her arrest and her being sentenced and imprisoned for up to 3 years in jail for speaking out against the current President of the Philippines.

Here is a photo of her being taken to court after she was arrested a little over 3 years ago.

Who is behind her release? Not just Senators LEAHY, DURBIN, and MARKEY and many of our colleagues, but also Amnesty International, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, and the Raoul Wallenberg Center.

Let me read an excerpt from the letter she sent me.

> As you can imagine, I may be the one currently in detention, but I am not the only victim suffering in this situation . . . so are the victims of extrajudicial killings and their families, so are all defenders of human rights . . . and ultimately, so are all of us all over the world who defend democracy and rule of law.

Senator MARKEY has a resolution calling for Senator de Lima's release and an end to the harassment of Filipina journalist Maria Ressa, which I am proud to cosponsor and hope will pass the Senate soon.

Last year, Senator LEAHY joined me in an amendment to the State and Foreign Operations bill, denying U.S. visas to those involved in Senator de Lima's politically motivated incarceration. It was our little measure in that appropriations bill that led President Duterte to ban us from ever traveling to the Philippines. There is an easy and honorable way forward. The Duterte regime should stop threatening the travel of Filipino Americans and so many others who travel between our nations and, instead, ensure a quick and credible trial for Senator de Lima or simply do the right thing and release her.

In the end, her freedom and the end of government harassment of journalists like Maria Ressa will be important tests of whether the cherished democratic norms we share with our longstanding Filipino allies will be respected by President Duterte.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. President, trade agreements are controversial. They come before the Senate and the House infrequently and are usually very hard to pass. It takes months and months of work. One of those trade agreements, which is known as the USMCA, or the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or NAFTA 2.0, is one that I have watched carefully. I voted for the original NAFTA agreement when I was a Member of the House of Representatives. It was not a popular vote among many people in Illinois, but I felt that it was the right thing to do. I felt that moving the Mexican economy forward, watching it mature, with the creation of a middle class, would mean that it would be a more stable nation and a nation that would consume many goods produced in the United States.

That happened, but it happened at an expense, too, to be very honest. Many companies in the United States saw the low wage rates in Mexico, closed their plants in places like Galesburg, IL, and moved operations to Mexico. Some moved to China and other places.

That displacement of jobs was painful. It was hard to explain to families that this was a transition that ultimately was for the good of all nations involved. If it was your family, you didn't care about the good of a nation. You wanted to know if dad had a job.

The pain we went through over the last 25 years led me into this conversation about the USMCA with some skepticism. I didn't want to be behind any effort that would ultimately result in more American jobs being lost unnecessarily. I am proud to say that this negotiation, unlike many things in this town, turned out to be a bipartisan success.

President Trump presented us with an original version of the USMCA, and many of us took exception to some of its contents. I was particularly worried about one provision in there relating to the price of prescription drugs and some other provisions in the original measure. Then, a fulsome negotiation took place. Democrats and Republicans sat down. The net result was a positive thing. Just this last week, the Senate Finance Committee reported this USMCA by a vote of 25 to 3. I believe this bill—this new measure, this new NAFTA—enjoys broad bipartisan support.

This morning, I went on a conference call with the agriculture leaders of Illinois. I am proud to say we have one of the strongest agricultural States in the Nation and some of the best women and men who farm our land and produce food and fiber for people to consume all across America and around the world. They have gone through some very tough times. The President's trade problems with China have hurt us especially. Our soybean producers have seen a 93-percent decline in their exports of soybeans and soybean products from the State of Illinois. They have paid heavily for the decision in this administration to cut back on renewable fuels and to issue waivers to oil companies so they don't have to blend them in the fuel they sell us at gas stations.

They have seen the decline in the net foreign income, an increase in foreign debt, and we have sent aid payments to them, which they reluctantly accept as just the only lifeline they have to keep their farms in the family.

They are happy to see that we are moving forward on this new trade agreement. A new NAFTA—the USMCA—means the top trading partners of the State of Illinois, Mexico and Canada, will have a new lease on a relationship that can improve as we increase trade among our nations. The three nations will prosper. Our bounty, which we produce in the farmlands of Illinois, will be shared with Mexico, Canada, and many nations far beyond them. It is a step forward for us.

I am glad it was done on a bipartisan basis, and I am particularly happy to see the overwhelming majority of labor organizations in my State of Illinois and in the Nation support the USMCA. It is great to have both labor and business and farm communities together in this effort.

It is far from perfect. This is a bill that moves in the right direction, and I hope we bring it up for consideration and a vote very soon on the floor of the Senate.

E-CIGARETTES

Mr. President, for many years, I have had a battle on with the tobacco lobby. It is personal. I lost my father to lung cancer when I was 14 and he was 53. I watched and stood by his bedside for literally 100 days as he languished and ultimately died from lung cancer. He smoked two packs of cigarettes a day.

When I came to the U.S. House of Representatives, I was determined to try to do something about the deaths that were being caused by tobacco products across America. I proposed a measure, which seemed pretty modest at the time, that banned smoking on airplane flights. It was an inconvenience and a mess to get on a plane with the so-called smoking and nonsmoking sections. So I thought: Let's get rid of it once and for all.

It was quite a battle in the House of Representatives. We passed it by a handful of votes, to ban smoking on airplanes. Luckily, I found a great colleague and friend, former Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey, who took up the cause on the floor of the Senate, and we banned smoking on airplanes over 25 years ago.

I didn't know that it was anything more than elimination of an inconvenience while people took airplane flights. It turned out to be much more. It turned out to be a tipping point. People across America said: If it is unhealthy to breathe in second-hand smoke on an airplane, how about trains? How about buses? How about offices? How about hospitals? How about restaurants?

At the end of the day, we know what happened. If someone walked into your home or your place of business and lit up a cigarette, you would look at them and think: Where are you from? We don't do that anymore.

We certainly don't do it without asking permission. But that is what has happened in America.

We had to fight the tobacco lobby every step of the way, and we have had some success. The number of young people who were using tobacco cigarette products declined dramatically, from over 20 percent to around 8 percent. We were winning the battle because these tobacco companies were recruiting our kids at an early age with a nicotine addiction they couldn't shake later in life.

Guess what happened. The tobacco companies invented a new product that is called e-cigarette, or vaping. If you think I am making this connection up, take a look at the largest vendor of vaping devices, JUUL, and look at the major shareholder of JUUL. It turns out to be Altria, which also turns out to be a major tobacco company.

Now the tobacco companies have decided that since kids don't gravitate toward tobacco cigarettes, they will give them an alternative. The alternative is an e-cigarette, or a vaping device.

You know what has happened, Mr. President, in your State and in my mine? High school kids are taking up this vaping addiction in numbers unimaginable. The latest report suggests that almost 29 percent of high school students across the United States are currently vaping. What they are doing is using pods and flavor pods with nicotine included and using an electronic device to inhale this vapor and blow it out. Unfortunately, in inhaling it into their lungs, they are also inhaling nicotine and developing a terrible addiction.

Students from New York came to my office a few weeks ago, and they said: Senator, don't kid yourself. It is not 28 or 29 percent. It is over 50 percent of students who are vaping today, and they are desperate to buy these flavor pods and to buy these new JUUL devices. When the teacher in a classroom steps out, they are all vaping, right there in the classroom. They do it in the restrooms and the classrooms and the cafeterias and outside the schools. They are doing desperate things to be able to afford these devices.

On September 11 of this year, President Trump and the First Lady held a press conference in the Oval Office. Though I have been critical of this President for many things, I applauded what they said. They recognized this vaping crisis, and they said that we are going to stop it and that we are going to make the moves necessary to make sure that these flavor pods that are enticing children are finally taken from the market.

I couldn't believe my ears when I heard it. Here was President Trump stepping up to do the right thing. Perhaps he and his wife, as a father and a mother of a teenager, understand this better than some. But whatever the reason, whatever the motivation, they came forward with what I thought was the best proposal: End the flavor pods once and for all.

After they made their announcements, the vaping industry went to work. They started buying ads on FOX—naturally, that is where the President watches television—and they started saying to the people that it was unfair to take away these flavor pods.

Sadly, these flavor pods, when you look at them very closely, are just an enticement for young people to use this product.

Now the vaping industry tries to argue: Well, wait a minute. People who want tobacco cigarettes ought to have vaping as an alternative. It is safer.

Well, marginally it may be, if that were the end of the story. But it turns out that vaping device is also becoming an enticement for young people to use flavor pods and to develop this addiction to nicotine of vaping devices. It is impossible to argue that some veteran smoker of tobacco products is going to be enticed to vaping if he can buy candy flavors, bubble gum flavors, fruit flavors, or other flavors. Can you imagine some 50-year-old who has been smoking Marlboro for years, and says: Man, if I could just get my hands on some Unicorn milk flavor pods, I would give up tobacco and move to e-cigarettes.

We know better. These pods are designed to entice children.

(Mr. ROMNEY assumed the chair.)

We waited to see what would happen after the President's September announcement. We were lucky to have one of our own colleagues, from the State of Utah, who has now taken the Chair, who was present at the meeting with the President on the issue of vaping. I salute him for his friendship and leadership on this issue.

Last week, after delays, President Trump finally announced a plan to ban some of the e-cigarette flavors that are hooking our kids on nicotine. Within 30 days, some flavored e-cigarette pods and cartridges will be removed from the market. This is an important step, but it is not nearly enough. For instance, menthol pods are exempt, so I am afraid kids are just going to move to JUUL's menthol flavor. Further, liquid e-cigarette flavors that are used in open-tank vaping shops are also exempt. The vaping shops are still in business, unaffected by this new policy of the administration. Liquid nicotine is sold in flavors like Gummy Bear, Whip Cream, Sugar Cookie, and Unicorn Milk. These flavors, definitely intended for kids, will stay under President Trump's new policy.

This week's announcement is not what the President said would happen in the Oval Office a few months ago. That is why the public health community and this Senator are so disappointed. We know the President decided to water down the e-cigarette flavor ban. Heavy lobbying by Big Tobacco and Big Vape were behind it. When announcing this new restriction, President Trump said some words that may tell the story. He said:

We have to protect our families. At the same time, it's a big industry. We want to protect the industry.

Protect the vaping industry? It makes sense why these companies

wanted the President to backtrack on his promise. They make a lot of money off our kids. They addict them, and the kids spend money because of the addiction. Why doesn't it make sense for the President to stand up to Big Tobacco and Big Vaping on behalf of our kids across America?

The fight is not over. Fewer than 4 percent of adults use e-cigarettes, while 30 percent, at least, of high school kids across America are using them. Now the FDA—with a new leader, Dr. Stephen Hahn—has to come off the sidelines and do their job to protect the kids. By court order, all e-cigarette companies will have to submit applications to the Food and Drug Administration in May if they want to keep their devices and flavors on the market. If they do not submit an application in May, they will have to come off the market immediately. The FDA must enforce this fully. For companies that do submit an application, the FDA has up to 1 year to decide whether they stay in the market. The FDA must reject the applications of any vaping products that are clearly designed to appeal to children, period. And if they are significantly used by children, they should be taken off the market.

I have told Commissioner Hahn that the FDA must evaluate these applications based on science, not anecdotes. What matters is that e-cigarette companies prove their health claims, which, to date, they have never been able to do. Do e-cigarettes actually help smokers quit cigarettes? Are they actually safe? Or are they, in fact, hooking children on nicotine? Those are the important questions that should be answered with science, not with politics.

There are ways to preserve e-cigarette access for adult smokers without allowing an entire generation of kids to be hooked on nicotine. This means getting rid of all of the flavors, taking illegal products off the market immediately, and rejecting e-cigarette applications that fail to show a strong public health benefit.

To date, the FDA has not been as active or aggressive as it should. For the sake of our children and the families who love them, it is time for the FDA to get off the sidelines and make sure that we do everything in our power, including in Congress, to make certain that this epidemic—and the FDA came up with the word—this epidemic of e-vaping and e-cigarettes comes to an end in America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF ELENI MARIA ROUMEL

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, for 3 years now, I have been hard at work alongside an administration that prioritizes filling vacancies on the Federal bench with smart, dedicated, constitutionalist judges. When I am at home in Tennessee, that is what people tell me they want to see—constitutionalist judges, not activist judges.

I know that I have sounded like a broken record in my reiterating just how important it is to keep these judicial nominations moving through the Committee on the Judiciary and moving to the floor, but I will tell you this: I think it is a message that needs to be repeated day in and day out because the American people and, as I said, Tennesseans know that this should be a priority, for this is how we continue to protect freedoms from generation to generation.

Since 2017, we have confirmed over 180 nominees, and even in the face of partisan bickering, we have no plans at all to slow that pace. We were in the Committee on the Judiciary today, hearing again from the nominees whom we will move forward and bring to this floor for confirmation. I want to shine light on a court that doesn't get a whole lot of attention, but let me tell you that we would be in real trouble if we did not have this one.

I have come to the floor to support President Trump's latest nominee to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims—Eleni Maria Roumel.

I first met Eleni when she joined the nonpartisan Office of General Counsel for the House of Representatives. During her 6-year tenure, Eleni advised those of us who were members of the Energy and Commerce Committee as we faced some challenging and high-profile legal matters and as we looked at laws that were going to affect the American people and how they lived their lives every single day.

The Energy and Commerce Committee in the House has wide jurisdiction. Of course, energy policy, commerce and trade, healthcare, manufacturing, pro sports, privacy, and the internet all come under that jurisdiction. So Eleni served us well in providing advice. I witnessed her commitment to bipartisanship as she served both sides of the aisle with the same quality of representation. She did it all while she was pregnant with her son, John, who is now 2 years old, and as someone who has been a working mom, I know the challenges that this presents.

From her time as a truly excellent student at Tulane Law, to her work in the private sector and beyond, Eleni's professionalism has elevated her above the rest of the pack.

She practiced intellectual property law and earned a promotion to partner as she represented both pro bono clients and publicly traded Fortune 500 companies.

She taught and mentored students as an adjunct professor at Charleston Law School.

She solidified her reputation as a lawyer committed to the rule of law in her work handling government oversight of Federal agencies. These cases were vital to the safeguarding of the separation of powers and emphasized the supremacy of the Constitution as what it is—the law of the land.

In her 19-year career, she has appeared before 20 different Federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, and just last year, she was elevated to the role of Deputy Counsel to Vice President MIKE PENCE.

I am truly honored to have supported Eleni Roumel's nomination to the Court of Federal Claims. She will be an excellent role model on the bench, especially to young women in the legal profession. I encourage my colleagues to take a look at her resume, get to know her, and then join me in wholeheartedly supporting her confirmation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE REFERRED—S. 3155

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I send a bill to the desk and ask that it be appropriately referred.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be received and appropriately referred.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 3155 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Ms. COLLINS. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

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

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 337, S. Res. 343.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (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.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. FISCHER. I further ask 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. 343) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 26, 2019, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

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

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 340, S. Res. 385.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (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.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment, and with an amendment to the preamble to insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

S. RES. 385

Whereas November 9, 2019, marks the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, one of the most visible symbols of communism and the ''Iron Curtain'' that divided Europe, which led to the reunification of Germany;

Whereas, beginning with the Russian Revolution of 1917, communist governments around the world denied freedom to and persecuted their citizens for most of the 20th century, resulting in the deaths of up to 100,000,000 people;

Whereas, in the aftermath of World War II, the Soviet Union established control over countries in Central and Eastern Europe and further increased its power through the foundation of the Warsaw Pact military alliance between the Soviet Union, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Romania;

Whereas the Soviet Union blockade of West Berlin in the summer of 1948 left West Berliners with only one month's worth of provisions;

Whereas, in what became known as the ''Berlin Airlift'', the United States and United Kingdom responded to the blockade by airlifting 2,325,809 tons of food and supplies during 277,569 total flights into West Berlin;

Whereas the Soviet Union was forced to lift the blockade of West Berlin on May 12, 1949, in light of the success of the Berlin Airlift;

Whereas the Berlin Wall, built in 1961, separated communist East Germany from democratic West Germany, dividing the German people and symbolically dividing the world into democratic and authoritarian spheres;

Whereas, in West Berlin in 1963, President John F. Kennedy spoke out against the Berlin Wall and communism, declaring that ''[f]reedom has many difficulties and democracy is not perfect, but we have never had to put a wall up to keep our people in, to prevent them from leaving us'';

Whereas, during the 28 years of the Berlin Wall's existence, more than 75,000 people were imprisoned for attempting to leave East Germany, and more than 1,000 people are estimated to have been killed trying to escape;

Whereas Soviet forces brutally repressed demonstrations against repressive communist governments in Hungary in 1956, Czechoslovakia in 1968, and Poland in 1980;

Whereas the United States Congress played a crucial role in the founding of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, independent and uncensored news outlets that broadcast behind the Iron Curtain and have been credited by former Russian President Boris Yeltsin and former Czech President Vaclav Havel with playing a significant role in the ending of the Cold War;

Whereas, in West Berlin in 1987, President Ronald Reagan, standing at the Brandenburg Gate, symbolically referred to both the physical wall and the division of the world and implored Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev to ''tear down this Wall!'';

Whereas President Reagan stated, ''As long as this gate is closed, as long as this scar of a wall is permitted to stand, it is not the German question alone that remains open, but the question of freedom for all mankind.'';

Whereas, on August 23, 1989, several million people across the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, which were illegally annexed in 1940 by the Soviet Union, demonstrated bravery and resilience by joining hands to form a 500-kilometer long human chain to peacefully demand their independence;

Whereas, at midnight on November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall symbolically fell, and East Berliners were allowed to cross into the West;

Whereas, that night, East Berliners took pickaxes to this hated symbol of oppression, and during the following three days more than 2,000,000 people visited West Berlin from the East;

Whereas, on November 13, 1989, the United States Senate welcomed ''the opening of the Berlin Wall as symbolic of the beginning of the process of reform taking place in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and throughout Eastern Europe'';

Whereas, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, a wave of democratic governance swept the world;

Whereas, by the summer of 1990, democratically elected governments had been formed in all former Warsaw Pact countries;

Whereas the reunification of Germany was officially declared on October 3, 1990;

Whereas the process of German reunification faced significant economic, structural, cultural, and political challenges both within Germany and in Europe and took dedicated political leaders and citizens, with the support of allied nations, over a decade to achieve;

Whereas, on December 25, 1991, the Soviet flag was lowered from over the Kremlin for the final time, replaced by the Russian flag;

Whereas Mr. Gorbachev later said, ''The Soviet model was defeated not only on the economic and social levels; it was defeated on a cultural level. Our society, our people, the most educated, the most intellectual, rejected that model on the cultural level because it does not respect the man, oppresses him spiritually and politically.'';

Whereas, since its reunification, Germany has become the world's fourth largest economy, has served as a leading voice in the European Union (EU), the Group of 7, and the United Nations, and has been consistently rated by Freedom House as one of the world's freest countries;

Whereas the United States and Germany share a close and multidimensional relationship, including security cooperation and an economic and trade partnership;

Whereas the United States and Germany share values of freedom, democracy, and human rights and work in tandem to support and uphold these three pillars globally;

Whereas Germany demonstrated unconditional solidarity with the United States following the September 11, 2001, attacks and leadership within NATO during the invocation of Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty in recognition that an attack on one is an attack on all;

Whereas the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall coincides with the 70th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the 15th anniversary of the European Union ''Big Bang'', when 10 mostly post-communist countries joined the EU's community of democracies;

Whereas many former Soviet and communist countries are prospering as a result of their democratic and economic reforms, reflected in their memberships in the EU and NATO; and

Whereas the fall of the Berlin Wall signified the end of the division of Europe and, ultimately, the triumph of democracy over communism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall as the start of German reunification and democratic change in Eastern Europe and much of the rest of the world;

(2) values the significant efforts made by German and European citizens to reunify and reinvigorate a united Germany;

(3) recognizes Germany for its steadfast alliance and friendship with the United States, its leadership within the European Union, its commitment to democracy, rule of law, and

market-based economics, and its efforts to support these values around the world;

(4) congratulates the former communist countries of Europe for their substantial progress over the past 30 years towards strengthening their democracies, protecting human rights, combating the corruption endemic to communist regimes, transitioning to market-based economies, and resolving longstanding disputes; and

(5) reaffirms the United States commitment to supporting democratic reform, and urges these countries to continue this progress so that their democracies and economies can thrive and their people can prosper.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 385) was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 385

Whereas November 9, 2019, marks the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, one of the most visible symbols of communism and the ''Iron Curtain'' that divided Europe, which led to the reunification of Germany;

Whereas, beginning with the Russian Revolution of 1917, communist governments around the world denied freedom to and persecuted their citizens for most of the 20th century, resulting in the deaths of up to 100,000,000 people;

Whereas, in the aftermath of World War II, the Soviet Union established control over countries in Central and Eastern Europe and further increased its power through the foundation of the Warsaw Pact military alliance between the Soviet Union, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Romania;

Whereas the Soviet Union blockade of West Berlin in the summer of 1948 left West Berliners with only one month's worth of provisions;

