The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUÉLLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:
WASHINGTON, DC, January 16, 2020,
I hereby appoint the Honorable Henry Cuéllar to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day,
NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
Gracious and merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. The House prepares to recess for a week of constituent visitation in home districts as the Nation anticipates the Martin Luther King long weekend.
As we remember the heroic struggle of the civil rights movement, the “badges and incidents of slavery” have endured through policies still operative today, though recently being addressed through efforts at criminal justice reform and sentencing reform.
The pains of racism, like a national genetic defect, plague us still, though so many wish it were not so. Lord, have mercy on us.
Bless those who have been elected to secure laws protecting and expanding our cherished freedoms with the wisdom and vision to root out all traces of involuntary servitude in our Nation, most notably in human trafficking in our own time, so might we be able to declare with pride we are the land of the free.
May we, as Americans, do our part to find the image and likeness of God in those of different race or ancestral country of origin.
May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL
The Speaker pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.
Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.
Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.
The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.
Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.
The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Speaker pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Mr. CHABOT. 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING RAYMOND LERMA
(Mr. COX of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks)
Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Raymond Lerma, a beloved husband, father, and leader in the community of Corcoran, California. Ray passed away on January 11.
Among his many honored roles in life, Ray served 25 years as mayor and councilman in Corcoran, California. He was a pillar of the community.
Ray was born in El Paso, Texas, and raised in Corcoran in a large and loving family that proudly farmed the crops of the Central Valley. Encouraged by his parents to reach for higher education, Mr. Lerma graduated from UC Berkeley. He was a proud Cal Bear.
After college, Ray returned to the community that raised him to build his own family with his beloved wife, Lola. They touched countless lives in his 38 years as an educator at Corcoran High. After retirement, he kept changing lives, teaching English as a second language to adult learners. Ray also served as a longtime board member of the King’s Community Action Organization, which helps to bring resources to the Central Valley.
Ray once said he wanted to be remembered as someone who made a difference in his community. I stand before you today to say he will always be remembered for his dedication and contributions to his community. We will miss his leadership.
Ray leaves behind his wife, Lola; their three children, Eva, Ramon, and Pablo; as well as his grandchildren. May he rest in peace.
HONORING THE LIFE OF JIMMY PATRONIS, SR.

(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 Jimmy Patronis, Sr., a local legend in Bay County, Florida, where he recently passed away at the age of 88.

Mr. Patronis truly lived a life in full, one of family, entrepreneurship, and of service to our community.

He served as a captain in the United States Air Force and then moved to Panama City in 1953 to join in the restaurant business with his brother, Johnny Patronis.

The brothers purchased Captain Anderson’s, which has been in his family’s ownership ever since and has become a favorite spot for people who are visiting Panama City.

From a very young age, Jimmy had an unwavering desire to serve others and make the world a better place. He had an enormous staff, and he treated all of them like family.

He leaves behind the love of his life, Helen, and four sons: Theo, Yonnie, Nick, and the current Florida chief financial officer and friend of mine, Jimmy, Jr.

Jimmy Patronis will be sorely missed by many. May he rest in peace.

HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late, great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On June 23, 1963, in my hometown of Detroit, Michigan, Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered an impassioned precursor to his “I Have a Dream” speech during the historic Detroit Walk to Freedom, which recognized the 20th anniversary of the Detroit race riots.

With over 120,000 people present, the Detroit Walk to Freedom was the largest civil rights demonstration in the Nation’s history. Of course, we all know that soon changed just a few weeks later with the March on Washington.

As a young Black girl growing up on the east side of Detroit, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was more than just a public figure; he was our hope. Today, I am honored to have the chance to recognize him and his work and will continue to do my part to ensure his legacy lives on.

And in today’s environment, here in Washington, D.C., and this Congress, we must maintain the ability to recognize every person based on their character, their skills and abilities, and not based on race.

RECOGNIZING BRANDEN ZUKOWSKI ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Branden Zukowski of Saxenburg, Pennsylvania. Braden is a high school senior at Knoch High School. He is the son of Brad Zukowski and Shauna Braun-Zukowski.

I am pleased to announce that Braden recently accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Braden is a shining example of what leadership looks like. His hard work and dedication to excellence in and out of the classroom are the qualities that will make him a great midshipman. I am confident that he will continue to excel during his time at the Naval Academy.

Not only is Braden a leader in the classroom, he has also excelled in sports, serving as captain of the Knoch High School swim and cross country teams. He is also an active member of the chemistry, Spanish, history, and robotics clubs, as well as a National Honor Society member.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Braden’s decision to join our Nation’s Armed Forces, and I wish him the best of luck in his new venture.

FACING A TIME OF NEED FOR THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO

(Ms. WILD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of over 3 million of our fellow Americans who are facing a time of need right now, the people of Puerto Rico.

Several of my colleagues have been working tirelessly to convey the voices of the people of Puerto Rico following the earthquakes that they have been experiencing over the past several weeks. Those voices must be more widely heard in the media and across our society because our fellow Americans are calling out for help.

The damage caused by this most recent disaster comes in addition to the devastation of Hurricane Maria and the grossly inadequate Federal response to that tragedy.