Whereas, in what became known as the ''Berlin Airlift'', the United States and United Kingdom responded to the blockade by airlifting 2,325,809 tons of food and supplies during 277,569 total flights into West Berlin;

Whereas the Soviet Union was forced to lift the blockade of West Berlin on May 12, 1949, in light of the success of the Berlin Airlift;

Whereas the Berlin Wall, built in 1961, separated communist East Germany from democratic West Germany, dividing the German people and symbolically dividing the world into democratic and authoritarian spheres;

Whereas, in West Berlin in 1963, President John F. Kennedy spoke out against the Berlin Wall and communism, declaring that ''[f]reedom has many difficulties and democracy is not perfect, but we have never had to put a wall up to keep our people in, to prevent them from leaving us'';

Whereas, during the 28 years of the Berlin Wall's existence, more than 75,000 people were imprisoned for attempting to leave East Germany, and more than 1,000 people are estimated to have been killed trying to escape;

Whereas Soviet forces brutally repressed demonstrations against repressive communist governments in Hungary in 1956, Czechoslovakia in 1968, and Poland in 1980;

Whereas the United States Congress played a crucial role in the founding of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, independent and uncensored news outlets that broadcast behind the Iron Curtain and have been credited by former Russian President Boris Yeltsin and former Czech President Vaclav Havel with playing a significant role in the ending of the Cold War;

Whereas, in West Berlin in 1987, President Ronald Reagan, standing at the Brandenburg Gate, symbolically referred to both the physical wall and the division of the world and implored Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev to ''tear down this Wall!'';

Whereas President Reagan stated, ''As long as this gate is closed, as long as this scar of a wall is permitted to stand, it is not the German question alone that remains open, but the question of freedom for all mankind.'';

Whereas, on August 23, 1989, several million people across the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, which were illegally annexed in 1940 by the Soviet Union, demonstrated bravery and resilience by joining hands to form a 500-kilometer long human chain to peacefully demand their independence;

Whereas, at midnight on November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall symbolically fell, and East Berliners were allowed to cross into the West;

Whereas, that night, East Berliners took pickaxes to this hated symbol of oppression, and during the following three days more than 2,000,000 people visited West Berlin from the East;

Whereas, on November 13, 1989, the United States Senate welcomed ''the opening of the Berlin Wall as symbolic of the beginning of the process of reform taking place in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and throughout Eastern Europe'';

Whereas, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, a wave of democratic governance swept the world;

Whereas, by the summer of 1990, democratically elected governments had been formed in all former Warsaw Pact countries;

Whereas the reunification of Germany was officially declared on October 3, 1990;

Whereas the process of German reunification faced significant economic, structural, cultural, and political challenges both within Germany and in Europe and took dedicated political leaders and citizens, with the support of allied nations, over a decade to achieve;

Whereas, on December 25, 1991, the Soviet flag was lowered from over the Kremlin for the final time, replaced by the Russian flag;

Whereas Mr. Gorbachev later said, ''The Soviet model was defeated not only on the economic and social levels; it was defeated on a cultural level. Our society, our people, the most educated, the most intellectual, rejected that model on the cultural level because it does not respect the man, oppresses him spiritually and politically.'';

Whereas, since its reunification, Germany has become the world's fourth largest economy, has served as a leading voice in the European Union (EU), the Group of 7, and the United Nations, and has been consistently rated by Freedom House as one of the world's freest countries;

Whereas the United States and Germany share a close and multidimensional relationship, including security cooperation and an economic and trade partnership;

Whereas the United States and Germany share values of freedom, democracy, and human rights and work in tandem to support and uphold these three pillars globally;

Whereas Germany demonstrated unconditional solidarity with the United States following the September 11, 2001, attacks and leadership within NATO during the invocation of Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty in recognition that an attack on one is an attack on all;

Whereas the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall coincides with the 70th anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the 15th anniversary of the European Union ''Big Bang'', when 10 mostly post-communist countries joined the EU's community of democracies;

Whereas many former Soviet and communist countries are prospering as a result of their democratic and economic reforms, reflected in their memberships in the EU and NATO; and

Whereas the fall of the Berlin Wall signified the end of the division of Europe and, ultimately, the triumph of democracy over communism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall as the start of German reunification and democratic change in Eastern Europe and much of the rest of the world;

(2) values the significant efforts made by German and European citizens to reunify and reinvigorate a united Germany;

(3) recognizes Germany for its steadfast alliance and friendship with the United States, its leadership within the European Union, its commitment to democracy, rule of law, and market-based economics, and its efforts to support these values around the world;

(4) congratulates the former communist countries of Europe for their substantial progress over the past 30 years towards strengthening their democracies, protecting human rights, combating the corruption endemic to communist regimes, transitioning to market-based economies, and resolving longstanding disputes; and

(5) reaffirms the United States commitment to supporting democratic reform, and urges these countries to continue this progress so that their democracies and economies can thrive and their people can prosper.

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

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 341, S. Res. 447.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 447) 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.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an

amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic, and with an amendment to the preamble to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

S. RES. 447

Whereas Evo Morales was elected as the first indigenous president of Bolivia in 2005;

Whereas, in 2009, Bolivians approved by a vote of more than 60 percent in a nationwide referendum a new constitution that established a limit of two 5-year presidential terms and declared the country a plurinational state in order to better reflect Bolivia's dozens of ethnic groups;

Whereas, in 2009 and 2014, President Morales won re-election to a second and third term in office with more than 60 percent of the vote;

Whereas, in 2016, 51.3 percent of Bolivian voters rejected a national referendum on the proposal by the Administration of President Morales to lift presidential term limits;

Whereas, in 2017, despite the results of the 2016 national referendum, President Morales' political allies in the Bolivian Constitutional Tribunal removed presidential term limits;

Whereas, on October 20, 2019, amid existing concerns over the politicization of Bolivia's electoral commission, Bolivian voters went to the polls for general elections to choose a new president, members of the Senate, and members of the Chamber of Deputies;

Whereas, at the invitation of Morales Administration, the Organization of American States (OAS) General Secretariat sent an Electoral Observation Mission to Bolivia that was comprised of 92 experts and observers from 24 different nationalities deployed in the country's nine departments and in three countries in which Bolivian expatriates could cast their votes abroad;

Whereas, on October 20, 2019, Bolivian electoral authorities stopped reporting the preliminary vote count for a period of 20 hours, subsequently announced preliminary results that negated the need for a second-round election, and Evo Morales proclaimed himself the winner of the presidential election;

Whereas, on October 21, 2019, the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Bolivia expressed ''deep concern and surprise at the drastic and hard-to-explain change in the trend of the preliminary results revealed after the closing of the polls'';

Whereas, in the aftermath of the October 20, 2019, general elections, violent protests occurred throughout Bolivia in response to electoral irregularities and the findings of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission;

Whereas, on October 30, 2019, the Morales Administration and the OAS General Secretariat signed an agreement to have the OAS conduct an audit of the integrity of the October 20, 2019, general elections;

Whereas, on November 10, 2019, an OAS technical mission issued a report on its audit of the integrity of the October 20, 2019, general elections, which included findings that—

(1) the preliminary and final election results were transmitted via a flawed computer transmission system that was accessed by unauthorized outside computer servers;

(2) there was a deficient chain of custody for and significant irregularities in the electoral tally sheets and other electoral records; and

(3) the audit team could not validate the results of the election and therefore recommended a new electoral process;

Whereas, on November 10, 2019, President Morales acknowledged the results of the OAS technical mission, announced that he would call new elections, and stated that, ''new national elections will allow the Bolivian people to democratically choose new authorities with their vote'';

Whereas, in the face of widespread public protests and a deteriorating security environment, President Morales departed Bolivia on November 12, 2019, and was granted asylum by the Government of Mexico;

Whereas, on November 12, 2019, the Bolivian Constitutional Tribunal recognized an interim president of Bolivia;

Whereas the transitional government in Bolivia signed a law on November 24, 2019, stating that new elections must be held within 120 days after the election of a new Electoral Tribunal by the National Assembly;

Whereas the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) stated that protests occurring in Bolivia since the October 20, 2019, general election have left 23 people dead and more than 700 people injured; and

Whereas the IACHR has urged the Bolivian state ''to adopt all measures necessary to prevent impunity, to protect the right to peaceful assembly, and to take urgent action to preserve Bolivians' lives and integrity, as well as ensuring that journalists and autonomous institutions to protect and defend human rights can do their job'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern about the numerous irregularities that occurred during the October 20, 2019, general elections in Bolivia;

(2) commends the efforts of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Bolivia and supports the findings of the OAS electoral audit mission, which documented numerous irregularities during the October 2019 general elections in Bolivia;

(3) deplores the acts of violence that have occurred in Bolivia in the aftermath of the October 20, 2019, general elections and urges all Bolivians to repudiate violence and to peacefully exercise their rights of freedom of expression and assembly;

(4) urges Bolivia's transitional government to work expeditiously to establish the conditions for an inclusive, credible, transparent, and democratic elections as soon as possible in accordance with their laws and constitution;

(5) encourages the Bolivian state to protect the human rights of all persons, including indigenous groups, regardless of political affiliation, ethnicity, religion, or sex;

(6) encourages the Department of State and the U.S. Mission to the Organization of American States to provide all appropriate support to facilitate the convening of free, fair, and transparent democratic elections in Bolivia as soon as possible in accordance with their laws and constitution;

(7) encourages the Organization of American States to take all necessary steps, in accordance with the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, to ensure respect for the will of Bolivian voters and the integrity of the new democratic elections in Bolivia as soon as possible in accordance with their laws and constitution; and

(8) supports the call by the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States for Bolivian authorities to ensure full respect and protection of human rights and accountability for any violation thereof.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 447), as amended, was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 447

Whereas Evo Morales was elected as the first indigenous president of Bolivia in 2005;

Whereas, in 2009, Bolivians approved by a vote of more than 60 percent in a nationwide referendum a new constitution that established a limit of two 5-year presidential terms and declared the country a plurinational state in order to better reflect Bolivia's dozens of ethnic groups;

Whereas, in 2009 and 2014, President Morales won re-election to a second and third term in office with more than 60 percent of the vote;

Whereas, in 2016, 51.3 percent of Bolivian voters rejected a national referendum on the proposal by the Administration of President Morales to lift presidential term limits;

Whereas, in 2017, despite the results of the 2016 national referendum, President Morales' political allies in the Bolivian Constitutional Tribunal removed presidential term limits;

Whereas, on October 20, 2019, amid existing concerns over the politicization of Bolivia's electoral commission, Bolivian voters went to the polls for general elections to choose a new president, members of the Senate, and members of the Chamber of Deputies;

Whereas, at the invitation of Morales Administration, the Organization of American States (OAS) General Secretariat sent an Electoral Observation Mission to Bolivia that was comprised of 92 experts and observers from 24 different nationalities deployed in the country's nine departments and in three countries in which Bolivian expatriates could cast their votes abroad;

Whereas, on October 20, 2019, Bolivian electoral authorities stopped reporting the preliminary vote count for a period of 20 hours, subsequently announced preliminary results that negated the need for a second-round election, and Evo Morales proclaimed himself the winner of the presidential election;

Whereas, on October 21, 2019, the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Bolivia expressed ''deep concern and surprise at the drastic and hard-to-explain change in the trend of the preliminary results revealed after the closing of the polls'';

Whereas, in the aftermath of the October 20, 2019, general elections, violent protests occurred throughout Bolivia in response to electoral irregularities and the findings of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission;

Whereas, on October 30, 2019, the Morales Administration and the OAS General Secretariat signed an agreement to have the OAS conduct an audit of the integrity of the October 20, 2019, general elections;

Whereas, on November 10, 2019, an OAS technical mission issued a report on its audit of the integrity of the October 20, 2019, general elections, which included findings that—

(1) the preliminary and final election results were transmitted via a flawed computer transmission system that was accessed by unauthorized outside computer servers;

(2) there was a deficient chain of custody for and significant irregularities in the electoral tally sheets and other electoral records; and

(3) the audit team could not validate the results of the election and therefore recommended a new electoral process;

Whereas, on November 10, 2019, President Morales acknowledged the results of the OAS technical mission, announced that he would

call new elections, and stated that, ''new national elections will allow the Bolivian people to democratically choose new authorities with their vote'';

Whereas, in the face of widespread public protests and a deteriorating security environment, President Morales departed Bolivia on November 12, 2019, and was granted asylum by the Government of Mexico;

Whereas, on November 12, 2019, the Bolivian Constitutional Tribunal recognized an interim president of Bolivia;

Whereas the transitional government in Bolivia signed a law on November 24, 2019, stating that new elections must be held within 120 days after the election of a new Electoral Tribunal by the National Assembly;

Whereas the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) stated that protests occurring in Bolivia since the October 20, 2019, general election have left 23 people dead and more than 700 people injured; and

Whereas the IACHR has urged the Bolivian state ''to adopt all measures necessary to prevent impunity, to protect the right to peaceful assembly, and to take urgent action to preserve Bolivians' lives and integrity, as well as ensuring that journalists and autonomous institutions to protect and defend human rights can do their job'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern about the numerous irregularities that occurred during the October 20, 2019, general elections in Bolivia;

(2) commends the efforts of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Bolivia and supports the findings of the OAS electoral audit mission, which documented numerous irregularities during the October 2019 general elections in Bolivia;

(3) deplores the acts of violence that have occurred in Bolivia in the aftermath of the October 20, 2019, general elections and urges all Bolivians to repudiate violence and to peacefully exercise their rights of freedom of expression and assembly;

(4) urges Bolivia's transitional government to work expeditiously to establish the conditions for an inclusive, credible, transparent, and democratic elections as soon as possible in accordance with their laws and constitution;

(5) encourages the Bolivian state to protect the human rights of all persons, including indigenous groups, regardless of political affiliation, ethnicity, religion, or sex;

(6) encourages the Department of State and the U.S. Mission to the Organization of American States to provide all appropriate support to facilitate the convening of free, fair, and transparent democratic elections in Bolivia as soon as possible in accordance with their laws and constitution;

(7) encourages the Organization of American States to take all necessary steps, in accordance with the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, to ensure respect for the will of Bolivian voters and the integrity of the new democratic elections in Bolivia as soon as possible in accordance with their laws and constitution; and

(8) supports the call by the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States for Bolivian authorities to ensure full respect and protection of human rights and accountability for any violation thereof.

CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR ITS CONTINUED DETENTION OF SENATOR LEILA DE LIMA, CALLING FOR HER IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 365, Senate Res. 142.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 142) condemning the Government of the Philippines for its continued detention of Senator Leila De Lima, calling for her immediate release, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic and an amendment to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

Whereas extrajudicial killings perpetrated by the Government of the Philippines as part of a government-directed antidrug campaign present the foremost human rights challenge in the Philippines;

Whereas the Department of State's 2017 Human Rights Report notes numerous human rights concerns, including the persecution of human rights defenders and the detention of political prisoners in the Philippines, stating, ''The most significant human rights issues included: killings by security forces, vigilantes and others allegedly connected to the government, and by insurgents; torture and abuse of prisoners and detainees by security forces; often harsh and life threatening prison conditions; warrantless arrests by security forces and cases of apparent government disregard for legal rights and due process; political prisoners; killings of and threats against journalists; official corruption and abuse of power; threats of violence against human rights activists; violence against women; and forced labor.'';

Whereas the Department of State's 2018 Human Rights report notes numerous human rights concerns in the Philippines, including ''unlawful or arbitrary killings by security forces, vigilantes, and others allegedly connected to the government, and by insurgents; forced disappearance; torture; arbitrary detention; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; political prisoners; arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy; criminal libel; killings of and threats against journalists; official corruption and abuse of power; and the use of forced and child labor'';

Whereas, on February 23, 2017, an arrest warrant was issued for Philippine Senator Leila De Lima for allegations related to drug trafficking, and as of April 4, 2019, Senator De Lima had been detained for 770 days;

Whereas the charges brought against Senator De Lima followed a history of criticizing extrajudicial killings in the Philippines and the Rodrigo R. Duterte administration's antidrug campaign, including—

(1) in 2009, in her capacity as Chair of the Commission on Human Rights, Senator De Lima investigated the alleged involvement of then-Mayor of Davao City Rodrigo R. Duterte in the extrajudicial killings executed by the so-called ''Davao Death Squad'';

(2) on December 15, 2014, then-Secretary of Justice De Lima led a raid of the national penitentiary which resulted in the confiscation of drugs, firearms, and contraband items and the extraction of 19 drug lords and high-profile inmates involved in the facility's drug network;

(3) on July 13, 2016, Senator De Lima, in her capacity as Chair of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights, filed Senate Resolution No. 9 calling for an investigation into extrajudicial killings and summary executions of suspected drug offenders arising from President Duterte's ''War on Drugs'';

(4) on August 22, 2016, Senator De Lima conducted Senate hearings during which alleged former death squad members detailed extrajudicial killings executed as part of the antidrug campaign and one member testified that Duterte participated in extrajudicial killings as mayor of Davao City; and

(5) on August 2, 2016, and September 19, 2016, Senator De Lima delivered two privileged speeches on the Senate floor calling on President Duterte to end the killings;

Whereas President Duterte vowed to publicly destroy Senator De Lima;

Whereas the charges against Senator De Lima were supported by testimony from inmates whose illegal activities were disrupted by her 2014 raid;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Council's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention adopted an Opinion on August 24, 2018, finding several categories of arbitrary detention and concluding, ''Ms. De Lima's political views and convictions are clearly at the centre of the present case and that the authorities have displayed an attitude towards her that can only be characterized as targeted and discriminatory. Indeed, she has been the target of partisan persecution and there is no explanation for this other than her exercise of the right to express such views and convictions as a human rights defender.'';

Whereas the Department of State's 2017 Human Rights Report highlighted due process obstructions in the case of Senator De Lima, stating, ''During the year prosecutors used a variety of legal tactics, including filing new and amending previous charges, to delay arraignment.'';

Whereas the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention recommended that the Government of the Philippines adopt certain measures, including—

(1) the immediate release of Senator De Lima;

(2) an independent investigation of the circumstances surrounding the arbitrary detention; and

(3) the provision of compensation and other reparations, including reinstatement to the positions from which she was ousted;

Whereas, on July 20, 2017, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the United States Congress held a hearing on The Human Rights Consequences of the War on Drugs in the Philippines, during which Human Rights Watch testified about the ''relentless government campaign'' against Senator De Lima ''in evident response to her outspoken criticism of Duterte's 'war on drugs' and her calls for accountability'';

Whereas Amnesty International finds Senator De Lima's detention to be based solely on her criticism of the Government of the Philippines, her political beliefs, and her peaceful defense of human rights, and considers her a Prisoner of Conscience;

Whereas the immediate release of Senator De Lima has been called for by nongovernmental organizations, human rights groups, parliamentary bodies, and individuals including the European Parliament, the Australian Parliament, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Liberal International, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights, and many of Senator De Lima's colleagues in the Senate minority bloc;

Whereas Maria Ressa, an investigative journalist who founded the online news platform Rappler, has been arrested several times on charges against her and her news organization widely viewed by human rights observers and a number of governments as part of a pattern of ''weaponizing the rule of law'' to repress independent media; and

Whereas Ms. Ressa has been released on bail, but she and Rappler still face charges and will soon be standing trial: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns—

(A) the Government of the Philippines for its role in state-sanctioned extrajudicial killings by police and other armed individuals as part of the ''War on Drugs'';

(B) the arrest and detention of human rights defenders and political leaders who exercise their rights to freedom of expression;

(C) the harassment, arrest, and unjustified judicial proceedings against the media and journalists, in particular, the proceeding against Rappler and Maria Ressa; and

(D) the continued detention of Senator Leila De Lima;

(2) considers Senator De Lima to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely on account of her political views and the legitimate exercise of her freedom of expression;

(3) calls on the President of the United States to impose sanctions pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note) with respect to—

(A) members of the security forces and officials of the Government of the Philippines responsible for extrajudicial killings; and

(B) officials of the Government of the Philippines responsible for orchestrating the arrest and prolonged detention of Senator De Lima;

(4) calls on the Government of the Philippines to immediately release Senator De Lima, drop all charges against her, remove restrictions on her personal and work conditions, and allow her to fully discharge her legislative mandate, especially as Chair of the Committee on Social Justice;

(5) calls on the President of the United States to ensure that United States security assistance provided to the Philippine National Police is fully consistent with the human rights conditions mandated in section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act ((22 U.S.C. 2776)) and section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, (22 U.S.C. 2378d);

(6) urges the Government of the Philippines to recognize the importance of human rights defenders and their work and allow them to operate freely without fear of reprisal; and

(5) urges the Government of the Philippines to guarantee the right to the freedom of the press, and to drop all the charges against Maria Ressa and Rappler.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the resolution be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

Mrs. FISCHER. I know of no further debate on the resolution, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on the adoption of the resolution, as amended.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 142), as amended, and the preamble, as amended, were agreed to.

EXPRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES ALLIANCE WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF KOREAN AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 366, S. Res. 152.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (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.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic and an amendment to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

S. RES. 152

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea enjoy a comprehensive alliance partnership, founded in shared strategic interests and cemented by a commitment to democratic values;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea work closely together to promote international peace and security, economic prosperity, human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas the relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea goes as far back as Korea's Chosun Dynasty, when the United States and Korea established diplomatic relations under the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation;

Whereas, on August 15, 1948, the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea, established on April 11, 1919, was dissolved and transitioned to the First Republic of Korea, the first independent government;

Whereas United States military personnel have maintained a continuous presence on the Korean Peninsula since the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea (5 UST 2368) was signed at Washington on October 1, 1953;

Whereas, on May 7, 2013, the United States and the Republic of Korea signed a Joint Declaration in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Alliance Between the Republic of Korea and the United States;

Whereas 63 years ago the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation between the United States and the Republic of Korea, with Protocol (8 UST 2217) was signed at Seoul on November 28, 1956;

Whereas the economic relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea is deep and mutually beneficial to both countries;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is the United States seventh-largest trading partner;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is one of the fastest growing sources of foreign direct investment in the United States;

Whereas the United States is the second largest source of foreign direct investment in the Republic of Korea;

Whereas, on January 13, 1903, 102 pioneer Korean immigrants arrived in the United States, initiating the first chapter of Korean immigration to America;

Whereas the over 2,000,000 Korean Americans living in the United States contribute to the diversity and prosperity of our Nation, participate in all facets of American life, and have made significant contributions to the economic vitality of the United States;

Whereas members of the Korean American community serve with distinction in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Korean Americans continue to build and strengthen the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea; and

Whereas the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (Public Law 115–409), signed into law on December 31, 2018, states that the United States Government—

(1) is committed to the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea and all related and subsequent bilateral security agreements and arrangements concluded on or before the date of the enactment of that Act;

(2) recognizes the vital role of the alliance between the United States and South Korea in promoting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region; and

(3) calls for the strengthening and broadening of diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the United States and the Republic of Korea: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the vital role the alliance of the United States and the Republic of Korea plays in promoting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) calls for the strengthening and broadening of diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the United States and the Republic of Korea; and

(3) reaffirms the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea is central to advancing United States interests and engagement in the region, based on shared commitments to democracy, free-market economics, human rights, and the rule of law.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 152), as amended, and the preamble, as amended, were agreed to.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRAN HOSTAGE CRISIS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 368, S. Res. 395.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 395) recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Iran Hostage Crisis, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 395) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of October 31, 2019, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

PREVENTING ILLEGAL RADIO ABUSE THROUGH ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 374, S. 1228.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1228) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for enhanced penalties for pirate radio, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1228) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1228

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 ''Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act'' or the ''PIRATE Act''.

SEC. 2. PIRATE RADIO ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENTS.

Title V of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 501 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 511. ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR PIRATE RADIO BROADCASTING; ENFORCEMENT SWEEPS; REPORTING.

''(a) INCREASED GENERAL PENALTY.—Any person who willfully and knowingly does or causes or suffers to be done any pirate radio broadcasting shall be subject to a fine of not more than $2,000,000.

''(b) VIOLATION OF THIS ACT, RULES, OR REGULATIONS.—Any person who willfully and knowingly violates this Act or any rule, regulation, restriction, or condition made or imposed by the Commission under authority of this Act, or any rule, regulation, restriction, or condition made or imposed by any international radio or wire communications treaty or convention, or regulations annexed thereto, to which the United States is party, relating to pirate radio broadcasting shall, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, be subject to a fine of not more than $100,000 for each day during which such offense occurs, in accordance with the limit described in subsection (a).

''(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the PIRATE Act, and annually thereafter, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report summarizing the implementation of this section and associated enforcement activities for the previous fiscal year, which may include the efforts by the Commission to enlist the cooperation of Federal, State, and local law enforcement personnel (including United States attorneys and the United States Marshals Service) for service of process, collection of fines or forfeitures, seizures of equipment, and enforcement of orders.

''(d) ENFORCEMENT SWEEPS.—

''(1) ANNUAL SWEEPS.—Not less than once each year, the Commission shall assign appropriate enforcement personnel to focus specific and sustained attention on the elimination of pirate radio broadcasting within the top 5 radio markets identified as prevalent for such broadcasts. Such effort shall include identifying, locating, and taking enforcement actions designed to terminate such operations.

''(2) ADDITIONAL MONITORING.—Within 6 months after conducting the enforcement sweeps required by paragraph (1), the Commission shall conduct monitoring sweeps to ascertain whether the pirate radio broadcasting identified by enforcement sweeps is continuing to broadcast and whether additional pirate radio broadcasting is occurring.

''(3) NO EFFECT ON REMAINING ENFORCEMENT.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Commission shall not decrease or diminish the regular enforcement efforts targeted to pirate radio broadcast stations for other times of the year.

''(e) STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY.—The Commission may not preempt any State or local law prohibiting pirate radio broadcasting.

''(f) REVISION OF COMMISSION RULES REQUIRED.—The Commission shall revise its rules to require that, absent good cause, in any case alleging a violation of subsection (a) or (b), the Commission shall proceed directly to issue a notice of apparent liability without first issuing a notice of unlicensed operation.

''(g) PIRATE RADIO BROADCASTING DATABASE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and semi-annually thereafter, the Commission shall publish a database in a clear and legible format of all licensed radio stations operating in the AM and FM bands. The database shall be easily accessible from the Commission home page through a direct link. The database shall include the following information:

''(A) Each licensed station, listed by the assigned frequency, channel number, or Commission call letters.

''(B) All entities that have received a notice of unlicensed operation, notice of apparent liability, or forfeiture order issued by the Commission.

''(2) CLEAR IDENTIFICATION.—The Commission shall clearly identify in the database—

''(A) each licensed station as a station licensed by the Commission; and

''(B) each entity described in paragraph (1)(B) as operating without a Commission license or authorization.

''(h) DEFINITION OF PIRATE RADIO BROADCASTING.—In this section, the term 'pirate radio broadcasting' means the transmission of communications on spectrum frequencies between 535 and 1705 kilohertz, inclusive, or 87.7 and 108 megahertz, inclusive, without a license issued by the Commission, but does not include unlicensed operations in compliance with part 15 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations.''.

DEVELOPING INNOVATION AND GROWING THE INTERNET OF THINGS ACT

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 375, S. 1611.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1611) to ensure appropriate prioritization, spectrum planning, and interagency coordination to support the Internet of Things.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets, and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics.)

S. 1611

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 ''Developing Innovation and Growing the Internet of Things Act'' or the ''DIGIT Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Internet of Things refers to the growing number of connected and interconnected devices;

(2) estimates indicate that more than 125,000,000,000 devices will be connected to the internet by 2030;

(3) the Internet of Things has the potential to generate trillions of dollars in new economic activity around the world in the transportation, energy, agriculture, manufacturing, and health care sectors and in other sectors that are critical to the growth of the gross domestic product of the United States;

(4) businesses across the United States can develop new services and products, improve the efficiency of operations and logistics, cut costs, improve worker and public safety, and pass savings on to consumers by utilizing the Internet of Things and related innovations;

(5) the Internet of Things will—

(A) be vital in furthering innovation and the development of emerging technologies; and

(B) play a key role in developing artificial intelligence and advanced computing capabilities;

(6) the United States leads the world in the development of technologies that support the internet, the United States technology sector is well-positioned to lead in the development of technologies for the Internet of Things, and the appropriate prioritization of a national strategy with respect to the Internet of Things would strengthen that position;

(7) the Federal Government can implement this technology to better deliver services to the public; and

(8) the Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 110, 114th Congress, agreed to

March 24, 2015, calling for a national strategy for the development of the Internet of Things.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that policies governing the Internet of Things should—

(1) promote solutions with respect to the Internet of Things that are secure, scalable, interoperable, industry-driven, and standards-based; and

(2) maximize the development and deployment of the Internet of Things to benefit all stakeholders, including businesses, governments, and consumers.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce.

(3) STEERING COMMITTEE.—The term ''steering committee'' means the steering committee established under section 4(e)(1).

(4) WORKING GROUP.—The term ''working group'' means the working group convened under section 4(a).

SEC. 4. FEDERAL WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall convene a working group of Federal stakeholders for the purpose of providing recommendations and a report to Congress relating to the aspects of the Internet of Things described in subsection (b).

(b) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

(1) identify any Federal regulations, statutes, grant practices, budgetary or jurisdictional challenges, and other sector-specific policies that are inhibiting, or could inhibit, the development or deployment of the Internet of Things;

(2) consider policies or programs that encourage and improve coordination among Federal agencies that have responsibilities that are relevant to the objectives of this Act;

(3) consider any findings or recommendations made by the steering committee and, where appropriate, act to implement those recommendations;

(4) examine—

(A) how Federal agencies can benefit from utilizing the Internet of Things;

(B) the use of Internet of Things technology by Federal agencies as of the date on which the working group performs the examination;

(C) the preparedness and ability of Federal agencies to adopt Internet of Things technology as of the date on which the working group performs the examination and in the future; and

(D) any additional security measures that Federal agencies may need to take to—

(i) safely and securely use the Internet of Things, including measures that ensure the security of critical infrastructure; and

(ii) enhance the resiliency of Federal systems against cyber threats to the Internet of Things; and

(5) in carrying out the examinations required under clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (4)(D), ensure to the maximum extent possible the coordination of the current and future activities of the Federal Government relating to security with respect to the Internet of Things.

(c) AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES.—In convening the working group under subsection (a), the Secretary shall have discretion to appoint representatives from Federal agencies and departments as appropriate and shall specifically consider seeking representation from—

(1) the Department of Commerce, including—

(A) the National Telecommunications and Information Administration;

(B) the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

(C) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(2) the Department of Transportation;

(3) the Department of Homeland Security;

(4) the Office of Management and Budget;

(5) the National Science Foundation;

(6) the Commission;

(7) the Federal Trade Commission;

(8) the Office of Science and Technology Policy;

(9) the Department of Energy; and

(10) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(d) NONGOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS.—The working group shall consult with nongovernmental stakeholders with expertise relating to the Internet of Things, including—

(1) the steering committee;

(2) information and communications technology manufacturers, suppliers, service providers, and vendors;

(3) subject matter experts representing industrial sectors other than the technology sector that can benefit from the Internet of Things, including the transportation, energy, agriculture, and health care sectors;

(4) small, medium, and large businesses;

(5) think tanks and academia;

(6) nonprofit organizations and consumer groups;

(7) security experts;

(8) rural stakeholders; and

(9) other stakeholders with relevant expertise, as determined by the Secretary.

(e) STEERING COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department of Commerce a steering committee to advise the working group.

(2) DUTIES.—The steering committee shall advise the working group with respect to—

(A) the identification of any Federal regulations, statutes, grant practices, programs, budgetary or jurisdictional challenges, and other sector-specific policies that are inhibiting, or could inhibit, the development of the Internet of Things;

(B) situations in which the use of the Internet of Things is likely to deliver significant and scalable economic and societal benefits to the United States, including benefits from or to—

(i) smart traffic and transit technologies;

(ii) augmented logistics and supply chains;

(iii) sustainable infrastructure;

(iv) precision agriculture;

(v) environmental monitoring;

(vi) public safety; and

(vii) health care;

(C) whether adequate spectrum is available to support the growing Internet of Things and what legal or regulatory barriers may exist to providing any spectrum needed in the future;

(D) policies, programs, or multi-stakeholder activities that—

(i) promote or are related to the privacy of individuals who use or are affected by the Internet of Things;

(ii) may enhance the security of the Internet of Things, including the security of critical infrastructure;

(iii) may protect users of the Internet of Things; and

(iv) may encourage coordination among Federal agencies with jurisdiction over the Internet of Things;

(E) the opportunities and challenges associated with the use of Internet of Things technology by small businesses; and

(F) any international proceeding, international negotiation, or other international matter affecting the Internet of Things to which the United States is or should be a party.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall appoint to the steering committee members representing a wide range of stakeholders outside of the Federal Government with expertise relating to the Internet of Things, including—

(A) information and communications technology manufacturers, suppliers, service providers, and vendors;

(B) subject matter experts representing industrial sectors other than the technology sector that can benefit from the Internet of Things, including the transportation, energy, agriculture, and health care sectors;

(C) small, medium, and large businesses;

(D) think tanks and academia;

(E) nonprofit organizations and consumer groups;

(F) security experts;

(G) rural stakeholders; and

(H) other stakeholders with relevant expertise, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the steering committee shall submit to the working group a report that includes any findings or recommendations of the steering committee.

(5) INDEPENDENT ADVICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The steering committee shall set the agenda of the steering committee in carrying out the duties of the steering committee under paragraph (2).

(B) SUGGESTIONS.—The working group may suggest topics or items for the steering committee to study, and the steering committee shall take those suggestions into consideration in carrying out the duties of the steering committee.

(C) REPORT.—The steering committee shall ensure that the report submitted under paragraph (4) is the result of the independent judgment of the steering committee.

(6) NO COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS.—A member of the steering committee shall serve without compensation.

[(6)**]***(7)* TERMINATION.—The steering committee shall terminate on the date on which the working group submits the report under subsection (f) **[**unless, on or before that date, the Secretary files a new charter for the steering committee under section 9(c) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)**]**.

(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(A) the findings and recommendations of the working group with respect to the duties of the working group under subsection (b);

(B) the report submitted by the steering committee under subsection (e)(4), as the report was received by the working group;

(C) recommendations for action or reasons for inaction, as applicable, with respect to each recommendation made by the steering committee in the report submitted under subsection (e)(4); and

(D) an accounting of any progress made by Federal agencies to implement recommendations made by the working group or the steering committee.

(2) COPY OF REPORT.—The working group shall submit a copy of the report described in paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(C) any other committee of Congress, upon request to the working group.

SEC. 5. ASSESSING SPECTRUM NEEDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, in consultation with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration,

shall issue a notice of inquiry seeking public comment on the current, as of the date of enactment of this Act, and future spectrum needs to enable better connectivity relating to the Internet of Things.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing the notice of inquiry under subsection (a), the Commission shall seek comments that consider and evaluate—

(1) whether adequate spectrum is available, or is planned for allocation, for commercial wireless services that could support the growing Internet of Things;

(2) if adequate spectrum is not available for the purposes described in paragraph (1), how to ensure that adequate spectrum is available for increased demand with respect to the Internet of Things;

(3) what regulatory barriers may exist to providing any needed spectrum that would support uses relating to the Internet of Things; and

(4) what the role of unlicensed and licensed spectrum is and will be in the growth of the Internet of Things.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report summarizing the comments submitted in response to the notice of inquiry issued under subsection (a).

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 1611), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1611

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 ''Developing Innovation and Growing the Internet of Things Act'' or the ''DIGIT Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Internet of Things refers to the growing number of connected and interconnected devices;

(2) estimates indicate that more than 125,000,000,000 devices will be connected to the internet by 2030;

(3) the Internet of Things has the potential to generate trillions of dollars in new economic activity around the world in the transportation, energy, agriculture, manufacturing, and health care sectors and in other sectors that are critical to the growth of the gross domestic product of the United States;

(4) businesses across the United States can develop new services and products, improve the efficiency of operations and logistics, cut costs, improve worker and public safety, and pass savings on to consumers by utilizing the Internet of Things and related innovations;

(5) the Internet of Things will—

(A) be vital in furthering innovation and the development of emerging technologies; and

(B) play a key role in developing artificial intelligence and advanced computing capabilities;

(6) the United States leads the world in the development of technologies that support the internet, the United States technology sector is well-positioned to lead in the development of technologies for the Internet of Things, and the appropriate prioritization of a national strategy with respect to the Internet of Things would strengthen that position;

(7) the Federal Government can implement this technology to better deliver services to the public; and

(8) the Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 110, 114th Congress, agreed to March 24, 2015, calling for a national strategy for the development of the Internet of Things.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that policies governing the Internet of Things should—

(1) promote solutions with respect to the Internet of Things that are secure, scalable, interoperable, industry-driven, and standards-based; and

(2) maximize the development and deployment of the Internet of Things to benefit all stakeholders, including businesses, governments, and consumers.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce.

(3) STEERING COMMITTEE.—The term ''steering committee'' means the steering committee established under section 4(e)(1).

(4) WORKING GROUP.—The term ''working group'' means the working group convened under section 4(a).

SEC. 4. FEDERAL WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall convene a working group of Federal stakeholders for the purpose of providing recommendations and a report to Congress relating to the aspects of the Internet of Things described in subsection (b).

(b) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

(1) identify any Federal regulations, statutes, grant practices, budgetary or jurisdictional challenges, and other sector-specific policies that are inhibiting, or could inhibit, the development or deployment of the Internet of Things;

(2) consider policies or programs that encourage and improve coordination among Federal agencies that have responsibilities that are relevant to the objectives of this Act;

(3) consider any findings or recommendations made by the steering committee and, where appropriate, act to implement those recommendations;

(4) examine—

(A) how Federal agencies can benefit from utilizing the Internet of Things;

(B) the use of Internet of Things technology by Federal agencies as of the date on which the working group performs the examination;

(C) the preparedness and ability of Federal agencies to adopt Internet of Things technology as of the date on which the working group performs the examination and in the future; and

(D) any additional security measures that Federal agencies may need to take to—

(i) safely and securely use the Internet of Things, including measures that ensure the security of critical infrastructure; and

(ii) enhance the resiliency of Federal systems against cyber threats to the Internet of Things; and

(5) in carrying out the examinations required under clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (4)(D), ensure to the maximum extent possible the coordination of the current and future activities of the Federal Government relating to security with respect to the Internet of Things.

(c) AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES.—In convening the working group under subsection (a), the Secretary shall have discretion to appoint representatives from Federal agencies and departments as appropriate and shall specifically consider seeking representation from—

(1) the Department of Commerce, including—

(A) the National Telecommunications and Information Administration;

(B) the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

(C) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(2) the Department of Transportation;

(3) the Department of Homeland Security;

(4) the Office of Management and Budget;

(5) the National Science Foundation;

(6) the Commission;

(7) the Federal Trade Commission;

(8) the Office of Science and Technology Policy;

(9) the Department of Energy; and

(10) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(d) NONGOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS.—The working group shall consult with nongovernmental stakeholders with expertise relating to the Internet of Things, including—

(1) the steering committee;

(2) information and communications technology manufacturers, suppliers, service providers, and vendors;

(3) subject matter experts representing industrial sectors other than the technology sector that can benefit from the Internet of Things, including the transportation, energy, agriculture, and health care sectors;

(4) small, medium, and large businesses;

(5) think tanks and academia;

(6) nonprofit organizations and consumer groups;

(7) security experts;

(8) rural stakeholders; and

(9) other stakeholders with relevant expertise, as determined by the Secretary.

(e) STEERING COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department of Commerce a steering committee to advise the working group.

(2) DUTIES.—The steering committee shall advise the working group with respect to—

(A) the identification of any Federal regulations, statutes, grant practices, programs, budgetary or jurisdictional challenges, and other sector-specific policies that are inhibiting, or could inhibit, the development of the Internet of Things;

(B) situations in which the use of the Internet of Things is likely to deliver significant and scalable economic and societal benefits to the United States, including benefits from or to—

(i) smart traffic and transit technologies;

(ii) augmented logistics and supply chains;

(iii) sustainable infrastructure;

(iv) precision agriculture;

(v) environmental monitoring;

(vi) public safety; and

(vii) health care;

(C) whether adequate spectrum is available to support the growing Internet of Things and what legal or regulatory barriers may exist to providing any spectrum needed in the future;

(D) policies, programs, or multi-stakeholder activities that—

(i) promote or are related to the privacy of individuals who use or are affected by the Internet of Things;

(ii) may enhance the security of the Internet of Things, including the security of critical infrastructure;

(iii) may protect users of the Internet of Things; and

(iv) may encourage coordination among Federal agencies with jurisdiction over the Internet of Things;

(E) the opportunities and challenges associated with the use of Internet of Things technology by small businesses; and

(F) any international proceeding, international negotiation, or other international matter affecting the Internet of Things to which the United States is or should be a party.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall appoint to the steering committee members representing a wide range of stakeholders outside of the Federal Government with expertise relating to the Internet of Things, including—

(A) information and communications technology manufacturers, suppliers, service providers, and vendors;

(B) subject matter experts representing industrial sectors other than the technology sector that can benefit from the Internet of Things, including the transportation, energy, agriculture, and health care sectors;

(C) small, medium, and large businesses;

(D) think tanks and academia;

(E) nonprofit organizations and consumer groups;

(F) security experts;

(G) rural stakeholders; and

(H) other stakeholders with relevant expertise, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the steering committee shall submit to the working group a report that includes any findings or recommendations of the steering committee.

(5) INDEPENDENT ADVICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The steering committee shall set the agenda of the steering committee in carrying out the duties of the steering committee under paragraph (2).