Today, the administration confirmed that it would finally end its hold on disaster aid relief that Congress authorized for Puerto Rico years ago. Now, in the wake of this most recent tragedy, the President must approve a major disaster declaration today.

Constituents across my community have reached out to me with deep concern for their friends and families, and nearly all of us represent constituents of Puerto Rican origin. We cannot turn our backs on our fellow citizens. We must stand with them and come to their aid.

CONGRATULATING COACH PAT MCLAUGHLIN

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Pat McLaughlin, the head football coach at my alma mater, La Salle High School, for a significant accomplishment.

He played for La Salle back in the day, and my brother, Dave, played 10 years later.

Coach McLaughlin has been nominated for the NFL’s Don Shula High School Coach of the Year award. This prestigious honor recognizes the best high school football coaches across the country for their character, integrity, leadership, dedication to the community, commitment to player protection, and on-field success.

In December, Coach McLaughlin led the La Salle Lancers to their fourth Ohio Division II football championship in the last 6 years. As this nomination affirms, he has been a leader both on and off the field.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach McLaughlin, as well as all the La Salle players and their families and everyone involved in the Lancer football program. They have made and continue to make, the entire Cincinnati community tremendously proud.

Lancers Roll Deep.

SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE SLOW IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed some light on how slow this urgent impeachment process really unfolded.

The missile crawler-transporter used to transfer the NASA spacecraft to the launch pad travels at a rate of about 5,000 feet per hour. The slowest animal on Earth, the three-toed sloth, can travel at a speed of 792 feet per hour. The California banana slug can travel at 240 feet per hour, amazingly enough.

The launch pad travels at a rate of about 610 feet per hour. The California banana slug can travel at a speed of about 11 inches per hour.

I am pleased to announce that Braden Zukowski of Saxonburg, Pennsylvania. Braden is a high school senior at Knoch High School. He is the son of Brad Zukowski and Shauna Braun-Zukowski.

In December, Coach McLaughlin led the La Salle Lancers to their fourth Ohio Division II football championship in the last 6 years. As this nomination affirms, he has been a leader both on and off the field.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach McLaughlin, as well as all the La Salle players and their families and everyone involved in the Lancer football program. They have made and continue to make, the entire Cincinnati community tremendously proud.

Lancers Roll Deep.

As a young Black girl growing up on the east side of Detroit, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was more than just a public figure; he was our hope. Today, I am honored to have the chance to recognize him and his work and will continue to do my part to ensure his legacy lives on.

And in today’s environment, here in Washington, D.C., and this Congress, we must maintain the ability to recognize every person based on their character, their skills and abilities, and not based on race.
Thankfully, the Senate is going to take up the USMCA today before they get ballyhoo’d up for the next several weeks dealing with this impeachment disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I hope they have a fair trial and treat the President correctly in this process.

CONGRATULATING SAN JACINTO COLLEGE CHANCELLOR DR. BRENDA HELLYER

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer on receiving the prestigious Quasar Award for Economic Development Excellence from the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. This award is given to an outstanding individual who has demonstrated a strong and continual effort to support the business foundations of the Greater Bay Area Houston communities.

Dr. Hellyer is highly educated, earning her master’s degree in business administration and a doctorate in community college leadership from the University of Texas at Austin, where she received the Distinguished Graduate Award. She is also a certified public accountant.

In 2009, Dr. Hellyer was named chancellor of San Jacinto College and has since transformed the school with major renovations and the development of many award-winning programs.

Mr. Speaker, 1 minute is just simply not enough time to properly congratulate Dr. Hellyer, and I will submit an extension of my remarks for the RECORD.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF RULE SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELATING TO “BORROWER DEFENSE INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY”

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 790, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 76) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 9 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability”, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 790, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. Res. 76

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability” (84 Fed. Reg. 49788 (September 23, 2019)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

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

The gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.J. Res. 76.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today for one reason: to ask that my colleagues in this House stand with me to make clear to the American people that we cannot more about defending students than enriching predatory schools. That is what my joint resolution, H.J. Res. 76, is all about.

In 1992 Congress added a rule known as borrower defense to the Higher Education Act to give students a legal right to seek forgiveness on their Federal student loans because of fraud by their schools.

Predatory school misconduct in the eighties was so rampant it was painful clear to Democrats, Republicans, and everyone in between that we need protections in place for students who are scammed and cheated by their institution, and that is just as true today.

Corinthian Colleges, ITT Tech, University of Phoenix, and Dream Center—350,000 students have filed claims alleging they were defrauded by these schools. They were lied to about the job prospects they would get from these schools, they were lied to about the transferability of their credits, and they were lied to about the quality of education they would receive. The only thing they got was a useless degree and a mountain of debt after these schools abruptly closed because of rampant misconduct.

The most painful part is that these are mostly students from low-income communities, people of color, and veterans. These are Americans we should be standing up for, not taking advantage of.

In 2016 the last administration created a new borrower defense rule to streamline the process to help these students.

It sounds pretty good, right?