(B) SUGGESTIONS.—The working group may suggest topics or items for the steering committee to study, and the steering committee shall take those suggestions into consideration in carrying out the duties of the steering committee.

(C) REPORT.—The steering committee shall ensure that the report submitted under paragraph (4) is the result of the independent judgment of the steering committee.

(6) NO COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS.—A member of the steering committee shall serve without compensation.

(7) TERMINATION.—The steering committee shall terminate on the date on which the working group submits the report under subsection (f).

(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(A) the findings and recommendations of the working group with respect to the duties of the working group under subsection (b);

(B) the report submitted by the steering committee under subsection (e)(4), as the report was received by the working group;

(C) recommendations for action or reasons for inaction, as applicable, with respect to each recommendation made by the steering committee in the report submitted under subsection (e)(4); and

(D) an accounting of any progress made by Federal agencies to implement recommendations made by the working group or the steering committee.

(2) COPY OF REPORT.—The working group shall submit a copy of the report described in paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(C) any other committee of Congress, upon request to the working group.

SEC. 5. ASSESSING SPECTRUM NEEDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, in consultation with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, shall issue a notice of inquiry seeking public comment on the current, as of the date of enactment of this Act, and future spectrum needs to enable better connectivity relating to the Internet of Things.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing the notice of inquiry under subsection (a), the Commission shall seek comments that consider and evaluate—

(1) whether adequate spectrum is available, or is planned for allocation, for commercial wireless services that could support the growing Internet of Things;

(2) if adequate spectrum is not available for the purposes described in paragraph (1), how to ensure that adequate spectrum is available for increased demand with respect to the Internet of Things;

(3) what regulatory barriers may exist to providing any needed spectrum that would support uses relating to the Internet of Things; and

(4) what the role of unlicensed and licensed spectrum is and will be in the growth of the Internet of Things.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report summarizing the comments submitted in response to the notice of inquiry issued under subsection (a).

PREVENTING ILLEGAL RADIO ABUSE THROUGH ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 583 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 583) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for enhanced penalties for pirate radio, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 583) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECESS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 3:45 p.m. for a briefing and that when the Senate reconvenes at 3:45 p.m., it resume executive session and consideration of the Solomson nomination.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:32 p.m., recessed until 3:45 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. COTTON).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session and consideration of the nomination of Matthew H. Solomson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

The Senator from New Mexico.

IRAN

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I begin by saying that my prayers are with our Armed Forces and their families. They stand watch despite the threat of danger, and they rely on their leaders to make wise decisions. I am grateful that there were no casualties during last night's missile attack.

For well over a year, I have been sounding the alarm that this President could bring us to war with Iran through mistake, misjudgment, or miscalculation. I have urged this body to assert our constitutional authority and pass our bipartisan bill to prevent a war with Iran.

In 2018 and 2019, I introduced the Prevention of Unconstitutional War with Iran Act. In June of last year, my amendment to prevent unauthorized war earned bipartisan majority support in the Senate, and it passed in the House of Representatives. It may not have become law, but the Constitution has not changed. Now, on the brink of war with Iran, it is long past time for Congress to step up to its constitutional responsibilities and stop the march to an unauthorized war.

Americans oppose another war in the Middle East. Despite the President's claim to the contrary, war with Iran would certainly not ''go very quickly.'' That is what the President has said—''go very quickly.'' Any war with Iran would be prolonged, bloody, and costly. Yet, even if you support a war with Iran, we all swore an oath to uphold the Constitution, and Congress—and Congress alone—has the authority, under article I of the Constitution, to declare war.

Any country would consider the President's strike on one of Iran's highest ranking military commanders—someone whom many consider to be the second most powerful person in Iran's Government—to be an act of war. Now, predictably, Iran has

responded. So Congress must no longer hide from its constitutional responsibility.

If Congress does not stop the military conflict with Iran, this President will continue to take a wrecking ball through the Middle East, making one impulsive decision after another while having no long-term plan or strategic goal in sight. The President's speech made it clear he has no strategy to defuse the situation or to achieve a diplomatic result. He will continue the provocative warpath we are on.

While we may now be in a period of relative calm, the position we are in is untenable, and it is because the President abandoned diplomacy and created this crisis. The administration did not consult Congress before carrying out the strike, which is something that, typically, an administration would do before carrying out a strike like this; it would have a true consultation with the top leaders in the Congress. The administration did not consult our allies or try to form a coalition around what is clearly a highly provocative action that has ramifications for international security.

This is kind of a reminder of the run-up to Iraq. What did that look like, the run-up to the Iraq war? Sketchy evidence, bad intelligence, outright misrepresentations, and a call for vengeance against Saddam Hussein are what got us into the war in Iraq. This is where we are today in our conflict with Iran. The administration's vague assertions of an imminent threat, without its having concrete evidence, and its ever-changing story are too reminiscent of the origins of the war in Iraq. The echoes of Iraq are chilling.

Congress, step up. Do your constitutional duty. Rein in this reckless course we are on.

Let me say this, not just to those of us in this body who are speaking up but also to the thousands across the country who are marching against a rush to war: To speak out against a war with Iran is a patriotic activity, a patriotic duty. It is the right action to take, and it is the right thing to do. We are speaking up to stop this Nation from repeating the grave mistakes of the Iraq war. We are speaking up because we love this country, because we do not want to see another military family mourn a loved one who loses his life in a war that does not need to be fought and that we have the power to stop and to avoid.

President Trump set this disastrous course in motion in May of 2018 when he unilaterally withdrew from the Iran nuclear agreement. This was a deal the international community stood firmly behind. It reminded everyone—European countries, Russia, and China—that we were all a part of this deal. That agreement took the single greatest threat to the U.S. and international security—that being Iran—off the table. It prevented Iran from developing nuclear weapons. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency and President Trump's military and national security experts, Iran was complying with the agreement when the President withdrew.

The nuclear agreement did not solve all of the problems with Iran, but it is clear that the diplomatic effort reduced tensions with a longstanding adversary and reduced the threat of hostilities. Yet, instead of working to build on this progress, the President precipitously withdrew from the agreement and began his maximum pressure campaign to force Iran to capitulate to a long list of impossible demands. The President promised he would get us a ''better deal.'' That is what he said—get us a ''better deal.'' He has not. There is no better deal in sight.

I call on the President and his administration to use all of their diplomatic tools to deescalate this threatening situation—a situation that risks American lives. I call on them to work with our allies to find a path back to the nuclear limits the international community agreed to, to develop channels for productive communication and diplomacy, and to work toward stabilizing an unstable Middle East.

Leader MCCONNELL and the Republican leadership must bring this debate to the Senate floor. Senator KAINE's recently filed War Powers Resolution is one step in that direction. Senator PAUL and I have called upon all Senators to support our Prevention of Unconstitutional War with Iran Act. We must keep up this fight and block funds for any war with Iran in the absence of congressional authorization, and we must repeal the outdated authorizations of force that are being abused—the one from 2001 and the one from 2002.

I strongly support our oath to defend our Nation and the Constitution from any enemies, foreign and domestic, including against a President who would take us to war without his having constitutional authority. If we do not act now to preserve our constitutional structure and to assert our constitutional authority, we fail the men and women in uniform whose lives we put at risk; we fail our oath to defend and protect the Constitution; and we fail the American people, who sent us here to represent them on the most consequential decision our country can make.

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. PORTMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I would like to take a few moments today to talk about the current situation with regard to Iran.

First, the decision to take out Qasem Soleimani. Let's remember who he was. He was leader of the Quds Force and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps—both of these groups, by the way, having been designated as terrorist organizations.

He was responsible for providing the Shia militias in Iraq with explosively formed penetrators. What does that mean? These were the extremely deadly improvised explosive devices—so-called roadside bombs—that were responsible for killing over 600 American soldiers and injuring many more, at least a couple thousand.

Some of those maimed or killed were from my home State of Ohio. My heart goes out to their families for their sacrifice.

I got a chance to see some of these brave Americans in visits to the Landstuhl military hospital in Germany and the Walter Reed Hospital here in Washington, DC. We must never forget their courage and the sacrifices they and their families have made.

Over the past 2 months alone, Soleimani helped direct more than 11 attacks against our forces in Iraq. In fact, he was found recently to be plotting more. When he was killed, he was plotting additional and imminent attacks with the commander of the Shia militia—the same commander who directed both the rocket strikes that killed the American contractor and wounded four American service personnel in Erbil and the demonstration and assault against the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

Thankfully, that commander was taken off the battlefield as well.

For reasons I have outlined, the killing of Qasem Soleimani was both legitimate and justified. His history of fomenting terror and murdering innocents goes back decades, and the world is a better place without him.

Some of my Democratic colleagues have been critical of the President's actions against Iran, to include the killing of Soleimani. Some argue that our actions have been unwarranted and belligerent. In fact, given the facts, I believe President Trump has shown restraint in the face of continued Iranian aggression over these past 18 months.

By authorizing the killing of the leader of terrorist organizations that were actively plotting more violence against our brave men and women, I believe President Trump reset the concept of deterrence and fulfilled his duties as President.

As GEN David Petraeus said after the Soleimani action, ''This was a significant effort to re-establish deterrence.'' I would call that peace through strength.

Last evening's Iranian missile attacks against our forces and air bases at Erbil and Al-Asad was a continuation of the reckless and provocative approach. Thanks to the professionalism and capability of our Armed Forces, despite over a dozen Iranian missiles aimed their way, there were, fortunately, no American or allied troop or Iraqi casualties—amazing—

and there was only minimal damage to our bases. For that, of course, we are very thankful.

I listened to President Trump this morning, and I agree that the maximum pressure campaign against Iran must continue, and it should include additional sanctions.

There is a way forward for Iran to rejoin the international community rather than continue to be a pariah and the top sponsor of state terrorism in the world. President Trump has said on many occasions he is willing to negotiate with Iran if they cease their belligerent actions in the region and come to the table.

We do not desire war with Iran, but we cannot and will not stand idly by as they continue to attack Americans, continue to kill our forces in the Middle East.

I have been in meetings with top administration officials today and yesterday, and I look forward to continued discussions on their strategy moving forward.

I will continue to pray for the safety of our men and women in uniform who are forward deployed, who put their lives in danger for all of us and do so for the sake of peace and stability.

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.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I first want to say how relieved I am by reports that no lives were lost in last night's missile strikes in Iraq and how grateful I am for all those serving in the region and around the world.

The fact remains, however, that this is a volatile and frightening moment for our country. In a matter of days, the President of the United States has, without any authorization or notice, taken steps that have sent tensions soaring with Iran, threatened the fight against ISIS, jeopardized relationships with key allies, risked the safety of U.S. servicemembers and civilians, and brought us perilously close to war.

I have heard from so many people in my home State of Washington, and I know my colleagues have as well, about just how scary and uncertain this feels and the many questions it raises.

While there is no question Qasem Soleimani was a sworn enemy of the United States, people want to know whether the President's initial order was truly necessary to our safety and why right now in this time of already heightened tensions in the Middle East. They want to know elected officials here in the Nation's capital are prioritizing their safety and our country's safety. Most of all, they want to know what comes next and what can be done to prevent things from getting worse.

Like so many Americans, I have watched these events unfold with increasing concern. As the daughter of a World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient, I make decisions about the safety and security of our Nation with deep concern for our brave servicemembers and their families, a personal understanding of the sacrifices they make for all of us and our Nation, and an unwavering commitment to ensuring they have the support they need while they serve and when they come home.

To that end, while I firmly believe we must do everything possible to keep America safe and go after terrorists wherever they are, I also believe that, except in the most dire of circumstances, we should do everything possible to exhaust all of our diplomatic avenues and coordinate with our allies and our partners before taking military action all on our own.

I believe we should not enter a conflict without a very strong understanding of what we are trying to accomplish and what it will cost and that while America has every right to defend itself, striking another country preemptively, without the strongest evidence of immediate danger, is a dramatic step with significant long-term implications that should not be done without a full debate and congressional support.

Madam President, based on what we know now, the administration's actions in Iraq failed on each of these counts. It has not made us safer, and our allies feel blindsided, especially because this strike puts them at risk too.

There is no clear goal or clear-eyed understanding of the risks we have assumed. There was absolutely zero debate in this Congress and—unless you happened to be on the golf course with the President—absolutely no notification that he planned to massively escalate tensions with a foreign power overnight.

While, unfortunately, this is exactly the type of scenario many of us feared would arise from this President, I can't say it is surprising. President Trump's repeated reckless actions in the region, beginning with his decision to pull out of the Iran nuclear deal, have jeopardized critical objectives, leaving us without any clear strategy for restoring peace or protecting our troops and allies. We cannot assume Iran is done retaliating, and we must assume ISIS or other terrorists will take full advantage of the increased instability in the region.

In the face of challenges as serious as these, none of us in Congress, regardless of party, should be willing to just stand by and accept that our Nation's foreign policy and safety could be upended by an impulsive late-night tweet. I certainly won't. Instead, I will continue to demand that the President provide us his legal justification for his order, commit to coming before Congress in advance of any further escalating steps as this now plays out, and explain how he will manage the consequences of his decision, with the goal of protecting Americans, our allies, and our interests.

I will continue to advocate for strategies that lead us toward safety and security rather than fan the flames. In the coming weeks, I look forward to voting in support of my colleague from Virginia, Senator KAINE's War Powers Resolution, and I am very glad to be a cosponsor. This resolution would reassert congressional authority, block President Trump's ability to start a war with Iran, and allow us to hear whatever case he may have before taking a vote on whether this is really the path we want our Nation to go down.

I hope every one of our colleagues listens to the people across this country who do not want to find themselves in an avoidable war and who sent us here to act as an independent branch of government, not a rubberstamp for an increasingly volatile administration. I hope they join us and support this resolution.

Madam President, finally, I will say that I voted against the war in Iraq because I felt the administration was asking us to send our brave men and women into harm's way without clear plans or goals. Today, this President isn't even asking. The goals and plans are even less clear, and the path ahead of us is very uncertain.

Congress has the power to ensure a debate, press this administration for a strategy, and check their power if they do not present a compelling one. It is well past time we used it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, this holiday season, the ancient darkness of anti-Semitism cast a shadow over New York City during Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. The New York Police Department recorded at least nine separate attacks against Jews—more than one attack for each day of Hanukkah. New attacks are reported seemingly on a daily basis.

In Crown Heights, the site of deadly anti-Semitic riots incited by Al Sharpton in 1991, a group of men beat up an Orthodox Jew and attacked another with a chair.

In Williamsburg, another group terrorized an elderly Jewish man on the street. ''Jew, Hitler burned you,'' one of the criminals reportedly said. ''I'll shoot you.''

Just outside the city, in Rockland County, a man with a machete stormed a celebration in a rabbi's home and injured five worshippers, leaving two in critical condition. The family of one victim, Josef Neumann, says he may never wake up from his coma.

These heinous attacks are part of a growing storm of anti-Semitism that has made Jewish Americans fearful to worship and walk the streets in their own communities. They come in the wake of the deadly rampage at the kosher market in Jersey City that left four innocent people dead, including a police detective, and of course they come in the wake of the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in our Nation's history: the massacre of 11 Jews at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh by a White supremacist.

According to the FBI, our country suffered a 37-percent increase in anti-Semitic crimes between 2014 and 2018. According to the New York Police Department, the city suffered a 26-percent increase in anti-Semitic crimes in the past year alone. That increase is alarming enough. So is the fact that most hate crimes reported in New York are crimes against Jews. While some of the increase is due to better reporting, much of it is not.

Jewish Americans bear witness to this harsh reality. Anti-Semitism is an ancient hatred, and today it appears in new disguises. It festers on internet message boards and social media. It festers in so-called Washington think tanks like the Quincy Institute, an isolationist, blame-America-first money pit for so-called ''scholars'' who have written that American foreign policy could be fixed if only it were rid of the malign influence of Jewish money. It festers even on elite college campuses, which incubate the radical boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement—a movement to wage economic warfare against the Jewish State. These forms of anti-Semitism may be less bloody than street crime in New York, but they channel the same ancient hatred, the same conspiratorial and obsessive focus on the Jewish people.

Anti-Semitic attacks are a symptom of a larger breakdown of public order in our major cities caused by politicians who are letting dangerous criminals roam our streets.

While Jews were being attacked in New York City, a law went into effect eliminating pretrial detention and bail for most crimes, including serious crimes like stalking, arson, robbery, and even manslaughter and negligent homicide. This law was a gift to criminals just in time for the holidays. In some cases, it came with an actual gift. New York City's criminal justice system gives goodies like taxpayer-funded movie tickets to criminal suspects just for showing up to court—movie tickets for criminals. I wish I were joking, but the joke is on the law-abiding citizens of this Nation.

These soft-on-crime politicians are doing their best to make crime pay in New York. Releasing criminals is the logical next step for the criminal-leniency movement.

Thanks to the new bail law, an estimated 3,800 criminal suspects were released from New York jails before New Year's Day. Many of those suspects were arrested for new offenses within hours—within hours—of their release.

Case in point: On the sixth day of Hanukkah, December 27, Tiffany Harris was arrested for attacking three Jewish women in Crown Heights. She shouted ''F-you Jews'' as she slapped them in a rage. Despite the violent nature of her crime, Harris was amazingly released without bail the very next day, December 28, the seventh day of Hanukkah. On the eighth day of Hanukkah, Harris was arrested yet again for assault. She was released for a second time the day after that and is in custody now only because she was arrested for now a third time for failing to comply with a court order.

I can only imagine how demoralizing it must be for New York's police officers to arrest a violent criminal, only to risk their safety arresting them the next day for harming somebody else and the next day and the next day. How terrifying it must be for the witnesses of those crimes to contemplate giving evidence while the criminals they witnessed stalk the streets the very next day. And how enraging it must be for New York's Jews to suffer constant anti-Semitic attacks and know that the perpetrators will slide through a revolving door from the lockup back into their communities to spread more of their virulent, anti-Semitic hatred.

Soft-on-crime politicians claim that cash bail and strong policing punish the poor, but is there a worse punishment for poor communities than flooding them with dangerous criminals, making them unlivable for many law-abiding Americans who call those neighborhoods home? Guess what. Those dangerous criminals aren't going back to live in fancy penthouses in the Upper East Side. They aren't living behind gated communities in Bethesda and Arlington. They are living in the very communities that most need policing. That is why the consequences of criminal leniency never fall on the rich elites who praise it the most. Instead, the consequences fall on the less fortunate and on the brave officers who are duty-bound to uphold the law, even as they receive less and less support from the political class.

The real solution to disorder in our cities is the same as it always has been: more and better policing. New York's finest and police officers all across the country have broken crime waves in the past using steely resolve and superior force. They can do it again, if only we give them the freedom and support they need.

Thankfully, most Americans know whose side we are on in the fight against crime. We stand with cops, not criminals. We stand for the Jewish people against the ancient hatred that stalks them even to this day.

America liberated Nazi death camps in World War II, and we have served as a haven for persecuted Jews for longer than that. We must not allow the bigotry so common in Europe and the Middle East to spread here to our free shores. We must not allow our city streets to be plunged into the lawlessness of the not so distant past.

IRAN

Madam President, I want to commend our brave troopers and our intelligence officers and the President for the daring strike last week on Qasem Soleimani. Qasem Soleimani had the blood of thousands of Americans on his hands, and he was plotting to kill more Americans just like his terrorist proxies had killed in Iraq on December 27. He even was picked up, when he landed at Baghdad International Airport, by a terrorist culpable for the bombing of our Embassy in Kuwait in 1983.

You would think that everyone would celebrate the death of a terrorist monster, but, no, you would be wrong. You would be wrong. Our Democratic friends have been criticizing and complaining ever since Qasem Soleimani died Thursday night.

Two particularly surprising complaints I have heard are that the Democrats weren't notified in advance and that Qasem Soleimani's plot wasn't imminent. Let's think about those criticisms.

The Speaker of the House and the minority leader weren't notified in advance of a target of opportunity against a terrorist mastermind. I am sorry, but what did you expect? Is the President or Secretary of Defense or Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff supposed to call hours in advance when they don't even know if the target will show up where our intelligence expects?

Were they supposed to call when the missile was in the air? Give me a break. Give me a break.

I will share what the majority leader told us yesterday about the raid on Osama bin Laden. Do you think he got notified in advance? No. Did he expect to be notified in advance? No. He said the Secretary of Defense called him after the strike to give him a brief summary of what had happened, and the majority leader, in 2011, simply said: ''Congratulations.'' He put out a public statement to the exact same effect. Where is that sense of patriotism and pride from the Speaker of the House and from the minority leader today with the elimination of Qasem Soleimani?

Second, this critique that, well, Qasem Soleimani wasn't plotting an imminent attack—I mean, we are talking about how many terrorists can dance on the head of a pin here. Qasem Soleimani had been killing Americans for 30 years. He was flying around the Middle East to meet with his terrorist proxies in Syria and Lebanon and Iraq to plan how to kill more Americans.