Not to Betsy DeVos. She then rewrote the borrower defense rule to make it almost impossible for a defrauded student to get relief on their student loans. Even in cases where schools clearly violated the law, the burden of proof on the defrauded student is so absurdly unrealistic that a student would need to hire a team of lawyers to have a shot at proving intent and misconduct from the school.

But the point made by proponents of this borrower defense rule that is most insulting is that the new rule saves taxpayer dollars. That is simply false.

The new rule severely weakens the early warning system that ensures predatory schools, not taxpayers, cover the cost of debt relief. As a result in the few cases where relief is rewarded under the DeVos rule, taxpayers will be the ones to foot the bill. Beyond that, the only reason you can say that this rule actually saves money is because we are denying relief to every legitimately defrauded student.

Let me be clear: if Betty DeVos’ 2019 borrower defense rule goes into effect, more students will become victims of fraud with no way to climb out of the hole we our government dug for them.

This puts my colleagues in Congress on the record. Members have a choice to make, and if they choose to vote against this resolution, then they will have gone back and told thousands of students, veterans, and their constituents in their district that they choose to be on the side of predatory schools over them.

I think the choice is clear.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.J. Res. 76, the latest attempt by House Democrats to undermine the Trump administration. It seems these attempts will never end.

Specifically, the resolution would undo the Education Department’s efforts to assist students who have been defrauded by colleges and universities while also protecting taxpayer interests.

Any school that has taken advantage of students must be held accountable. Students who have suffered financial harm are entitled to relief and forgiveness. We can and should have bipartisan agreement on these points.

Sadly, Democrats have a long track record of pursuing radical ideological objectives at the expense of taxpayers, students, and schools. Today it is clear that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are more interested in tearing down the Trump administration than providing real solutions.

Before I touch upon the advantages of the Trump administration’s new rule, I would like to provide some context on the previous administration’s
so-called borrower defense rule and its many shortcomings.

The Obama administration’s overzealous political actions created a dangerous domino effect. In 2016, during the final months of his Presidency, President Obama implemented a borrower defense rule that was not only irresponsible, drastically exceeded the scope of current practice, and came with the shocking price tag for the American taxpayer of $42 billion.

The Obama regulations blurred the line between fraud and inadvertent mistakes made by schools. The difference between the two is critical, Mr. Speaker, because the Education Department can levy significant financial penalties on institutions found to engage in fraud which can cause a school to have to close despite no intentional wrongdoing. Most schools do not have a reckless disregard for the truth.

With this flawed rule in place, many schools could face harsh financial penalties to close the doors on millions of students without access to their higher education opportunity. In fact, several historically Black colleges and universities, HBCUs, wrote to President Obama’s Education Secretary John King, Jr., with concerns about Obama’s defense rule. Their letter stated:

In fact, the proposed regulation language could undermine the financial viability of a number of academic institutions and could possibly bankrupt less financially secured colleges and universities.

In the end, the Obama regulations created more chaos than clarity and encouraged tens of thousands of borrowers, whether they were harmed or not, to apply to have their loans forgiven. This was nothing more than a political move by the left to provide a backdoor scheme to hand out free education. So it is not surprising that claim filings for loan forgiveness went from fewer than 20,000 two years ago to roughly 300,000 claims submitted in the last 5 years.

President Trump realized quickly that placing a $42 billion burden on the backs of taxpayers was not the answer, and his administration made it a priority to halt the Obama-era regulation from going into effect. The Trump administration worked to instill some common sense into the rulemaking process.

As a result, the administration produced a rule with clearer standards for borrower defense and increased transparency for both students and institutions.

Among other benefits, the new rule makes sure students who have been lied to and suffered financial harm receive relief; reduces the cost of the 2016 Obama-era regulation by $11 billion because it helps students complete their education rather than indiscriminately closing schools; holds all institutions, not just predatory colleges responsible for misrepresentation instead of picking winners and losers at considerable cost to taxpayers; ensures due process for all parties; extends the look-back window to qualify for closed school loan discharges from 120 to 180 days, so when schools close more students are eligible for forgiveness; and allows for arbitration which could result in borrowers’ recovering resources they did not have in the Education Department such as cash payments or other expenses.

The bottom line is this: the Trump administration’s borrower defense rule protects student borrowers, holds all institutions accountable, and saves taxpayers $11 billion.

The American people sent us to Washington to work together and solve important issues. Our constituents would be far better served if the Democrat majority used its time to find real solutions to our Nation’s issues instead of continuing to lament the 2016 election results.

Republicans stand ready to provide relief to students who have been harmed by fraud, and the borrower defense rules issued by the Trump administration are the answer. I encourage my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to do away with the political blame game so we can move forward and work in a bipartisan manner to address issues facing America.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly recommend a “no” vote on H.J. Res. 76, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, when a college makes promises to recruit students, we expect those promises to be met. Yet time after time we see colleges closing or losing accreditation, leaving their students with worthless degrees.

There are currently 240,000 defrauded students waiting for loan relief, and we must hold these colleges accountable. In my home State of California, these defrauded student borrowers have been needlessly waiting—many for over a year—to obtain this student loan relief.

The most inexcusable part of this situation is that the Department of Education, during all this time, could have brought relief to these students using the original borrower defense rule.