We just had a briefing downstairs with the Director of the CIA and the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in which they said: Yes, the plot was imminent. Intelligence is never ironclad, though. It can rarely say a strike is going to happen at this

time on this day at this target. That is apparently the standard the Democrats want to hold the President to—not weeks, not even days, not even a period of days against a hard target that presented an opportunity, as Qasem Soleimani did last Thursday night.

Let me say this: Imminence is ultimately a question of judgment that has to be made by the people we have elected to make those decisions for our country. It is not a question of intelligence. Our intelligence officers have great skills and capabilities. They can tell us the best intelligence they have that suggests the timing of such attacks. But it is ultimately the people's elected representatives who make those judgments.

I will just submit that if you are a soldier sitting in Iraq with Qasem Soleimani flying around trying to decide when to kill you, the question of imminence probably looks a lot different than if you are a comfortable Senator sitting behind guarded doors with armed security details protecting your every movement.

I will simply say yet again that Qasem Soleimani got exactly what he deserved. All those Americans he killed and their families also got what they deserved: justice. America and the world are a safer place because Qasem Soleimani is no longer a part of this world.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. SMITH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Solomson nomination?

The yeas and nays were previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 6 Ex.]

YEAS—89

Baldwin	Fischer	Peters
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Bennet	Graham	Reed
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blumenthal	Hassan	Roberts
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Heinrich	Rosen
Braun	Hirono	Rounds
Brown	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cantwell	Inhofe	Schatz
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Jones	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kaine	Shaheen
Casey	Kennedy	Shelby
Cassidy	King	Sinema
Collins	Lankford	Smith
Coons	Leahy	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Loeffler	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	McSally	Toomey
Cruz	Menendez	Udall
Daines	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murphy	Wicker
Ernst	Murray	Young
Feinstein	Paul	

NAYS—8

Booker	Klobuchar	Schumer
Gillibrand	Markey	Wyden
Harris	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—3

Alexander	Perdue	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Eleni Maria Roumel, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Roumel nomination?

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll for this 10-minute vote.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 7 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Burr	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Inhofe	Sasse
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Loeffler	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Jones	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Harris	Reed	

NOT VOTING—2

Alexander	Perdue

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Michael George DeSombre, of Illinois, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Thailand?

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 8 Ex.]

YEAS—91

Baldwin	Capito	Crapo
Barrasso	Cardin	Cruz
Bennet	Carper	Daines
Blackburn	Casey	Duckworth
Blumenthal	Cassidy	Durbin
Blunt	Collins	Enzi
Boozman	Coons	Ernst
Braun	Cornyn	Feinstein
Brown	Cortez Masto	Fischer
Burr	Cotton	Gardner
Cantwell	Cramer	Graham

Grassley	Menendez	Scott (SC)
Hassan	Merkley	Shaheen
Hawley	Moran	Shelby
Heinrich	Murkowski	Sinema
Hirono	Murphy	Smith
Hoeven	Murray	Stabenow
Hyde-Smith	Paul	Sullivan
Inhofe	Peters	Tester
Johnson	Portman	Thune
Jones	Reed	Tillis
Kaine	Risch	Toomey
Kennedy	Roberts	Udall
King	Romney	Van Hollen
Lankford	Rosen	Warner
Leahy	Rounds	Whitehouse
Lee	Rubio	Wicker
Loeffler	Sasse	Wyden
Manchin	Schatz	Young
McConnell	Schumer	
McSally	Scott (FL)	

NAYS—7

Booker	Klobuchar	Warren
Gillibrand	Markey	
Harris	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—2

Alexander	Perdue

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority whip.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, Kay Hagan was a kind and passionate public servant. She fought from the heart for women, children, students, servicemembers, and working people in North Carolina and across the country.

In 2013, when interest rates on Federal student loans were about to double so that the government could increase profits off of the backs of our students, Kay said no. Together, with our colleague Senator JACK REED, we put forward commonsense legislation to keep interest rates low for students across the country. In this instance and so many others, Kay stood for fairness and served as a voice for those who needed it most.

Kay and I may not have agreed on every issue, but on those key issues that matter to working families—like equal pay, raising the minimum wage, and helping students getting crushed by debt—we were proud to fight side by side.

My thoughts are with her husband Chip, their children and family, and the people of North Carolina as they mourn Kay's loss and celebrate her memory.

REMEMBERING CORPORAL FRED B. MCGEE

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I rise today to honor a heroic Ohio veteran whom we lost this month, CPL Fred B. McGee. Corporal McGee served in Korea, where he and his squad leader were both wounded in the bloody Battle of Hill 528.

With his leader down, and despite his own injuries, Corporal McGee took command—he wasn't next in line, but he stepped up, and he saved lives. He was hit again, and his squad was given the order to withdraw. Yet still, with shrapnel in the face and leg, he voluntarily remained behind to evacuate his fellow soldiers who were wounded and killed. His acts of bravery earned Corporal McGee a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts.

For too long, he did not receive the recognition he earned serving our country. Like so many veterans, Corporal McGee rarely spoke about his service and never drew attention to his own courage. While recalling the battle earlier this year he said, ''No, I'm not brave. I just did what was a necessity.''

And in the 1950s, the color of his skin surely also contributed to the lack of recognition for Corporal McGee's heroism. He was drafted in 1951 into a newly integrating Army and was one of the first African-American soldiers to serve in Korea. Jefferson County's sheriff talked about how someone made a comic book in 1953 illustrating 10 stories of soldiers' heroics, they depicted Corporal McGee as a White man.

We owe a hero like Corporal McGee a tribute that befits his service and sacrifice. At the end of last year, the Jefferson County Veterans Service Commission honored Corporal McGee as its Veteran of the Year. And I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring him on the Senate floor today.

We thank CPL Fred McGee for his heroism and his sacrifices for our country and we send our thoughts to Corporal McGee's family. May the tributes from the many lives he touched bring you comfort, and know that we will keep alive the story of his heroism.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MOEN, JR.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a member of my staff in the great State of New Jersey. We are all fortunate to have offices full of staff members passionate about working for the betterment of our country. William Moen, Jr., or Bill Moen, as we affectionately call him, is a shining example of what patriotism looks like in government service.

The son of a disabled Vietnam veteran and the grandson of a WWII veteran, Bill Moen's commitment to public service is a family legacy.

Even prior to his Federal work in my Senate office in Camden, NJ, Bill has worked at all levels of government in New Jersey. Hes interned at his local police department and the First Congressional District of New Jersey. He worked in the New Jersey State Legislature, with the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders and even as an elected Freeholder himself in Camden County.

On December 9, 2013, I welcomed Bill Moen to my staff in Camden, NJ. Bill was with me on one of my first official events as U.S. Senator. He helped organize a visit to Cape May County—the southernmost county in New Jersey—where I spoke with residents who were still struggling to recover from the devastation of Superstorm Sandy. The past 6 years are full of memorable events, stories, projects, and cases like this one. He has managed my South Jersey office with compassion and integrity.

Mr. President, I wish to recognize Bill Moen today because he is leaving my office to set up his own as assemblyman representing New Jersey's Fifth Legislative District in the New Jersey State Assembly. I am sad to see him go but grateful for his work and proud of the new role he begins in what will surely be a long and brilliant career in public service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING EARNIE BLACKLEY

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Izard County Sheriff Earnie Blackley. Sheriff Blackley passed away on January 4, 2020, after a brief battle with cancer.

He first joined the Izard County Sheriff's Department in 1993 after having previously worked as a police officer in Greenville, MS, and served as chief deputy for 18 years before being elected sheriff in 2018.

Sheriff Blackley was a dedicated law enforcement official; a devoted husband, father, and grandfather; and a man of faith. His obituary noted how he was known for hosting fish fries to benefit a variety of causes and organizations. The outpouring of love and support shown to the sheriff and his family since his diagnosis is a testament to how well he served his community and how much that service was recognized and appreciated by all it impacted.

After being diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer in May of last year, Sheriff Blackley asked for prayers as he faced this serious diagnosis head on while also continuing to serve. Over 1,000 people reportedly turned out to a fundraiser in his honor shortly thereafter.

Sheriff Blackley was clearly a leader who inspired love, confidence, and respect. I am tremendously grateful for his decades of service in law enforcement and for the way he lived his life.

I join with many in his community and across the State of Arkansas in mourning his passing and praying for his loved ones, including his wife Theresa, during this difficult time. On behalf of everyone in Arkansas, I pray

God will bless the Blackley family and the people of Izard County as they cope with this loss and celebrate the life of Sheriff Earnie Blackley.●

TRIBUTE TO DANA BENNETT

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I come forward today to recognize the career and service of Ms. Dana Bennett, who will soon retire as president of the Nevada Mining Association. Ms. Bennett is the first woman to lead the Nevada Mining Association, serving as the State industry's educational and advocacy leader, as well as its chief representative in national and international outreach. As we commemorate her retirement, her countless contributions to the great State of Nevada are worthy of recognition.

Ms. Bennett began her career of service to Nevada as a principal research analyst with the Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau, LCB, where she worked with both parties and committee staff in the State senate and assembly for over 9 years. One of her more notable achievements during her time at the LCB was identifying an error in the 1929 bill that established the design of the Nevada State flag. Ms. Bennett's sleuthing resulted in a design change to the Nevada State flag, ensuring that it fully complied with the law and producing the flag that we still proudly fly today.

In 1998, Ms. Bennett left the LCB to start her own legislative and policy research services company. She went on to represent such clients as the Nevada Broadcasters Association, the Nevada State Medical Association, the Associated General Contractors of Las Vegas, and many more. Ms. Bennett successfully ran this company, Research by Design, from 1998 to 2004, before being offered the position of director of government affairs at R&R Partners—one of Nevada's premiere public relations and government affairs firms.

In 2006, Ms. Bennett left R&R to pursue a graduate degree at Arizona State University, ASU. During her time in graduate school, Ms. Bennett served as a policy analyst at the Morrison Institute for Public Policy; a research assistant at the ASU School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies; and a research historian at the Arizona State Archives.

In January 2011, Ms. Bennett returned to Nevada to once again serve, this time as senior researcher for Governor Sandoval, eventually becoming the Northern Nevada regional director for the Governor's Office of Economic Development. As regional director, Ms. Bennett was a catalyst in the overhaul and redevelopment of that State agency, where she created the new State plan for excellence in economic development and worked to improve collaboration between the State and its regional development authorities to better facilitate economic growth in Nevada.

In December 2014, Ms. Bennett was named president of the Nevada Mining Association. Through this role, Ms. Bennett has worked tirelessly to advocate for the mining industry in Nevada and educate people about the importance of mining and its impact on both the State and global economies. From her time at LCB, to becoming the first woman President of the Nevada Mining Association, Ms. Bennett has been a trailblazer for women in Nevada, helping break the glass ceiling in industries often dominated by men.

Through all of Ms. Bennett's incredible work and public service, she has gained an intimate understanding of the policy and initiatives that aim to improve the lives of all Nevadans. It is my sincere hope that Ms. Bennett will continue to be an advocate for the people of Nevada and their interests. Today, I celebrate the many contributions of Ms. Dana Bennett. Nevadans are fortunate to have had her leadership, knowledge, and voice during her service to both the State and the country.●

TRIBUTE TO JIM BYRUM

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to honor someone who has dedicated his entire career to promoting Michigan agriculture and someone I am proud to call my friend.

I have always said that, in Michigan, we don't have an economy unless we make things and grow things. For more than 40 years, Jim Byrum has been helping Michigan do just that.

That is a big deal for our State. From West Michigan's fruitbelt, to the forests of Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, to sugarbeet and dry bean fields in the Thumb, to biofuel production providing good jobs in rural communities, to dairy and food processing businesses in cities and towns of all sizes, agriculture is our State's second-largest industry, supporting one in four jobs.

During his nearly 25 years with the Michigan Agri-Business Association, Jim has been a powerful advocate for those one in four jobs and for his organization's more than 400 members. His vision, insight, hard work, and great sense of humor have played a strong role in the association's success.

It is no surprise that Jim knows exactly what his members need; he has his own lifetime of experience to rely on.

Jim is the fourth generation of Byrums to live on his family's farm in Onondaga. Before he joined the Michigan Agri-Business Association, he was State executive director of Michigan's Farm Service Agency and executive director of the Michigan Bean Commission.

Jim may be moving on, but the imprint he has left on the agribusiness industry will live on. I know that Jim is particularly proud of the work he has done to expand markets internationally and to build the Michigan Agri-Business Leader Program, which has been bringing together different sectors of agriculture and training the next generation of leaders since 2008.

I have been especially grateful for the culture of cooperation and bipartisanship Jim has helped cultivate in our State during a very challenging time for the industry.

As Jim told Russ White of MSU Today back in September: ''There's going to be more change in the next 20 years of this industry than there has been in the past 50. And that change is coming at light speed . . . it's going to benefit consumers . . . it's going to benefit producers . . . but folks better be ready to embrace it.''

I know for a fact that Michigan's agricultural industry is better positioned to embrace change thanks to Jim's hard work and dedication. Speaking of change, I am so happy that Jim will have more time to spend with his wife Dianne, who is a leader in her own right, and his two children and grandchildren.

Jim, thank you for your friendship, your leadership, and your lifetime of work on behalf of Michigan agriculture. It has been my honor to be your partner in helping Michigan make things and grow things.

Thank you.●

TRIBUTE TO WICK SLOANE

● Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, it is my deep honor and privilege to celebrate the career and legacy of Massachusetts resident, Wick Sloane of Bunker Hill Community College, or BHCC, as he retires this year.

Wick Sloane came to BHCC in 2006 and retires this year from his ''official'' job of helping students transfer to 4-year colleges. Wick leaves behind an unwavering commitment to the students—from their success in the classroom to ensuring that all of their basic needs are met.

Wick has worked tirelessly over the years to address even the most basic needs of low-income students, like student hunger and homelessness. His work touched the BHCC community in Massachusetts but also college communities far beyond BHCC throughout Massachusetts and across the country.

Due in large part to Wick's steadfast advocacy and voice, I successfully led several of my Senate colleagues in requesting the Government Accountability Office, or GAO, to conduct a study on food insecurity at colleges and universities. The GAO agreed to complete the study, which it published in January 2019. The groundbreaking study confirmed that food insecurity is a widespread issue on American college campuses and made recommendations for Federal action to address hunger issues for students in higher education. This study led lawmakers at the local level and at the national level—myself included—to introduce legislation to address hunger on college campuses.

Wick saw a problem impacting his community in Massachusetts and took action, resulting in immediate support

for our most vulnerable students in the BHCC community and Federal action that will begin to create change for millions of vulnerable students across this country.

Wick was one of the first BHCC professors to teach late-night classes through the college's nationally recognized Midnight Classes Program. In 2017, Wick's contributions were recognized by Governor Baker, who awarded him the Manuel Carballo Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service.

As Wick retires, we thank him for his years of service at Bunker Hill Community College and to students across the Commonwealth. I know Wick will keep fighting on behalf of our students in Massachusetts and beyond as he begins this next chapter.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 777, resolving that the Clerk of the House inform the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.

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–3651. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, quarterly exception Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs) as of September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3652. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commissary Credit and Debit Card User Fee'' (RIN0790–AK92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3653. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Director for Financial Management, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Monetary Penalty Adjustments for Inflation'' (RIN0605–AA54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3654. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs; Huawei Designations; ZTE Designations'' ((FCC 19–121) (WC Docket No. 18–89)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3655. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Odometer Disclosure Requirements'' (RIN2127–AL39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3656. A communication from the Senior Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Training, Qualification, and Oversight for Safety-Related Railroad Employees'' (RIN2130–AC86) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3657. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0960)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3658. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0252)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3659. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0487)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3660. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0675)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3661. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0519)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3662. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Engine Alliance Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0912)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3663. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; 328 Support Services GmbH (Type Certificate previously Held by AvCraft Aerospace GmbH Fairchild Dornier GmbH; Dornier Luftahrt GmbH) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0674)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3664. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0481)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3665. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3883'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31287)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3666. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0406)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3667. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0698)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3668. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0704)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3669. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0604)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3670. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0326)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3671. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0980)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3672. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; St. Simmons, GA and Brunswick, GA; Revocation of Class E Airspace; Brunswick, GA; and, Amendment of Class E Airspace Brunswick, GA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0591)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3673. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revocation and Amendment of the Class E Airspace; Lafayette, LA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0613)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3674. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Pittsfield, MA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0563)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3675. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Grove City, PA'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0590)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3676. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0813)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3677. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0992)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3678. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3884'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31288)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3679. A communication from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Tensaw River, Hurricane, AL'' ((RIN1625–AA09) (Docket No. USCG–2018–0956)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3680. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Security Zone; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA'' ((RIN1625–AA87) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0953)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3681. A communication from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Niantic Bridge, Niantic, CT'' ((RIN1625–AA09) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0545)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3682. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Isabel Holmes Bridge, Wilmington NC'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0904)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3683. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Ohio River, Brookport, IL'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0486)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3684. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulation; Temporary Change for Recurring Marine Event in the Seventh Coast Guard District'' ((RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0908)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3685. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Sea Turtle Conservation; Shrimp Trawling Requirements'' (RIN0648–BG45) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3686. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pacific Whiting; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Amendment 2104; Catch Share Program, 5-Year Review, Follow-on Actions'' (RIN0648–BI35) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3687. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, 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; Annual Specifications and Management Measures for the 2019 Tribal and Non-Tribal Fisheries for Pacific Whiting, and Requirement To Consider Chinook Salmon Bycatch Before Reapportioning Tribal Whiting; Correction'' (RIN0648–BI67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3688. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, 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; Seabird Bycatch Avoidance Measures'' (RIN0648–BI99) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3689. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Limited Reopening of the 2019 U.S. Pelagic Longline Fishery for Bigeye Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean'' (RIN0648–XP005) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3690. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer From NC to RI'' (RIN0648–XX028) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3691. A communication from the Acting Director, 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 Fishery; Quota Transfer From NC to VA'' (RIN0648–XX030) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3692. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens

Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Essential Fish Habitat'' (RIN0648–BJ45) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3693. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Biennial Specifications'' (RIN0648–BJ22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3694. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking and Importing Marine Mammals Incidental to Construction and Operation of the Liberty Drilling and Production Island, Beaufort Sea, Alaska'' (RIN0648–BI00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3695. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, 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 Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XY056) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3696. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, 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; Halibut Deck Sorting Monitoring Requirements for Trawl Catcher/Processors Operating in Non-Pollock Groundfish Fisheries Off Alaska; Correction'' (RIN0648–BI53) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3697. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Australia of 120mm.50 caliber inbore sub-caliber training devices in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19–091); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3698. A communication from the Division Director for Policy, Legislation, and Regulation, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Wagner-Peyser Act Staffing Flexibility'' (RIN1205–AB87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 6, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3699. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Justice's Indian Country Investigations and Prosecution Report for calendar year 2018; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

Report to accompany S. 2302, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–200).

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. COTTON:

S. 3153. A bill to prohibit the sharing of United States intelligence with countries that permit the operation of Huawei fifth generation telecommunications technology within their borders; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3154. A bill to improve the effectiveness of tribal child support enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3155. A bill to establish a rural postsecondary and economic development grant program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3156. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the January 8th National Memorial in Tucson, Arizona, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 3157. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the financing for the Hazardous Substance Superfund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3158. A bill to remove college cost as a barrier to every student having access to a well-prepared and diverse educator workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3159. A bill to prohibit the use of funds for military force against Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 3160. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act to modify the payment periods of loans from State revolving funds under those Acts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 3161. A bill to establish the ''Biomedical Innovation Fund'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 3162. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Drug Manufacturing; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 3163. A bill to authorize the collection of supplemental payments to increase congressional investments in medical research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3164. A bill to rescind each Medal of Honor awarded for acts at Wounded Knee Creek on December 29, 1890, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3165. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study to assess the unintended impacts on the health and safety of people engaged in transactional sex, in connection with the enactment of the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–164) and the loss of interactive computer services that host information related to sexual exchange, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 3166. A bill to lower the cost of drugs for all Americans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3167. A bill to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3168. A bill to establish competitive Federal grants that will empower community colleges and minority-serving institutions to become incubators for infant and toddler child care talent, training, and access on their campuses and in their communities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 3169. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a Health in All Policies Demonstration Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S.J. Res. 64. A joint resolution relating to the use of military force against the Islamic Republic of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. Res. 465. A resolution condemning threats by President Donald J. Trump to violate the law of armed conflict with respect to Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 160

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 160, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes.

S. 182

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 182, a bill to prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 467

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 467, a bill to amend section 520E of the Public Health Service Act to require States and their designees receiving grants for development and implementation of statewide suicide early intervention and prevention strategies to collaborate with each Federally recognized Indian tribe, tribal organization, urban Indian organization, and Native Hawaiian health care system in the State.

S. 505

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 505, a bill to ensure due process protections of individuals in the United States against unlawful detention based solely on a protected characteristic.

S. 605

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 605, a bill to assist States in carrying out projects to expand the child care workforce and child care facilities in the States, and for other purposes.

S. 634

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax credits to encourage individual and corporate taxpayers to contribute to scholarships for students through eligible scholarship-granting organizations and eligible workforce training organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 778

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 778, a bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, and for other purposes.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 933

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, a bill to improve data collection and monitoring of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts, and for other purposes.

S. 948

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 948, a bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1039, a bill to limit the use of funds for kinetic military operations in or against Iran.

S. 1381

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1381, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 1554

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1554, a bill to provide for an automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1605

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1605, a bill to make available necessary disaster assistance for families affected by major disasters, and for other purposes.

S. 2001

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2001, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O'Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 2216

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2216, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, and for other purposes.

S. 2236

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2236, a bill to require Federal agencies to address environmental justice, to require consideration of cumulative impacts in certain permitting decisions, and for other purposes.

S. 2598

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2598, a bill to require the payment of user fees by qualified professional asset managers seeking an individual exemption from certain requirements.

S. 2671

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2671, a bill to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives by investing in effective violence reduction initiatives.

S. 2803

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2803, a bill to provide Federal housing assistance on behalf of youths who are aging out of foster care, and for other purposes.

S. 3056

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3056, a bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States.

S. 3102

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3102, a bill to require the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce to

provide estimates relating to the distribution of aggregate economic growth across specific percentile groups of income.

S. 3148

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3148, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

S. 3152

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3152, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps.

S.J. RES. 13

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 13, a joint resolution to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 63

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 63, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3154. A bill to improve the effectiveness of tribal child support enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3154

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 ''Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

(a) IMPROVING THE COLLECTION OF PAST-DUE CHILD SUPPORT THROUGH STATE AND TRIBAL PARITY IN THE ALLOWABLE USE OF TAX INFORMATION.—

(1) AMENDMENT TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 464 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 664) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) APPLICABILITY TO INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING A GRANT UNDER THIS PART.—This section, except for the requirement to distribute amounts in accordance with section 457, shall apply to an Indian tribe or tribal organization receiving a grant under section 455(f) in the same manner in which this section applies to a State with a plan approved under this part.''.

(2) AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.—

(A) Section 6103(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''any local child support enforcement agency'' and inserting ''any tribal or local child support enforcement agency''.

(B) Section 6103(a)(3) of such Code is amended by inserting '', (8)'' after ''(6)''.

(C) Section 6103(l) of such Code is amended—

(i) in paragraph (6)—

(I) by striking ''or local'' in subparagraph (A) and inserting ''tribal, or local'';

(II) by striking ''AND LOCAL'' in the heading thereof and inserting ''TRIBAL, AND LOCAL'';

(III) by striking ''The following'' in subparagraph (B) and inserting ''The'';

(IV) by striking the colon and all that follows in subparagraph (B) and inserting a period; and

(V) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) STATE, TRIBAL, OR LOCAL CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—For purposes of this paragraph, the following shall be treated as a State, tribal, or local child support enforcement agency:

''(i) Any agency of a State or political subdivision thereof operating pursuant to a plan described in section 454 of the Social Security Act which has been approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under part D of title IV of such Act.

''(ii) Any child support enforcement agency of an Indian tribe or tribal organization receiving a grant under section 455(f) of the Social Security Act.'';

(ii) in paragraph (8)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or State or local'' and inserting ''State, tribal, or local'';

(II) by adding the following at the end of subparagraph (B): ''The information disclosed to any child support enforcement agency under subparagraph (A) with respect to any individual with respect to whom child support obligations are sought to be established or enforced may be disclosed by such agency to any agent of such agency which is under contract with such agency for purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, establishing and collecting child support obligations from, and locating, individuals owing such obligations.'';

(III) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

''(C) STATE, TRIBAL, OR LOCAL CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'State, tribal, or local child support enforcement agency' has the same meaning as when used in paragraph (6)(D).''; and

(IV) by striking ''AND LOCAL'' in the heading thereof and inserting ''TRIBAL, AND LOCAL''; and

(iii) in paragraph (10)(B), by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iii) The information disclosed to any child support enforcement agency under subparagraph (A) with respect to any individual with respect to whom child support obligations are sought to be established or enforced may be disclosed by such agency to any agent of such agency which is under contract with such agency for purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, establishing and collecting child support obligations from, and locating, individuals owing such obligations.''.

(D) Subsection (c) of section 6402 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following: ''For purposes of this subsection, any reference to a State shall include a reference to any Indian tribe or tribal organization receiving a grant under section 455(f) of the Social Security Act.''.

(b) REIMBURSEMENT FOR REPORTS.—Section 453(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653(g)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking ''STATE''; and

(2) by striking ''and State'' and inserting '', State, and tribal''.

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Paragraphs (7) and (33) of sections 454 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 654) are each amended by striking ''450b'' and inserting ''5304''.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3155. A bill to establish a rural postsecondary and economic development grant program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Success for Rural Students and Communities Act, a bill that would help rural students achieve their higher education goals and connect their successes with economic opportunities in their own communities. I want to thank Senator HASSAN for introducing this bill with me.

The Success for Rural Students and Communities Act aims to improve the outcomes for rural students who are pursuing higher education and skills-based credentials that will prepare them to meet the workforce needs of their home communities.

According to the 2010 census, Maine is now the most rural State in the Nation. Two out of three Maine schools are in rural communities, and more than half of Maine's students attend those schools. While nearly 90 percent of the students in my State graduate from high school, only 62 percent enroll in higher education, at least right away. According to a recent report by the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, only 30 percent of Maine students go on to earn a 2-year or a 4-year degree. So we have a huge dichotomy between the number of Maine students who graduate from high school and the number who are successful in graduating from some sort of higher education.

Maine's experience reflects the trends observed nationwide. Rural students tend to graduate from high school at higher rates than their peers in urban districts and at about the same rate as their peers in suburban schools, but only 59 percent of rural graduates enroll in college upon graduation, which is a lower percentage than their counterparts in urban and suburban areas.

The Success for Rural Students and Communities Act would help spur innovation, investment, and strategies that would improve college access and success for rural students. It would create

a demonstration program to encourage rural community stakeholders to partner together to help students go on to college or obtain some other postsecondary education, complete this education, and enter the workforce. These partnerships would draw on the talents of local school districts, institutions of higher education, regional economic development entities, rural community organizations, and the private sector. The bill encourages these partnerships to develop and implement strategies to help students and their families navigate higher education opportunities and addresses the barriers to their achievement.

For example, the bill calls for partnerships to coalesce around approaches that boost higher education enrollment rates for referral students by exposing students and their families to college campuses, courses, internships, and career pathways to jobs at home. These partnerships could also focus on rural incompletion rates of nontraditional students who may need additional credentials or who once began but did not finish higher education.

To meet the demands of today's workforce, many employees will need a credential beyond a high school diploma—perhaps a college degree, a skilled trade credential, or a professional certificate. The Success for Rural Students and Communities Act encourages schools and employers to forge partnerships that will put students on pathways into the high-demand jobs available where they live. That helps the rural communities. It helps them keep their young people. It helps them keep people who have the education and the skills those communities need to be vibrant and successful and to have strong economies.

The bill highlights a number of strategies that could be developed and tested, including work-based learning opportunities, such as apprenticeships, internships, and stackable credentials that make up a sequence of courses on the path to a certain skill or job. I have toured apprenticeship programs in Maine, including one that helps to train people for jobs in forestry, and I have seen firsthand how successful those apprenticeship programs are.

When rural students enroll in college, they often face barriers that prevent them from graduating, and that is why I have been a big promoter of student success programs. I have seen a very effective one at the Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor, where students are helped with whatever the barrier is that is preventing them from completing community college. In some cases, it is the need for some mentoring; in others, tutoring in some areas. In other cases, it is simply a short-term loan in order for them to fix their automobile so they can get to class. In another case, it is childcare needs. Whatever the barrier is, if we can help these students, they will be able to complete their education.

Many are the first in their families to attend college, which means they may have a more difficult time finding information about financial aid or selecting an education program that meets their needs. With the right supports in place, more and more rural students can complete their postsecondary education.

Let me give a great example of the type of program I am talking about that would fulfill the goals of this legislation. In Maine's Aroostook County, where I was born and raised and where much of my family still lives, the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative is using this kind of model to help put students on pathways to academic and career success. Launched with a generous donation from local philanthropic partners, Aroostook Aspirations provides scholarships to high school students in Aroostook County who are seeking postsecondary education. The initiative collaborates with local colleges and universities, including the University of Maine at Presque Isle, the University of Maine at Fort Kent, Northern Maine Community College, and Husson University. It works with the area businesses and entrepreneurs to offer seminars that guide students throughout their college educations—the kind of mentoring I was referring to.

Students can also team up with Aroostook County employers through internships that give them experience in jobs they wish to pursue or simply try out to see if the jobs fit them. They create relationships with professional mentors, who help put them on the right path to entering the workforce.

The Success for Rural Students and Communities Act would support dynamic programs such as the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative and encourage other communities in rural America to innovate in similar ways. The Success for Rural Students and Communities Act would make a meaningful investment in the educational aspirations of rural students and their families and would strengthen the economy in rural America. By helping students succeed in reaching their education and career goals, we can also enhance the skills of our workforce in rural America. I urge my colleagues to support the Collins-Hassan bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 465—CONDEMNING THREATS BY PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP TO VIOLATE THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT WITH RESPECT TO IRAN

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 465

Whereas President Donald J. Trump threatened to destroy sites ''important to. . . the Iranian culture'' and threatened future retaliation in ''a disproportionate manner'' on January 4 and January 5, 2020, respectively;

Whereas Article 53 of Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions prohibits any act of hostility against cultural objects, including making such objects the target of reprisals;

Whereas destruction of cultural sites violates the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, which the United States ratified during the administration of President George W. Bush;

Whereas the Department of Defense Law of War Manual states that ''[c]ultural property, the areas immediately surrounding it, and appliances in use for its protection should be safeguarded and respected'';

Whereas the United States Government has condemned the Taliban, the Islamic State, al Qaeda and its affiliates, and the Government of the People's Republic of China, among others, for the destruction of cultural heritage;

Whereas the Trump Administration supported the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017) condemning ''the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage, including the destruction of religious sites and artefacts'';

Whereas, on March 24, 2017, the United States Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations stated, ''The United States seeks to hold accountable. . . the perpetrators of deliberate cultural heritage destruction.'';

Whereas the destruction of cultural sites in Iran could include damage to one or more of the 22 cultural sites in Iran inscribed on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization;

Whereas, on January 6, 2020, Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper expressed that the United States would not target Iranian cultural sites, as the United States ''follow[s] the laws of armed conflict'';

Whereas military actions conducted ''in a disproportionate manner'' violate international law, including Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, as well as the United States Department of Defense guidelines whether in reference to the conduct of armed conflict or the resort to war;

Whereas the Department of Defense Law of War Manual states that the principle of proportionality in the conduct of war ''generally refers to the obligation to take feasible precautions in planning and conducting attacks and to refrain from attacks in which the expected loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, and damage to civilian objects incidental to the attack would be excessive.'';

Whereas the Department of Defense Law of War Manual states, ''Proportionality is also a requirement for reprisals, which must respond in a proportionate manner to the preceding illegal act by the party against which they are taken'';

Whereas military action that disregards proportionality would further exacerbate the suffering of the Iranian people, who have endured—

(1) their own government's systematic and longstanding human rights violations, restrictions on political freedoms, and brutal suppression of their democratic aspirations; and

(2) the arbitrary reimposition of United States sanctions that have negatively affected livelihoods of ordinary Iranians and restricted economic activity; and

Whereas the destruction of cultural sites and the disproportionate use of military force are among the actions that could needlessly escalate the crisis with Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that efforts to defend United States security and interests must take into account potential harm to civilians and other protected persons and objects in foreign countries, consistent with international legal principles and our common humanity;

(2) affirms that the destruction of cultural heritage is morally wrong, is a violation of international law, and that even threats of such destruction undermine years of public diplomacy demonstrating that the American people do not seek conflict with any cultural or religious group;

(3) affirms that no violation of the law of armed conflict or human rights violation by Iran or its proxies permits or justifies similar violations by any other state;

(4) urges President Donald J. Trump to use his bully pulpit to promote de-escalation of tensions with Iran rather than to threaten acts of war and violations of international law;

(5) strongly condemns the President's threats to destroy sites important to Iranian culture and to retaliate against Iran in a disproportionate manner; and

(6) demands that the President avoid needless escalation with Iran and refrain from violating the law of armed conflict.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 2 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: William Scott Hardy, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, John F. Heil III, to be United States District Judge for the Northern, Eastern and Western Districts of Oklahoma, David Cleveland Joseph, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, Cory T. Wilson, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, and Edward Hulvey Meyers, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to grant floor privileges to a new Department of Defense fellow in my office, Keith Griefer, for the remainder of the Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Amy Hafez, Andrew Bremer, and Emily Beagle, fellows in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 116th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, January 9; 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, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Ray nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. 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 6:26 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, January 9, 2020, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate January 8, 2020:

THE JUDICIARY

MATTHEW H. SOLOMSON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

ELENI MARIA ROUMEL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MICHAEL GEORGE DESOMBRE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING OFFICER DANIEL BALLONI

HON. JOHN KATKO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Oswego Police Officer, Daniel Balloni, for his heroic actions to save a woman from the freezing Oswego River.

On December 29, 2019, at 1:17am, police responded to the Oswego River after local residents called 911 to report screams coming from the river. As officers began investigating on the west side of the river, Officer Balloni, who was not originally dispatched to the call, went to the east side to see if he could help. Officer Balloni and his colleagues located a young woman in the freezing water struggling to stay alive. After several failed attempts by the officers to rescue her using a floating ring, Officer Balloni removed his gear and jumped in the frigid water, grabbing the ring and the woman. Aided by his fellow officers, Officer Balloni was able to bring the woman to shore. Shortly thereafter, paramedics arrived on the scene and transported the woman to a local hospital where she was treated for hypothermia and is now recovering.

Officer Balloni risked his own safety and suffered from hypothermia during this rescue. His actions reaffirm that first responders in our community and nationwide put the safety of our communities ahead of their own. I am tremendously grateful for the heroic actions of Officer Balloni, members of the Oswego Police Department, and all of those who work every day to keep us safe.

Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor Officer Daniel Balloni for acting to save the life of a young woman. Every day, first responders like Officer Balloni put their lives on the line to serve and protect our community. I thank him as well as the first responders in Central New York and across the country for their service.

HONORING RICHARD STEVEN GREEN

HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Richard Steven Green. Richard is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Richard has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Richard has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Richard has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Richard Steven Green for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life and, unfortunately, his untimely death, remind us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. In his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, Dr. King embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. I am honored to rise today to recognize several individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District who will be recognized during the 41st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 18, 2020, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

The Gary Frontiers Service Club will pay tribute to local individuals who have for decades selflessly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. This year, Mark Spencer will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award. Additionally, Lieutenant Derrick Cannon, James Harris, Suzette Raggs, Verlie Suggs, and Mildred Guthrie will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of each of these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with ''a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.'' They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Madam Speaker, I invite you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these honorees, as well as the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers, President Oliver Gilliam, who also served as the MLK Breakfast Chairman, Vice President Charles Jackson, Secretary Linnal Ford, Financial Secretary Valerie Tate, and Treasurer Floyd Donaldson, and all members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

RECOGNIZING GINA LOSS OF GREAT FALLS

HON. GREG GIANFORTE
OF MONTANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gina Loss, founder of the Great Falls Project Linus chapter, for leading efforts to provide comfort to Montana's children.

Project Linus is a national organization with chapters throughout the country. Its primary mission is to create handmade blankets to give to children who face a challenge, crisis, or emergency.

Facing her own challenges, Gina was inspired to create a local chapter of Project Linus. When faced with personal challenges, Gina believes many people often ask, ''Why me?'' When she confronted her own challenges, she asked herself, ''How do kids get through hard times in life?'' Considering that question led her to found the Great Falls chapter of Project Linus in March 2006.

Since its launch, the chapter has given more than 15,000 blankets to kids through hospitals, dentist offices, and neonatal intensive care units, among others. The entire community has embraced the effort, and now hundreds of volunteers across Montana offer handmade gifts of comfort for thousands of kids in need.

Volunteering her time and resources, Gina uses her home as the chapter's headquarters, overseeing everything from storage to quality control. Her home is also the distribution center where the blankets are sent around the state.

Gina says people don't realize how much a blanket means to a child who is thrust into difficult, challenging circumstances. She says as soon as a kid gets one of their blankets, they immediately settle down and never let it go.

Madam Speaker, for bringing together people across the state to provide comfort to children when they need it most, I recognize Gina Loss and the Great Falls chapter of Project Linus for their Spirit of Montana.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I

would have answered present on Roll Call No. 1.

IN MEMORY OF AL YOUNG

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mr. Al Young of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Young passed away on December 25, 2019 at the age of 77. Mr. Young was an icon in the bourbon business, one of the Commonwealth of Kentucky's signature industries.

Mr. Young was born in Louisville, Kentucky on June 20, 1942. Following his graduation from Western Kentucky University and later Southern Illinois University, he began his career in the distilling industry in 1967. He served in a variety of roles and became Distillery Manager of Four Roses Distillery in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky in 1990. He was named Brand Ambassador for Four Roses in 2007, where he served until his passing. Mr. Young was a part of the Four Roses family for over fifty years.

Mr. Young was inducted into the Kentucky Distillers' Association Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame in 2011. He was one of the KDA's official historians due to his extensive knowledge of the industry. He was also inducted into the Whisky Magazine Hall of Fame in 2015. He authored the book Four Roses: The Return of a Whiskey Legend. Mr. Young was passionate for the industry and was well known by bourbon fans around the world.

Eric Gregory, President of the Kentucky Distillers' Association, said ''Al was an ambassador for Kentucky bourbon long before the job was even invented. The thing I'll remember most is that Al was always smiling. Always. You just knew he loved his job, his family, and his life. We were lucky to share in his spirit.''

Mr. Gregory is survived by Gretchen, his wife of 52 years, their three children Marc, Heather, and Christine, and four grandchildren.

It is my honor to acknowledge the life of this accomplished man, Mr. Al Young, before the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE ELAINE RACE MASSACRE

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, one-hundred years ago, soldiers, returned from the European front in WWI were committed to benefitting from the opportunity and liberty they secured at great risk and sacrifice to themselves. Many took that commitment to autonomy and freedom home to the small towns, communities, and homesteads where families and livelihoods remained. One-hundred years ago, few eyes were turned toward a small agrarian community in Northeast Arkansas, where black sharecroppers, spurred in part by the tales of opportunity and liberty spun by these returning patriots, dared to discuss fair pay for their crops. To this day, the accounts of the tragic loss of life that took place during the Elaine Massacre, when white mobs killed more than 100 African Americans, remains widely unknown.

In September, I had the opportunity to attend the dedication of a memorial to the victims of the 1919 Elaine Massacre. I also had the distinct pleasure of meeting the Honorable Brian Miller, U.S. District Judge and nephew of Leroy Johnston, WWI veteran, Purple Heart recipient, and murder victim during the Elaine Massacre. I would like to include in the RECORD Judge Miller's remarks from the ceremony.

THE ELAINE MASSACRE MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY

Court Square Park, 350 Perry Street, Helena, Arkansas, September 29, 2019.

(By Judge Brian Miller)

One-hundred years ago, on September the 30th of 1919, on this block, Phillips County's civic, political, and economic leaders settled in for a night at the Helena Opera House, which used to stand on this block.

One-hundred years ago, on the same night, three men met at the Phillips County Courthouse and drove down to Hoop Spur Church. They went to Hoop Spur Church to check on a meeting of black sharecroppers who were attempting to unionize. And those people were unionizing so that they could be paid fairly. The three men left from that courthouse across the street from this block.

While the black sharecroppers fought for fair pay, the black business class in Helena built movie theaters and cathedrals. They owned rental property. They ran small businesses. They practiced medicine on Walnut Street, which runs on the west side of this block.

While the black business class ran their businesses on Walnut Street, the white business class owned banks, movie theaters, restaurants, and retail stores on Cherry Street, which is that street that runs on the east side of this block. Two sides of this block.

And although there was a wide divide between the black and white business classes, there was an even greater divide between the black business class and the black sharecroppers meeting at Hoop Spur that night.

The 30 miles that separated this block and Walnut Street from Hoop Spur might as well have been a million miles, because there was nothing holding together the black business class and the sharecroppers meeting at Hoop Spur that night, except for shared history and black skin.

But what neither group could have imagined happened 100 years ago. The three men who left the courthouse across the street from this block fired shots into the Hoop Spur Church. And shots were fired out of the church, and a white man was killed.

A posse formed in that courthouse across the street from this block, and mob violence ensued. When the dust settled, five white men were killed, and more than 100 black people were killed. Estimates have gone as much as 800, but most historians have settled on about 200. And the mob raged on.