Instead, this administration has decided to create an entirely worthless rule that, firstly, does almost nothing to help borrowers. Further, it provides clear preference to the very sham colleges that are compromising the integrity and the purpose of the original borrower defense rule.

This recent rule is sending a message to the American public that any scammer can open up a school, collect money, defraud our students, and dodge any consequences.

It is outrageous to learn about the hundreds of colleges and women who have tried to improve their professional standings by enrolling in one of these programs only to end up with a pointless credential and a lot of unconscionable debt. In these tragic cases, many have not only expended their GI Bill funding for good but have also lost years of their lives working hard and studying to gain these futile degrees.

The original borrower defense rule was designed to help the student and give those wrongdoers a chance to make things right. But the revised borrower defense rule would make sure students who have been needlessly waiting—many for over a year—to obtain this student loan relief.

Mr. Speaker, why are we making it harder for our defrauded students to recover their lives?

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us today is the first step toward blocking these flawed and misguided changes to the borrower defense rule from taking effect, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mrs. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 76, certainly not because I want to defraud students, certainly not because I want to protect scam education institutions—not at all.

The Department of Education released an updated and improved borrower defense rule last year for all the opposite reasons, to, in fact, protect students and protect quality education and promote that but also to protect the taxpayer. It did all of the above.

I think we need to keep that in mind and not just spend our time on messaging. We want to have results that produce quality education opportunities for the future.

The 2016 Obama administration rule was a broad, sweeping, reactionary measure, sadly, to an issue that requires a more nuanced solution that will have results.

Defrauded students who have been financially harmed deserve relief, absolutely. The Department’s 2019 rule establishes a fair process in which these students will get the relief they deserve.

A point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker. I hearken back to the hearing we had with Secretary DeVos. I was embarrassed for the first time, really, in the many years I have been on this committee to hear someone who has spent her adult life promoting education malign in that way. I would challenge any of our committee members, myself included, to exhibit the number of years, talent, and treasure put toward enhancing opportunities for schools and education, and, by the way, the students and success that we have seen.

I think that the success that the President saw in this Secretary of Education was why she was put there.

This rule that is in place right now, which we are debating today to try to
change, is a rule that will enhance education as well as protect the taxpayers.

When Secretary DeVos was before our committee last month, she explained how the Department is also taking proactive measures to prevent fraud from occurring through more transparency for students on the College Scorecard.

Under the 2019 rule, predatory schools were held accountable for misrepresentations leading to financial harm to students. This rule also lays out a transparent framework that guarantees the process while establishing a proportional connection between financial harm and the amount awarded.

Hard-earned taxpayer dollars should be used responsibly. I think we will all agree to that. This 2019 rule respects the taxpayer while also allowing appropriate relief for defrauded students and setting an example for institutions that we will not accept what has gone on.

Mr. Speaker, I end by saying this: I urge my colleagues to vote “no” today to keep a responsible system that protects defrauded students.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Levin).

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this joint resolution, and I congratulate the gentlewoman from Nevada for her leadership.

Secretary DeVos and this administration have proven that they will go to the ends of the Earth to defend predatory for-profit colleges at the expense of our students and taxpayers.

This holds true for the DeVos borrower defense rule, which creates unnecessary obstacles for students seeking debt relief from predatory for-profit colleges. It even punishes students with approved claims by allowing these colleges to deny students their transcripts and refuse to verify their earned credits.

Passing this joint resolution is a crucial step, and I urge my colleagues to support it. But we also must build on this work by bringing our Higher Education Act reauthorization to the floor. Next up, we have to pass the College Affordability Act with even stronger protections for American students.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add a personal note. In 2011, I ran for Secretary of State of the State of Michigan. In those years, fraudulent, for-profit higher education programs emerged as a major problem in Michigan and in our Nation. As a former State program director, I can tell you that our States do not have the resources or the authority to remedy this problem. The Federal Government must act.

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from Mr. Johnny Taylor at the Society for Human Resource Management, SHRM.


Hon. SUSAN D. DAVIS, Ranking Member, U.S. House Education Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment, Washington, DC.

Hon. LLOYD SMUCKER, Ranking Member, U.S. House Education Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment, Washington, DC.

Dear Chairwoman Davis and Ranking Member Smucker:

Every new rule comes with the risk of unintended negative impact even when the best of intentions exist on both sides. This is especially true in higher education—a space I know well following seven years as the President and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and having served as a Trustee for the University of Miami, Drake University and the Cooper Union. It is with this lens and my current lens as President and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management, Chair of the President’s Board of Advisors on HBCUs, and member of the White House American Workforce Policy Advisory Board that I feel compelled to convey to the U.S. Department of Education’s updated rule governing borrower defense to repayment.

It’s important to take a step back. Three and a half years ago, the Department unveiled proposed revisions to the borrower defense to repayment rule. During the comment period many constituencies, including the HBCU community, argued that certain elements of the revisions had the potential to be “injurious and burdensome” and could cause many schools financial harm. These concerns flowed naturally to the standard by which institutions would be judged to have misrepresented the conditions of a borrower’s loan, broadening the definition of “misrepresentation,” and the basis for potential administrative action by the Secretary—including fines or termination from participation in Title IV programs under the Higher Education Act (HEA).