More than 100 black people were arrested and brought to the Phillips County Jail across the street from this block. Those men were brutally beaten and tortured in that jail across the street from this block. And the mob gathered.

Right here on this block, right where you sit, the mob gathered and chanted and screamed for death. And 12 men were given sham trials in that courthouse across the street from this block and sentenced to die across the street from this block.

But Judge Jacob Trieber stayed those executions in the old federal courthouse that once stood on that corner across the street from this block.

Now, after 100 years, we return. And where do we return? We return to this block. We return not to relive 1919. We return to this block to remember and honor those who were killed. We return in hope. We return to this block with an earnest yearning for redemption. We return to this block with an earnest yearning for reconciliation.

Those of us who failed to take up the cause of the sharecroppers seek redemption for failing to help those less fortunate than ourselves. And those of us who joined the mob or contributed to the slaughter of the sharecroppers seek redemption for doing the unthinkable.

And all of us, whether we are the descendants of the mob, whether we are the descendants of those who were killed by the mob, or whether we are just people of good will, seek reconciliation with one another.

We return to this block on this day and at this time to face the reality that we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors. We all love our ancestors and we all respect them. But we also accept the reality that they were not perfect. We understand that they were human beings. We understand that they were susceptible to human frailty.

Because of this, we return to this block to announce that we will be vigilant not to repeat their mistakes. We return to this block to forgive one another, and to ask for forgiveness. We return to this block to accept that forgiveness and to allow ourselves to be redeemed.

And this, the Elaine Massacre Memorial, forever stands as a reminder of why we have returned to this block. Every time we feel angry, every time we feel embittered, every time we feel slighted, every time we feel divisive, and every time we feel guilty, we will see that monument and we will remember the nightmare that all of those emotions will bring.

And we will remember this day and how we feel at this moment, and we will recommit ourselves to loving and respecting one another, even when we disagree.

HONORING SETH KOHLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Seth Kohler. Seth is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 313, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Seth has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Seth has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Seth has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Seth designed and constructed a flag pole outside of his church.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Seth Kohler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present on January 7, 2020 for Roll Call Vote 1. Had I been present, I would have answered Present on Roll Call Vote 1.

RECOGNIZING DAVID CONDON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SPOKANE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Mayor David Condon, who will go down as Spokane's most significant mayor since Expo '74. Mayor Condon is a friend, my former district director and deputy chief of staff, a former U.S. Army Captain, and a visionary and compassionate leader who during his eight years of service to the City of Spokane showed that a good government doesn't have to be an expensive one.

When David earned the trust of Spokane's citizens and was elected as mayor, the crime in the city was high, development had slowed, and the river that runs through the heart of the city was becoming more polluted every day. David set out with a tremendous vision to reverse these trends, and lead a revitalization of the city that will continue to be realized and appreciated for decades to come.

During his time as the Mayor of Spokane—the largest city in my district—David was known for his focus on solutions to help the city grow and modernize for the future. He was instrumental in championing the revival of Spokane's Riverfront Park, cleaning up our river and restoring the lifeblood of Spokane. His efforts were recognized nationally, including by President Obama.

During his thoughtful tenure, Spokane thrived because David always worked to bring new and exciting businesses to our area and provide even more opportunities for people to build a better life. The city's median household income has increased by 37 percent since 2014, job growth is up 3.9 percent since 2015, and the crime rate is down. The future of Spokane's libraries is secured through David's leadership in passing a bond to remodel four existing libraries and build three more. David also championed rebuilding the city's aging infrastructure through smart investment and encouraging private partnerships. He hired more police officers, firefighters, and emergency responders and improved our emergency service response time to better protect and serve the city. Spokane, and all of Eastern Washington, is stronger today because of Mayor Condon's remarkable and visionary leadership.

He put Spokane on the map. We are no longer a medium-sized town in search of our identity, we are a national model and a shining example for other cities to follow. That is because of David's time, talent, sweat, and tears.

I'm proud to call David a friend and colleague. As he embarks on the next chapter, we will miss the leadership that he brought. On behalf of Washington's Fifth Congressional District, I thank Mayor Condon for his eight years of service and commitment to the City of Spokane. He left the city better off than he found it and truly made Spokane the ''City of Choice.''

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TRUMP

HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Speaker, in light of how the House concluded 2019 with the passage of Articles of Impeachment, and the current state of the process, the constituents of Florida's 17th Congressional District and all Americans must be informed about the truth of this process as accurately conveyed in this letter from President Trump to Speaker PELOSI.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, December 17, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I write to express my strongest and most powerful protest against the partisan impeachment crusade being pursued by the Democrats in the House of Representatives. This impeachment represents an unprecedented and unconstitutional abuse of power by Democrat Lawmakers, unequaled in nearly two and a half centuries of American legislative history.

The Articles of Impeachment introduced by the House Judiciary Committee are not recognizable under any standard of Constitutional theory, interpretation, or jurisprudence. They include no crimes, no misdemeanors, and no offenses whatsoever. You have cheapened the importance of the very ugly word, impeachment!

By proceeding with your invalid impeachment, you are violating your oaths of office, you are breaking your allegiance to the Constitution, and you are declaring open war on American Democracy. You dare to invoke the Founding Fathers in pursuit of this election-nullification scheme—yet your spiteful actions display unfettered contempt for America's founding and your egregious conduct threatens to destroy that which our Founders pledged their very lives to build. Even worse than offending the Founding Fathers, you are offending Americans of faith by continually saying ''I pray for the President,'' when you know this statement is not true, unless it is meant in a negative sense. It is a terrible thing you are doing, but you will have to live with it, not I!

Your first claim, ''Abuse of Power,'' is a completely disingenuous, meritless, and baseless invention of your imagination. You know that I had a totally innocent conversation with the President of Ukraine. I then had a second conversation that has been misquoted, mischaracterized, and fraudulently misrepresented. Fortunately, there was a transcript of the conversation taken, and you know from the transcript (which was immediately made available) that the paragraph in question was perfect. I said to President Zelensky: ''I would like you to do us a favor, though, because our country has been through a lot and Ukraine knows a lot about it.'' I said do *us* a favor, not *me*, and *our country*, not a campaign. I then mentioned the Attorney General of the United States. Every time I talk with a foreign leader, I put America's interests first, just as I did with President Zelensky.

You are turning a policy disagreement between two branches of government into an impeachable offense—it is no more legitimate than the Executive Branch charging members of Congress with crimes for the lawful exercise of legislative power.

You know full well that Vice President Biden used his office and $1 billion dollars of U.S. aid money to coerce Ukraine into firing the prosecutor who was digging into the company paying his son millions of dollars. You know this because Biden bragged about it on video. Biden openly stated: ''I said, 'I'm telling you, you're not getting the billion dollars' . . . I looked at them and said: 'I'm leaving in six hours. If the prosecutor is not fired, you're not getting the money.' Well, son of a bitch. He got fired.'' Even Joe Biden admitted just days ago in an interview with NPR that it ''looked bad.'' Now you are trying to impeach me by falsely accusing me of doing what Joe Biden has admitted he actually did.

President Zelensky has repeatedly declared that I did nothing wrong, and that there was No Pressure. He further emphasized that it was a ''good phone call,'' that ''I don't feel pressure,'' and explicitly stressed that ''nobody pushed me.'' The Ukrainian Foreign Minister stated very Clearly: ''I have never seen a direct link between investigations and security assistance.'' He also said there was ''No Pressure.'' Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, a supporter of Ukraine who met privately with President Zelensky, has said: ''At no time during this meeting . . . was there any mention by Zelensky or any Ukrainian that they were feeling pressure to do anything in return for the military aid.'' Many meetings have been held between representatives of Ukraine and our country. Never once did Ukraine complain about pressure being applied—not once! Ambassador Sandland testified that I told him: ''No quid pro quo. I want nothing. I want nothing. I want President Zelensky to do the right thing, do what he ran on.''

The second claim, so-called ''Obstruction of Congress,'' is preposterous and dangerous. House Democrats are trying to impeach the duly elected President of the United States for asserting Constitutionally based privileges that have been asserted on a bipartisan basis by administrations of both political parties throughout our Nation's history. Under that standard, every American president would have been impeached many times over. As liberal law professor Jonathan Turley warned when addressing Congressional Democrats: ''I can't emphasize this enough . . . if you impeach a president, if you make a high crime and misdemeanor out of going to the courts, it is an abuse of power. It's your abuse of power. You're doing precisely what you're criticizing the President for doing.''

Everyone, you included, knows what is really happening. Your chosen candidate lost the election in 2016, in an Electoral College landslide (306–227), and you and your party have never recovered from this defeat. You have developed a full-fledged case of what many in the media call Trump Derangement Syndrome and sadly, you will never get over it! You are unwilling and unable to accept the verdict issued at the ballot box during the great Election of 2016. So you have spent three straight years attempting to overturn the will of the American people and nullify their votes. You view democracy as your enemy!

Speaker Pelosi, you admitted just last week at a public forum that your party's impeachment effort has been going on for ''two and a half years,'' long before you ever heard

about a phone call with Ukraine. Nineteen minutes after I took the oath of office, the Washington Post published a story headlined, ''The Campaign to Impeach President Trump Has Begun.'' Less than three months after my inauguration, Representative Maxine Waters stated, ''I'm going to fight every day until he's impeached.'' House Democrats introduced the first impeachment resolution against me within months of my inauguration, for what will be regarded as one of our country's best decisions, the firing of James Cormey (see Inspector General Reports)—who the world now knows is one of the dirtiest cops our Nation has ever seen. A ranting and raving Congresswoman, Rashida Tlaib, declared just hours after she was sworn into office, ''We're gonna go in there and we're gonna impeach the motherf****r.'' Representative Al Green said in May, ''I'm concerned that if we don't impeach this president, he will get re-elected.'' Again, you and your allies said, and did, all of these things long before you ever heard of President Zelensky or anything related to Ukraine. As you know very well, this impeachment drive has nothing to do with Ukraine, or the totally appropriate conversation I had with its new president. It only has to do with your attempt to undo the election of 2016 and steal the election of 2020!

Congressman Adam Schiff cheated and lied all the way up to the present day, even going so far as to fraudulently make up, out of thin air, my conversation with President Zelensky of Ukraine and read this fantasy language to Congress as though it were said by me. His shameless lies and deceptions, dating all the way back to the Russia Hoax, is one of the main reasons we are here today.

You and your party are desperate to distract from America's extraordinary economy, incredible jobs boom, record stock market, soaring confidence, and flourishing citizens. Your party simply cannot compete with our record: 7 million new jobs; the lowest-ever unemployment for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans; a rebuilt military; a completely reformed VA with Choice and Accountability for our great veterans; more than 170 new federal judges and two Supreme Court Justices: historic tax and regulation cuts; the elimination of the individual mandate; the first decline in prescription drug prices in half a century; the first new branch of the United States Military since 1947, the Space Force; strong protection of the Second Amendment; criminal justice reform; a defeated ISIS caliphate and the killing of the world's number one terrorist leader, al-Baghdadi; the replacement of the disastrous NAFTA trade deal with the wonderful USMCA (Mexico and Canada); a breakthrough Phase One trade deal with China; massive new trade deals with Japan and South Korea; withdrawal from the terrible Iran Nuclear Deal; cancellation of the unfair and costly Paris Climate Accord; becoming the world's top energy producer; recognition of Israel's capital, opening the American Embassy in Jerusalem, and recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights; a colossal reduction in illegal border crossings, the ending of Catch-and-Release, and the building of the Southern Border Wall—and that is just the beginning, there is so much more. You cannot defend your extreme policies—open borders, mass migration, high crime, crippling taxes, socialized healthcare, destruction of American energy, late-term taxpayer-funded abortion, elimination of the Second Amendment, radical far-left theories of law and justice, and constant partisan obstruction of both common sense and common good.

There is nothing I would rather do than stop referring to your party as the Do-Nothing Democrats. Unfortunately, I don't know that you will ever give me a chance to do so.

After three years of unfair and unwarranted investigations, 45 million dollars spent, 18 angry Democrat prosecutors, the entire force of the FBI, headed by leadership now proven to be totally incompetent and corrupt, you have found NOTHING! Few people in high position could have endured or passed this test. You do not know, nor do you care, the great damage and hurt you have inflicted upon wonderful and loving members of my family. You conducted a fake investigation upon the democratically elected President of the United States, and you are doing it yet again.

There are not many people who could have taken the punishment inflicted during this period of time, and yet done so much for the success of America and its citizens. But instead of putting our country first, you have decided to disgrace our country still further. You completely failed with the Mueller report because there was nothing to find, so you decided to take the next hoax that came along, the phone call with Ukraine—even though it was a perfect call. And by the way, when I speak to foreign countries, there are many people, with permission, listening to the call on both sides of the conversation.

You are the ones interfering in America's elections. You are the ones subverting America's Democracy. You are the ones Obstructing Justice. You are the ones bringing pain and suffering to our Republic for your own selfish personal, political, and partisan gain.

Before the Impeachment Hoax, it was the Russian Witch Hunt. Against all evidence, and regardless of the truth, you and your deputies claimed that my campaign colluded with the Russians—a grave, malicious, and slanderous lie, a falsehood like no other. You forced our Nation through turmoil and torment over a wholly fabricated story, illegally purchased from a foreign spy by Hillary Clinton and the DNC in order to assault our democracy. Yet, when the monstrous lie was debunked and this Democrat conspiracy dissolved into dust, you did not apologize. You did not recant. You did not ask to be forgiven. You showed no remorse, no capacity for self-reflection. Instead, you pursued your next libelous and vicious crusade—you engineered an attempt to frame and defame an innocent person. All of this was motivated by personal political calculation. Your Speakership and your party are held hostage by your most deranged and radical representatives of the far left. Each one of your members lives in fear of a socialist primary challenger—this is what is driving impeachment. Look at Congressman Nadler's challenger. Look at yourself and others. Do not take our country down with your party.

If you truly cared about freedom and liberty for our Nation, then you would be devoting your vast investigative resources to exposing the full truth concerning the FBI's horrifying abuses of power before, during, and after the 2016 election—including the use of spies against my campaign, the submission of false evidence to a FISA court, and the concealment of exculpatory evidence in order to frame the innocent. The FBI has great and honorable people, but the leadership was inept and corrupt. I would think that you would personally be appalled by these revelations, because in your press conference the day you announced impeachment, you tied the impeachment effort directly to the completely discredited Russia Hoax, declaring twice that ''all roads lead to Putin,'' when you know that is an abject lie. I have been far tougher on Russia than President Obama ever even thought to be.

Any member of Congress who votes in support of impeachment—against every shred of truth, fact, evidence, and legal principle—is showing how deeply they revile the voters and how truly they detest America's Constitutional order. Our Founders feared the tribalization of partisan politics, and you are bringing their worst fears to life.

Worse still, I have been deprived of basic Constitutional Due Process from the beginning of this impeachment scam right up until the present. I have been denied the most fundamental rights afforded by the Constitution, including the right to present evidence, to have my own counsel present, to confront accusers, and to call and cross-examine witnesses, like the so-called whistleblower who started this entire hoax with a false report of the phone call that bears no relationship to the actual phone call that was made. Once I presented the transcribed call, which surprised and shocked the fraudsters (they never thought that such evidence would be presented), the so-called whistleblower, and the second whistleblower, disappeared because they got caught, their report was a fraud, and they were no longer going to be made available to us. In other words, once the phone call was made public, your whole plot blew up, but that didn't stop you from continuing.

More due process was afforded to those accused in the Salem Witch Trials.

You and others on your committees have long said impeachment must be bipartisan—it is not. You said it was very divisive—it certainly is, even far more than you ever thought possible-and it will only get worse!

This is nothing more than an illegal, partisan attempted coup that will, based on recent sentiment, badly fail at the voting booth. You are not just after me, as President, you are after the entire Republican Party. But because of this colossal injustice, our party is more united than it has ever been before. History will judge you harshly as you proceed with this impeachment charade. Your legacy will be that of turning the House of Representatives from a revered legislative body into a Star Chamber of partisan persecution.

Perhaps most insulting of all is your false display of solemnity. You apparently have so little respect for the American People that you expect them to believe that you are approaching this impeachment somberly, reservedly, and reluctantly. No intelligent person believes what you are saying. Since the moment I won the election, the Democrat Party has been possessed by Impeachment Fever. There is no reticence. This is not a somber affair. You are making a mockery of impeachment and you are scarcely concealing your hatred of me, of the Republican Party, and tens of millions of patriotic Americans. The voters are wise, and they are seeing straight through this empty, hollow, and dangerous game you are playing.

I have no doubt the American people will hold you and the Democrats fully responsible in the upcoming 2020 election. They will not soon forgive your perversion of justice and abuse of power.

There is far too much that needs to be done to improve the lives of our citizens. It is time for you and the highly partisan Democrats in Congress to immediately cease this impeachment fantasy and get back to work for the American People. While I have no expectation that you will do so, I write this letter to you for the purpose of history and to put my thoughts on a permanent and indelible record.

One hundred years from now, when people look back at this affair, I want them to understand it and learn from it. so that it can never happen to another President again.

Sincerely yours,

DONALD J. TRUMP,
President of the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND RE-OPENING OF THE MICHIGAN UNION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the grand re-opening of the Michigan Union.

The Michigan Union is a cornerstone of the University of Michigan. Opened in 1919, the Michigan Union is one of the oldest college unions in the country. For nearly a century, the Michigan Union has given students, faculty, and members of the Ann Arbor community a space to gather, study, and socialize. Throughout the years, the Michigan Union has undergone a great deal of transformation and witnessed some of our nation's greatest historical moments. On the morning of October 14, 1960, Democratic presidential nominee John F. Kennedy gave an impromptu speech that laid the groundwork for the Peace Corps. Later, during a visit to the University of Michigan, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. joined students in the Michigan Union to discuss his thoughts on discrimination and the future of integration in America. To carry on this impactful legacy and adapt to meet the needs of 21st century students, the Michigan Union closed in May 2018 to undergo an $85.2 million renovation.

Today, we celebrate the Michigan Union as it opens its doors once again. While maintaining the architectural integrity of the 1919 original structure, Michigan Union has vastly remodeled internal features. Aside from technology upgrades and infrastructure renewals, the Michigan Union now includes expanded lounge and study rooms, a revolutionary idea hub, an enclosed courtyard, collaborative spaces, and a host of different food vendors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the grand re-opening of the Michigan Union. Through the historical renovation, the Michigan Union will continue to be an iconic symbol of the University of Michigan for generations to come.

HONORING JOSEPH MAYNE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Mayne. Joseph is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 356, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Joseph has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Joseph located, plotted out, and painted mile markers for every quarter-mile along a four-mile loop around Watkins Mill Lake in Watkins Mill State Park, allowing first responders to have some means of locating those in need of their help when an emergency call is made and for hikers to track their progress around the lake.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph Mayne for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF FATHER GEORGE CLEMENTS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, in 1971 the Congressional Black Caucus was formed by the following Members of Congress:

Representative Shirley A. Chisholm (D–NY.); Representative William L. Clay, Sr. (D–MO); Representative George W. Collins (D–IL); Representative John Conyers (D–MI); Representative Ronald V. Dellums (D–CA); Representative Charles C. Diggs, Jr. (D–MI); Representative Augustus F. Hawkins (D–CA); Representative Ralph H. Metcalfe (D–IL); Representative Parren J. Mitchell (D–MD); Representative Robert N.C. Nix, Sr. (D–PA); Representative Charles B. Rangel (D–NY); Representative Louis Stokes (D–OH); and Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy (D–D.C.).

Congressman William L. Clay, Sr. invited Father George Clements, Pastor of Holy Angels Catholic Church in Chicago, Illinois, to provide the Invocation for the Congressional Black Caucus' inaugural Dinner. He prayed:

''Lord, make the Congressional Black Caucus instruments of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let Augustus Hawkins and Walter Fauntroy sow love. Where there Is injury let Charles Diggs and Robert Nix bring pardon. Where there is doubt let Shirley Chisholm restore faith. Where there is despair let Ronald Dellums bring hope. Where there is darkness let Charles Diggs Bring light and where there is sadness let William Clay bring joy.

''O Divine Master grant that John Conyers may not so much seek to be consoled as to console: That George Collins may not so much seek to be understood as to understand; That Louis Stokes may not so much seek to be loved as to love.

''For it is in giving that Parren Mitchell receives. It is in dying that the Congressional Black Caucus is born to eternal life.''

While Father Clements was the first to provide an invocation to the Congressional Black Caucus Dinner, he also had many other ''firsts'' in his lifetime.

In 1945, Father Clements was the first African American graduate of Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary. He was ordained as a priest in 1957 and went on to become the first African American priest to serve at Holy Angels Parish on Chicago's South side from 1969 to 1991. He helped create programs like the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus to support African-Americans within the church.

Father Clements spearheaded the ''One Church-One Child'' program in 1980, which aimed to spur Catholic churches to find adoptive parents for orphaned black children. In fact, he was the first Catholic priest to adopt a child, and later adopted 3 more sons. He also started a program for people living with drug addiction in 1944, and another for incarcerated people and their families in 1999.