One of Secretary DeVos’s first actions was to postpone the effective date for the proposed borrower defense rules. She then reconvened the negotiated rulemaking committee to address, among other things, the concerns raised by HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions that primarily serve first-generation students.

The Secretary encouraged all parties to take a step back and find a solution that would be fairer to students and schools and relieve taxpayers of significant costs.

A year later, having not reached consensus about the best way forward, the Department of Education published its own revised rules clarifying who is eligible for relief, the maximum amount of said relief, and how long a borrower can bring a claim. More importantly, the Department’s new borrower defense rules protect individual borrowers from fraud, ensure accountability across institutions of higher education, and protects taxpayers.

I am of the opinion that the Department’s new borrower defense rules protect individual borrowers from fraud, ensures accountability across institutions of higher education, and protects taxpayers.

The new rules provide flexibility for schools to make changes to their course offerings and graduation requirements based on costs, student interest, and employer needs without being characterized as fraudulent. Now that nearly all of the major concerns raised by the HBCU community were addressed by the Secretary, it is time to pass the rules so we can put our collective energy into educating America’s diverse future workforce.

America has a talent shortage—one that will get worse in the foreseeable future due to our low birth rate. Adding insult to injury, we have a workforce in critical need of re-skilling with a very large percentage of Americans sitting on the sidelines as a result and not participating in the labor force. As borrowers and schools move forward, both groups should be laser-focused on addressing this issue and improving the employability of the U.S. workforce.

On the front end, borrowers should select schools and programs that lead to good jobs and whose costs are commensurate with salaries for their industry of choice. Then colleges, having enrolled the right students in the right programs, must proactively develop relationships with employers to co-design relevant curricula that meet our country’s need for skilled workers.

The parties must put aside petty partisan differences to arm our country with a highly-skilled future U.S. workforce sans unnecessarily burdensome student loan debt.

Supporting the new borrower defense rules proposed by the Department of Education is an important first step.

Sincerely,

JOHNNY C. TAYLOR, Jr., President & CEO.
Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of this resolution and thank the gentlewoman from Nevada for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution conveys the congressional disapproval of the Department of Education’s refusal to protect students and taxpayers from predatory institutions. Those students are victims of widespread, proven fraud about graduation rates, job placement rates, and transferability of credits.

It is very interesting to me that I just included by Ms. FOXX was an example that was included in the rule in 2015, at the end of the previous administration. 287,000 cases have been filed. The Trump administration recognized that all students need relief today. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution of congressional disapproval.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear. All institutions, regardless of their tax status, are accountable for fraudulent behavior, and that is exactly what the 2019 borrower defense regulation accomplishes.

I am very interested in the way our colleagues are using the term and the way the Obama administration categorized the rules we call for-profit. They are called predatory. Why is that?

It is very interesting to me that I have always thought that what makes this country great is our capitalist system because our colleagues think that anybody that makes a profit is predatory. That is so counter to the American theme, the American way of life, but that is what they call them, predatory. It is really, really unfair to do that.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 76, which will reverse the Trump administration’s harmful new borrower defense rule.

The initial borrower defense rule was designed to provide defrauded students with the debt relief they are entitled to receive under the Higher Education Act. Unfortunately, Secretary DeVos rewrote the rule to make it nearly impossible for future students who are victimized by deceptive institutions to get the relief they need and deserve.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Mr. Speaker, to address the present problem, those students need relief today. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution of congressional disapproval.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE).

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the resolution, but I think what we all support and what we all agree on is that individuals who are harmed by fraudulent practices should have their debts forgiven.

I urge my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 76 today and the College Affordability Act when it comes to the floor.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

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Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and thank the gentlewoman from Nevada for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution conveys the congressional disapproval of the Department of Education’s refusal to protect students and taxpayers from predatory institutions. Those students are victims of widespread, proven fraud about graduation rates, job placement rates, and transferability of credits.

It is very interesting to me that I just included by Ms. FOXX was an example that was included in the rule in 2015, at the end of the previous administration. 287,000 cases have been filed. The Trump administration recognized that all students need relief today. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution of congressional disapproval.

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Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the resolution, but I think what we all support and what we all agree on is that individuals who are harmed by fraudulent practices should have their debts forgiven.

I urge my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 76 today and the College Affordability Act when it comes to the floor.
Under Secretary Betsy DeVos, the Department of Education has abandoned its responsibility to put students first and hold predatory, for-profit colleges accountable. The Department has rolled back protections for students seeking loan forgiveness in the middle class through higher education deregulation.

In what amounts to a giveaway to predatory, for-profit colleges, Secretary DeVos has dismantled a crucial protection for students who were defrauded, leaving them burdened with loans and often without the ability to transfer their credits elsewhere.

240,000 students—nearly 42,000 students from California—are waiting for relief, suffering emotional and financial hardships in the process. Many of these students attended the now-defunct Corinthian Colleges, an institution that even my Republican colleagues have agreed was in the business of defrauding students.

These students did everything right, but they were deceived by a slew of false promises from for-profit institutions that only saw them as a boost to their bottom line.

Secretary DeVos is using the power of her office to defend a shady industry. Today, we are here to send a clear message: We Democrats stand with America’s students who should be relieved of the burden of predatory Student loans they have their loans forgiven and it strips them of any right to file those claims.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER).

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker: today I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 78.

We all want to make sure that America’s students get the education they deserve in the college they pay for that education or the higher education institution. By advancing this legislation, today one of this Chamber’s majority seeks to turn back the clock on borrower defense, leading to dangerous consequences for students, those repaying their loans, and the American taxpayers.

The Obama-era rule, which the majority seeks to return us to, was marked by regulatory chaos, excessive punishments, and ridiculous costs. The Obama rule had no clarity and sought to forgive student loans on a massive scale, regardless of the cost to the taxpayers.

Estimates put the total cost of the loan forgiveness giveaway at $40 billion. It also excessively punished schools with harsh penalties, sometimes leading to their closure, ending access to another avenue for higher education for some current and prospective students. That is why the 2019 Trump administration issued the new Borrower Defense to Institutional Accountability rule.

The new rule currently in effect provides:

- Regulatory clarity for all institutions:
- Affords due process to both students and institutions;
- Narrowly tailors relief to actual harm;
- Holds all institutions accountable for misrepresentation;
- Provides students with more options to continue their education should their school close; and
- Allows for faster relief by allowing institution-level arbitration.

Importantly, the 2019 rule is estimated to save taxpayers $11 billion from the 2016 Obama rule.

Mr. Speaker, we simply cannot afford to return to the outdated, costly, and confusing Obama-era rule the majority seeks to return to effect today.

I urge a “no” vote on the joint resolution.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to, first, clarify the record that the 60 students who filed claims in the past 20 years is because students did not have the right to file those claims.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Nevada for her fierce leadership on this.

I rise in strong support of this resolution to block Betsy DeVos’s callous attempt to rewrite the borrower defense repayment rule. That original rule protected student borrowers who have been cheated by predatory, for-profit colleges.

This rule change would make it nearly impossible for defrauded students to have their loans forgiven, and it strips away justice for 240,000 borrowers whose claims the Trump administration has refused to process. That includes my own constituents, whom I had a roundtable with, and they have filed claims after their school, the for-profit Art Institute of Seattle, abruptly closed last year.

Some of those students have rightly applied for loan forgiveness through the borrower defense to repayment process because they are ineligible for closed school discharge, and now they face extreme barriers to the relief that they deserve because Secretary DeVos has put profits before the students she took an oath to serve.

One of those students said: I am left with no degree, extra thousands of dollars in private loans that they pressured me to get. I feel tricked, guilted, and screwed.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this resolution that will defend students, and I call on the House to also pass the College Affordability Act, which will crack down on predatory for-profit colleges in a comprehensive manner.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have to make sure the American people understand the truth, and it is especially important when we are on the floor of the House.

What has been happening here this morning is that apples and oranges are being compared, and it is very important that that not happen here because that can mislead the public.

I think most of us learned this in school. When laws are passed and rules are passed, they go forward, not backward, Mr. Speaker. The new rules go forward. They apply in the future. They don’t go backward. They don’t affect the people who were in school in some of these schools that closed before.

Those students, unfortunately for those students, are under the previous rule, the Obama rule, and that is how they are being handled. That is the major problem here.

Our colleagues are saying many of these people didn’t know what the rules were. That is not the fault of the Federal Government, Mr. Speaker. It is up to the students to understand the rules.

And, yes, many of them are having difficult times because the rule is so bad. That is exactly what the new rule is trying to fix. It is trying to bring clarity and help these students understand when they will be able to apply.

But the students who were at Corinthian and ITT are being handled under the Obama-era rule that is exactly why they are having problems. We have been pointing that out over and over again, yet our colleagues refuse to acknowledge that that is the nub of the problem.

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD).

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 78. I introduced by my good friend and colleague from Nevada, SUSIE LEE, and of which I am a proud cosponsor.

Students defrauded by predatory for-profit colleges can be left with crushing debt, useless degrees, and none of the job opportunities they were promised.

When Secretary DeVos has testified before the Education and Labor Committee over the past year, on two separate occasions she has claimed that as a member of the majority, as they should be. Yet, as Secretary, she has acted at all times as though students are the enemy and as though
a quality and affordable education is her last priority.

Secretary DeVos has the ability to provide immediate relief to students who were defrauded. Instead, she has halted loan relief for borrowers and changed the rules of deferring relief. Under the new rule from Secretary DeVos, defrauded borrowers can be denied debt relief, even in cases where predatory schools clearly violated the law.

More than 7,000 Pennsylvanians are suffering while their applications for financial relief are sitting in limbo at the Department of Education. We must protect students and taxpayers by passing this resolution, which blocks the DeVos rule from going into effect.

Students are my number one priority. Unfortunately, I don’t believe that the Secretary can say the same.