Father Clements also served at other Chicago parishes, including St. Ambrose from July 1957 to July 1962, and St. Dorothy from July 1962 to June 1969. Outside of Chicago, Clements served at the Diocese of Nassau (Bahamas) from September 1991 to October 1993, and the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., from October 1993 to March 2006.

He was a longtime civil rights advocate from Chicago's Southside. He marched with Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Chicago, Alabama and Mississippi. Father Clements was one of the first voices advocating for civil rights for African Americans within the Catholic Church, according to Rev. Michael Pfleger of St. Sabina Church on Chicago's South Side. His career inspired a made-for-television movie in 1989, ''The Father Clements Story''.

Father Clements was born ''George Harold Clements'' in Chicago in 1932. On Monday, November 25, 2019, Father Clements passed away at the age of 87. As a devoted priest, human and civil rights activist, and trailblazer, he will surely be missed by the communities he served.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. DENNY CHEN

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Denny Chen, a beloved member of California's 33rd Congressional District, who passed away at the age of 81 on November 15, 2019 in Torrance, California. Denny's dental practice has served South Bay residents for more than 30 years.

Born on November 24, 1937 in Taiwan's Sanxia District, Denny graduated from Keelung High School and attended Taiwan's National Defense Medical University. Denny then served as a naval officer in the Republic of China Navy for 10 years before starting a private dental practice in 1969 in Taipei, Taiwan.

Denny moved his family to the United States in 1978, where he enrolled at the University of Southern California School of Dentistry. He received his degree and opened his dental practice in Torrance in 1981, where he served the South Bay community for 33 years until his retirement in 2014. Denny's family moved to Rancho Palos Verdes in 1989.

Whether playing golf, ballroom dancing, or singing, Denny enjoyed the wonderful life he led and the people with whom he spent it. Denny is survived by his wife, Salina; stepson, Ben, and his wife, May; son, Peter, and his wife, Cindy; and three grandchildren: Kirk, Mark, and Priscilla. May his memory be a blessing to all the patients he cared for over the years and lives he touched in the community.

HONORING THE 97TH BIRTHDAY OF JAMES A. ST. JULIEN, SR.

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 97th Birthday of World War II Veteran, Mr. James A. St. Julien, Sr.—also known as ''PawPaw.''

Born on January 9, 1923, Mr. St. Julien is a lifelong New Orleanian and was raised in the 7th Ward. He is a proud member of the Corpus Christi Catholic Church. Prior to her transition nearly 10 years ago, he was married to his beloved wife Mrs. Selma St. Julien for 67 years. Additionally, he is the father of 11 children: 9 girls and 2 boys and has over 35 grandchildren, 50 great grandchildren, 10 great great grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

As a World War II Veteran, Mr. St. Julien participated in several campaigns and theaters. The American Theater of WWII, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of WWII, and the Battle of the Philippines. In the 766 Engineering Company, Mr. St. Julien cleared the pathway for the landings on the island of Leyte. A force of 700 vessels and 174,000 men accompanied these landings. On July 5, 1945, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur announced the liberation of the Philippines. Shortly after the end of WWII, Mr. St. Julien was honorably discharged and separated from the U.S. Army on December 18, 1945.

Mr. St. Julien's military service to our country is truly admirable. He is a leader and role model in the community. His 97th Birthday deserves to be celebrated and I am honored to join in its celebration. I thank Mr. St. Julien for his service, and I wish him many more birthdays.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the 97th Birthday of a proud World War II Veteran, Mr. James A. St. Julien, Sr.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE WALSH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joe Walsh, who passed away on December 28, 2019 after a lifetime of service to his country.

Joe was born on March 18, 1919 in East Orange, New Jersey. After enlisting in the Marines in 1938, Joe served in the Marine Corps' Third Defense Battalion at the Navy Yard in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He was attending a morning color guard ceremony when the attack began. He helped man three anti-aircraft guns to shoot down the invading planes.

Joe believed that ''the guys who were over there who didn't make it back deserved to be remembered.'' Joe was the last surviving member and cofounder of the Pearl Harbor Survivor Association's North County Chapter 31. Since 1986, he organized an annual memorial at Oceanside Harbor on the anniversary of the Pearl Harbor bombing. He attended his last memorial service two weeks before he passed.

I was honored to meet Joe and his wife Bea to celebrate his 100th birthday. Bea was one of 23,000 women who enlisted in the Marines during the war. She was a member of the Aviation Women's Reserve Squadron 21 at Quantico, Virginia. Joe and Bea were married for 73 years and have six children.

Joe Walsh lived an incredible and full life. He could talk to anyone and somehow make them laugh. He was a dedicated husband, parent, and friend. We are grateful for his service to his country and his contributions to the Southern California community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Vote No. 430 at the end of the series on June 27, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

NO on Roll Call No. 430.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 112TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 112th anniversary of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. It is my honor and privilege to recognize its years of distinguished service to communities throughout Michigan.

Since its founding on the campus of Howard University on January 15, 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated has been steadfast in its mission ''to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of 'Service to All Mankind.'" The women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority are known for their excellent academic prowess, dedicated leadership skills, and commitment to advocacy and community service. Through its wide breadth of programs, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority endeavors to develop innovative programs to address significant community issues regarding education, health, family, the arts, technology, and economics.

Over a century later, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is still celebrated as one of the most distinguished Greek-letter organizations today. Its nearly 300,000 members are recognized as leaders who strive to make a difference and effect change. Today, chapters are active in the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw and continue to provide essential programs and services to our community's youth and seniors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the 112th anniversary of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. This significant milestone serves as a testament to the sorority's unrelenting commitment to community service, academic excellence, and empowerment. We are grateful for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's impact and wish it continued success in the years ahead.

HONORING DAKOTA CARSON TERHUNE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dakota Carson Terhune. Dakota is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 87, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dakota has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Dakota has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Dakota has earned the rank of Firebuilder and is a member of the Lone Bear Council in the Tribe of Mic-O–Say. Dakota has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Dakota constructed a 24-foot gazebo with seating as part of an outdoor classroom at Parkview Elementary School in Cameron, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dakota Carson Terhune for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America, and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE BRAVERY OF KYSHAUNE LINDSAY

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and heroism of Kyshaune Lindsay, a fifteen-year-old from Phoenix who recently saved the life of a man in a burning building.

Kyshaune was playing basketball outside when he saw his neighbor fleeing her home. His neighbor, Cindy Nunez, told him that her house was on fire and that her brother, who is paralyzed and bedridden, was trapped inside without access to his wheelchair. Upon hearing that Cindy could not physically pick up her brother to bring him out of the house, Kyshaune did not hesitate to make his way inside and help the man, lifting him into his chair to get him to safety.

Marcos Marquez, the man that Kyshaune rescued, described him as a ''true hero.'' His selflessness and courage in the face of real danger are remarkable, as is his humility in the aftermath of the event.

I wish to express my admiration for the bravery that Kyshaune Lindsay displayed through his actions—an admiration that is shared not only by Marcos Marquez and his family but by the entire Phoenix community. I am confident that Kyshaune will continue to do great things in the future. He is truly a role model for people of all ages.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained from the floor on Tuesday, January 7, 2020. I missed roll call vote No. 01. Had I been present to answer roll call No. 01, I would have answered "PRESENT".

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO CLARIFY CERTAIN DUE PROCESS RIGHTS OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES SERVING IN SENSITIVE POSITIONS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, as hundreds of thousands of our federal workers face uncertainty in wages and work, I introduce a bill to clarify certain due process rights of federal employees serving in sensitive positions. This bill would overturn an unprecedented federal court decision, Kaplan v. Conyers and MSPB, which stripped many federal employees of the right to independent review of an agency decision removing them from jobs on grounds of ineligibility. The case was brought by two Department of Defense (DOD) employees, Rhonda Conyers, an accounting technician, and Devon Northover, a commissary management specialist, who were permanently demoted and suspended from their jobs after they were found to be no longer eligible to serve in noncritical sensitive positions. In 2014, the Supreme Court declined to hear the case, which allowed the decision to stand. This bill is cosponsored by Representative ANDRE CARSON.

Specifically, the decision prevents federal workers who are designated as "noncritical sensitive" from appealing to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) if they are removed from their jobs. Noncritical sensitive jobs include those that do not have access to classified information. The decision would affect at least 200,000 DOD employees who are designated as noncritical sensitive. Even more seriously, most federal employees could potentially lose the same right to an independent review of an agency's decision because of a rule by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), which went into effect in July 2015, that permits agency heads to designate most jobs in the federal government as noncritical sensitive.

The Kaplan decision undercuts Title 5, section 7701 of the Civil Service Act, which ensures due process rights for federal workers required by the U.S. Constitution. Stripping employees whose work does not involve classified matters of the right of review of an agency decision that removes them from their jobs opens entirely new avenues for unreviewable, arbitrary action or retaliation by an agency head and, in addition, makes a mockery of whistleblower protections enacted in the 112th Congress. Our bill would stop the use of "national security" to repeal a vital component of civil service protection and of due process.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 692 and NAY on Roll Call No. 691.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Vote No. 174 at the end of the series on May 1, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

NO on Roll Call No. 174.

HONORING ALAN TANDY ON HIS RETIREMENT AS CITY MANAGER OF BAKERSFIELD

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Alan Tandy, a constituent and the long-time City Manager of the City of Bakersfield, California, which I represent. Alan is retiring from his current position after 27 years of dedicated service to our community.

Alan earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Oregon and received a Master of Arts in Municipal Administration from the University of Iowa. Before starting his tenure at the City of Bakersfield, Alan balanced budgets and learned best government practices in Montana, Wyoming, and Ohio. Alan is Bakersfield's longest-serving city manager and has been an integral part of numerous city projects.

Some notable projects during Alan's tenure include construction of the Rabobank Arena and Convention Center and the adjoining Marriott Hotel, the McMurtrey Aquatic Center, and the Park at River Walk. Alan was always enthusiastic about his work and did what was in the best interest for the people of Bakersfield. His love for our city remains apparent; in the wake of his retirement, he ensured the projects he had helped plan were completed before stepping down. The Thomas Roads Improvement Program, a $1.4 billion collaborative project to improve transportation throughout Bakersfield will streamline transportation with new highways and bridges.

During his tenure, Bakersfield transformed into one of the fastest growing cities in California and Alan's legacy of improving infrastructure and quality of life is visible in every part of Bakersfield. Alan's work as City Manager has earned him impressive awards and accolades, including the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for 19 years.

After years of service to our community, Alan's retirement is well-deserved and I know he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Kathleen, their children, Sarah, Jared, and Krista, as he begins this new chapter in his life. However, if I know Alan, I know that he will remain an active member of the Bakersfield community. On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of California, I want to thank Alan for all his hard work and dedication over the past 27 years to helping make Bakersfield the city it is today.

HONORING NICHOLAS JAMES STEINKAMP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas James Steinkamp. Nicholas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nicholas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nicholas has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas James Steinkamp for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MS. ANITA BOURN FOR 30 YEARS AS A CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my very own, Ms. Anita Faye Bourn, for thirty years of dedicated service as a congressional staffer. Anita's career with the U.S. House of Representatives began in 1989 when my predecessor, Gene Taylor, won the special election. Anita was hired on as a secretary, but quickly found her niche through constituent services. When I first took office in 2010, I had the opportunity to carry

over staff from the previous administration. Anita was an obvious choice and to this day, has proven to be one of my most trusted staffers.

Anita was born and raised in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, with family, faith, and music at her epicenter. She would say her mother, Christine Bourn, is the heart and soul of the family. She has two sons, and a niece, to whom she is known as ''Tee-Tee''. Anita also claims a host of brothers and sisters in Christ through her church family at Shady Grove Baptist Church. Anita is a longtime member of the church music ministry and is deservedly considered the resident ''rock star''. I can attest to this as I have had the privilege of hearing her beautiful rendition of ''God Bless America''.

Anita's musical career officially began at the age of 12, when she started playing piano during church services. Since then, Anita has served as Director of the inspirational choir, the senior adult choir, and the men's chorus, while also directing the annual Easter and Christmas programs. Recently, Anita was nominated as the Choir Director of the Year at the Gulf Coast Gospel Music Awards. Whether she is serving my constituents, or ministering to her community, Anita pours her heart into each of her endeavors.

In a few words, Anita is faith-filled, compassionate, vibrant, and a true expert in her field. I could not ask for a better representative among my staff. To close, I would like to share one of Anita's favorite bible verses, Romans 8:28: ''And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose''. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Ms. Anita Bourn for thirty exceptional years.

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 Thursday, January 9, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 14

10:30 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

Business meeting to markup H.R. 5430, to implement the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada attached as an Annex to the Protocol Replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement.

SD–608

JANUARY 15

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider H.R. 5430, to implement the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada attached as an Annex to the Protocol Replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine industries of the future.

SH–216

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine an update on implementation of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act.

SD–406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider H.R. 5430, to implement the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada attached as an Annex to the Protocol Replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement, and subcommittee assignments.

SD–430

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S63–S97

Measures Introduced: Seventeen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3153–3169, S.J. Res. 64, and S. Res. 465. **Pages S93–94**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 2302, to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs. (S. Rept. No. 116–200) **Page S93**

Measures Passed:

Czech Republic and Slovak Republic: Senate agreed to 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. **Page S76**

Fall of the Berlin Wall 30th Anniversary: Senate agreed to 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. **Pages S76–77**

2019 Bolivia Elections: Senate agreed to S. Res. 447, 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, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S77–79**

Detention of Senator Leila De Lima: Senate agreed to S. Res. 142, condemning the Government of the Philippines for its continued detention of Senator Leila De Lima, calling for her immediate release, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S79–80**

U.S. alliance with Republic of Korea: Senate agreed to 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, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S80**

Iran Hostage Crisis 40th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 395, recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Iran Hostage Crisis. **Pages S80–81**

Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act: Senate passed S. 1228, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for enhanced penalties for pirate radio. **Page S81**

Developing Innovation and Growing the Internet of Things Act: Senate passed S. 1611, to ensure appropriate prioritization, spectrum planning, and interagency coordination to support the Internet of Things, after agreeing to the committee amendments. **Pages S81–84**

Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 583, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for enhanced penalties for pirate radio, and the bill was then passed. **Page S84**

Ray Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, January 9, 2020, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Paul J. Ray, of Tennessee, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget. **Page S97**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 89 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. EX. 6), Matthew H. Solomson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years. **Pages S64–88, S97**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 88 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. EX. 3), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S68–69**

By 51 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 7), Eleni Maria Roumel, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years. **Pages S69, S88, S97**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 4), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S69**

By 91 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. EX. 8), Michael George DeSombre, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand. **Pages S69–70, S88–89, S97**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 64 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 5), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S69–70**

Messages from the House: **Page S91**

Executive Communications: **Pages S91–93**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S94–95**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S95–97**

Additional Statements: **Pages S89–91**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S97**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S97**

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—8) **Pages S69–70, S88–89**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:26 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 9, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S97.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Nonpoint Source Management Program under the Clean Water Act, focusing on perspectives from states, after receiving testimony from Jennifer Zygmunt, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Cheyenne; and Ben Grumbles, Maryland Secretary of the Environment, Baltimore.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of William Scott Hardy, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, who was introduced by Senator Toomey, John F. Heil III, to be United States District Judge for the Northern, Eastern and Western Districts of Oklahoma, who was introduced by Senators Inhofe and Lankford, David Cleveland Joseph, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, who was introduced by Senator Cassidy, Cory T. Wilson, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, who was introduced by Senators Wicker and Hyde-Smith, and Edward Hulvey Meyers, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 11 public bills, H.R. 5552–5562; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 83; and H. Res. 780, were introduced. **Page H63**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H64–65**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2932, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–370, Part 1); and

H. Res. 781, providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces to engage in hostilities in or against Iran (H. Rept. 116–371). **Pages H62–63**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H15**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:57 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H21**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:07 p.m. and reconvened at 2:19 p.m. **Page H30**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:20 p.m. and reconvened at 2:26 p.m. **Page H30**

PFAS Action Act—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 779, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 535) to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 199 nays, Roll No. 3, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 2. **Pages H23–30, H49–50**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Promoting United States International Leadership in 5G Act: H.R. 3763, amended, to direct the Secretary of State to provide assistance and technical expertise to enhance the representation and leadership of the United States at international standards-setting bodies that set standards for 5th and future generations mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure; **Pages H30–33**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To direct the Federal Government to provide assistance and technical expertise to enhance the representation and leadership of the United States at international standards-setting bodies that set standards for equipment, systems, software, and virtually-defined networks that support 5th and future generations mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure, and for other purposes.''; **Page H33**

Prison to Proprietorship for Formerly Incarcerated Act: H.R. 5065, to amend the Small Business Act to provide re-entry entrepreneurship counseling and training services for formerly incarcerated individuals; **Pages H35–37**

Capturing All Small Businesses Act: H.R. 5130, to amend the Small Business Act to adjust the employment size standard requirements for determining whether a manufacturing concern is a small business concern; **Pages H37–39**

Unlocking Opportunities for Small Businesses Act: H.R. 5146, amended, to amend the Small Business Act to require contracting officers to take a small business concern's past performance as part of a joint venture into account when evaluating the small business concern; **Pages H39–41**

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all stakeholders in the deployment of 5G communications infrastructure should carefully consider and adhere to the recommendations of ''The Prague Proposals'': H. Res. 575, amended, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all stakeholders in the deployment of 5G communications infrastructure should carefully consider and adhere to the recommendations of ''The Prague Proposals''; **Pages H41–43**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all stakeholders in the deployment of 5G communications infrastructure should carefully consider adherence to the recommendations of 'The Prague Proposals'.''; **Page H43**

Secure 5G and Beyond Act: H.R. 2881, amended, to require the President to develop a strategy to ensure the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure in the United States and to assist allies and strategic partners in maximizing the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems, infrastructure, and software, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 413 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 4; and **Pages H43–46, H50–51**

Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act: H.R. 4500, amended, to direct the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information to take certain actions to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in communications standards-setting bodies. **Pages H46–49**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Prison to Proprietorship Act: H.R. 5078, amended, to amend the Small Business Act to provide re-entry entrepreneurship counseling and training services for incarcerated individuals. **Pages H33–35**

Recess: The House recessed at 7:20 p.m. and reconvened at 8:40 p.m. **Page H60**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H49–50, H50, and H51. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Committee Meetings

LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE AMERICANS' HEALTH CARE COVERAGE AND OUTCOMES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Legislation to Improve Americans' Health Care Coverage and Outcomes''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AMERICANS AT RISK: MANIPULATION AND DECEPTION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection held a hearing entitled ''Americans at Risk: Manipulation and Deception in the

Digital Age''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(C) OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION TO TERMINATE THE USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES TO ENGAGE IN HOSTILITIES IN OR AGAINST IRAN

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H. Con. Res. 83, directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces to engage in hostilities in or against Iran. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a closed rule providing for consideration of the H. Con. Res. 83, Directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces to engage in hostilities in or against Iran. The rule provides two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution. The rule provides that the amendment to the concurrent resolution printed in the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted and the concurrent resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the concurrent resolution, as amended. The rule provides that Section 7 of the War Powers Resolution shall not apply during the remainder of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress to a measure respecting Iran. Testimony was heard from Chairman Engel, and Representatives McCaul and Gaetz.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, John Charles Hinderaker, and Scott H. Rash, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Joshua M. Kindred, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, Matthew Thomas Schelp, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, and Stephen A. Vaden, of Tennessee, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, markup on H.R. 2906, the ''Clean Commute for Kids Act of 2019''; H.R. 3361, the ''Reliable Investment in Vital Energy Reauthorization Act''; H.R. 3079, the ''Energy Savings Through Public-Private Partnerships Act of 2019''; H.R. 5518, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out a Clean Cities Coalition Program, and for other purposes; H.R. 5542, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program for States to provide incentives to natural gas distribution systems; H.R. 5541, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to reauthorize programs to assist consenting Indian tribes in meeting energy education, planning, and management needs, and for other purposes; H.R. 5527, the ''21st Century Power Grid Act''; H.R. 1426, the ''Timely Review of Infrastructure Act''; and H.R. 5545, the ''NO EXHAUST Act of 2020'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery, hearing entitled ''Understanding the Importance of DHS Preparedness Grants: Perspectives from the Field'', 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''2020 Election Security—Perspectives from Voting System Vendors and Experts'', 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Reaching Hard-to-Count Communities in the 2020 Census'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5260, the ''Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Development, hearing entitled ''Farming in the 21st Century: The Impacts of Agriculture Technology in Rural America'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled ''Proposals for a Water Resources Development Act of 2020'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled ''Reviewing the Availability of Resources to Address Veteran Hunger'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Thursday, January 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Paul J. Ray, of Tennessee, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11 a.m.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

10 a.m., Thursday, January 9

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Complete consideration of H.R. 535—PFAS Action Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Congressional Record

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