I am proud to stand up for students and to be an original cosponsor of this resolution. I am also proud that the Education and Labor Committee recently passed the College Affordability Act out of committee, which would provide more protections for students and taxpayers.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, when I have had the privilege of being in that chair, I have often been reminded to ask Members to refrain from making comments about the President or Members of the Cabinet. I am not hearing that being said this morning, and I would just like to call it to the Speaker’s attention.

I want to say that as long as people are getting up on the floor and misrepresenting what is happening in this administration, I will continue to remind them that the rule that is being enforced is the Obama-era rule, and are also being harmed are being harmed as a result of that.

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. McBATH).

Mrs. McBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Secretary DeVos’ new borrower defense rule drastically changes the existing 2016 rule making it harder for students to get the relief that they deserve. Only 3 percent of students are projected to even benefit from this new provision.

Students should be focused on getting the quality education they were promised, not worrying about being saddled with large debts from schools that could not and did not deliver on that education promise.

The Secretary’s rule takes the burden of repayment away from the fraudulent institutions and places it on the back of the taxpayer. Americans should not be responsible for the dishonest actions of a predatory school.

I thank Congresswoman Lee for introducing H.J. Res. 76, an important step in protecting our students and holding fraudulent institutions accountable.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The borrowers ought not pay the tab for a student who files a claim that says I didn’t like the president of this school; therefore, my loan should be forgiven. Those are the claims being filed by some of the students.

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR).

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the implementation of the harmful DeVos/Trump borrower defense regulation.

Instead of working on behalf of students, Secretary DeVos is enriching predatory for-profit colleges that leave students with crushing debt. Instead of creating a rule to help defrauded borrowers access relief and move forward with their lives, this administration has given dishonest schools new tools they can use to keep taking advantage of students.

In my name, the courts found that the Minnesota School of Business and Globe University engaged in consumer fraud and purposely deceived more than 1,000 Minnesota students who were systematically misled to believe that they would obtain a degree and credits that were essentially meaningless, losing not only $33.8 million, but also their time and countless opportunities.

It is the government’s duty to look out for those victimized students and to make sure they don’t continue to suffer at the hands of the greedy institutions that took advantage of them. Secretary DeVos should be ashamed of herself for failing to uphold duty and for once again putting profit over people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the 2016 borrower defense regulation does a great disservice to our Nation’s students and institutions of post-secondary education because the previous administration did not design the borrower defense rule to improve post-secondary education.

Let me explain. The Higher Education Act establishes that a borrower can receive loan forgiveness if he or she attends an institution that engages in fraud.

An example of an act or omission could be an institution lying about its graduation rates in order to lure more students to enroll in that program. That seems fair.

It is important to note that in the 2019 rule, borrowers suffering financial harm from fraudulent institutions are eligible and will receive loan relief. But where the Obama administration went haywire was when they blurred the distinction between what acts or omissions constitute fraud versus an inadvertent mistake.

Many institutions, including HBCUs and public flagship universities, were surprised that a single marketing error could set off a domino effect of borrowers seeking and receiving forgiveness.

For example, in a New York Times article published in 2018, Henry N. Tisdale, the President of the Clifton campus of Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina, expressed concern over the Obama-era regulation. Mr. Tisdale said, “A small mistake or error at a college like Claflin could put us out of business. We don’t have the resources ready to respond to frivolous claims.”

Claflin University is just one of the many small, nonprofit institutions that serve low-income, minority, and first-generation students that have become at risk due to the Obama-era rules.

The taxpayers ought not pay the tab for the administrative relief rule could be the deciding factor in many institutions, which is why their rule is projected to cost over $40 billion in 10 years. Luckily, the Trump administration acted quickly to correct the rule.

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to clarify that the comments that were just quoted were on the proposed rule, and those issues were fixed.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE).

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I rise today in support of hundreds of thousands of students across the Nation who are victims of predatory for-profit colleges. Over 4,000 borrowers in Maryland and 227,000 nationally are paying the price because the department, led by Betsy DeVos, appears to have intentionally decided not to process the claims.

The letter my letter to the Secretary that was delivered to Congress, I led a business of over 7,000 employees. At the end of the day, the buck stopped with me to make sure that we had the staff that we needed to serve our customers. Not only did Secretary DeVos not have the staff she needed to follow the law, but through this new rule, this administration is proposing she is making it harder for students to get the relief they deserve.
This is not how we should treat America’s students who are looking to make a better future for themselves. I urge my colleagues to stand with the students and reverse this Trump administration rule.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER).

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.J. Res. 76. I disagree with my colleagues across the aisle that as Members of Congress it is our job to ensure accountability over how taxpayer dollars are spent, and that is a very important aspect of our job here. And when tax dollars flow to an institution of higher education that has not lived up to its promises made to students, then defrauded individuals do deserve a transparent process to seek relief and have their student loans discharged.

Under Secretary DeVos’ leadership, the U.S. Department of Education’s new borrower defense rule replaces a flawed process with one that is fair for taxpayers and is fair for students. The new rule establishes a defined standard for borrower defense to repayment. Clearing up years of confusion that has left students in financial hardship and schools exposed to increased risk of closure despite no intentional misrepresentation. The Trump administration’s rule also strengthens opportunities for relief for students who were misled by a school by expanding the window of time that students have to discharge their loans. But most importantly, this process, which was developed over many months and with stakeholder engagement through every step of the way, strengthens accountability on all institutions of higher education by ensuring that each and every school is held to the same standard, not just the taxpayers’ for-profit institutions.

Despite all of these commonsense measures, today’s CRA seeks to move us backwards simply to undermine the Trump administration while preventing students from making educational choices that best meet their needs.

H.J. Res. 76 will repeal the Trump administration’s rule to reinstate the flawed, confusing standards that were implemented in 2016. That rule, the Obama administration’s due process, lowered the standard of proof, and left taxpayers on the hook for forgiving student loans to the tune of $42 billion regardless of an individual claim’s merit.

The Trump administration’s thorough methodology for borrower defense claims ensures any and every student will have a pathway to have their student loans discharged if they have been defrauded while protecting taxpayer dollars from massive loan forgiveness schemes. In fact, this new rule is estimated to save taxpayers $11 billion.

It is critical that we leave this rule in place to protect students and taxpayers alike. I urge my colleagues to place commonsense policy above politics and oppose this misguided CRA that ultimately will harm all Americans.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 2 minutes. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 2 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN).

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Today I rise to offer my strong support for the joint resolution led by my friend and colleague, Congresswoman SUSIE LEE.

On the Education and Labor Committee we are taking action on behalf of students who were fleeced by predatory for-profit colleges. Secretary DeVos has ignored hundreds of thousands of pending claims from defrauded borrowers and taxpayers. That includes almost 3,000 from my home State of Massachusetts. Despite having authority to provide full and immediate relief, the Secretary’s borrower defense rule does not make students whole.

Her new, partial-relief formula to determine debt forgiveness adds further insult to injury. We tested that formula in committee with the secretary and exposed how flawed it is, how it severely restricts the relief one can receive.

H.J. Res. 76 is necessary to block efforts to weaken key consumer protections against crushing student debt and useless degrees.

I thank Congresswoman LEE and the committee for taking legislative action, and I call upon my colleagues to support defrauded students in this joint resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support today’s CRA so veterans like my constituent of mine. After serving our country, she enrolled at Kaplan University. Kaplan misled Michele about her GI Bill benefits and persuaded her to take out loans to cover tuition. They offered so-called stipend for books and supplies, but it wasn’t a stipend. It was an additional student loan.

By the time Michele learned the truth, she had $42,654 in student debt and no degree.

The 2016 borrower defense to repayment rule created a process to help defrauded borrowers like Michele access student debt relief. Secretary DeVos’ rewrite guts protections for students and taxpayers in favor of shielding bad-acting institutions from accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support today’s CRA so veterans like Michele have a fair process.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, Speaker, Michele Kermizian is an Air Force veteran and a constituent of mine. After serving our country, she enrolled at Kaplan University. Kaplan misled Michele about her GI Bill benefits and persuaded her to take out loans to cover tuition. They offered a so-called stipend for books and supplies, but it wasn’t a stipend. It was additional student loans.

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Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support today’s CRA so veterans like Michele have a fair process.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 76 and in strong opposition to the Department of Education’s change to the borrower defense rule.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to stand in defense of defrauded students nationwide from getting relief that they are entitled to. This significant step ensures that we hold the institutions accountable for their actions by blocking this rule from going into effect.

Allowing this rule to move forward is a dismantling of student protections
and would further exacerbate the student loan crisis in our country, which is a major crisis for our young people.

We should not be protecting fraudulent institutions that prey on students. We should be working to prevent fraud in education in the first place.

It is vital that defrauded students have a process that is fair and easy to understand, and this new guidance makes it substantially more difficult for them to receive the relief they desperately need. Denying debt relief to defrauded students is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member to support this bill.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman LEE for yielding and for her leadership on this critical issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation, which reverses actions by Betsy DeVos that would deny debt relief to students defrauded by predatory colleges.

Over recent years, we have seen for-profit colleges like Corinthian and ITT Tech collapse, leaving students in my district and across the country with crushing debt and none of the job opportunities that they were promised. These students were defrauded, plain and simple, and they have been left holding the bag, thanks to Betsy DeVos' refusal to implement an Obama-era rule that provides defrauded students with relief and helps them move forward with their lives.

Instead of writing the rule to make it harder for borrowers to get relief, severely restricted how much relief they can receive, and shifted the costs of providing debt relief from predatory schools to the taxpayers. DeVos is putting the interests of predatory for-profit schools above students, and it is wrong. We should always put students first, and many of them are waiting on Betsy DeVos to do the right thing.

As of last month, 240,000 defrauded students, including more than 41,000 students in California, are still waiting for DeVos to take action on their claims for debt relief. Many of these students can’t afford to enroll in another school without the debt relief they are owed. They can’t move on with their lives because Betsy DeVos is dragging her feet. That is simply not fair.

We must pass this legislation to stop DeVos from making it even harder for defrauded students to get the relief they desperately need.

Ultimately, we must do more to help stop schools from defrauding students and taxpayers in the first place.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DeLAURO).

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this action to overturn Secretary DeVos’ misguided policy against defrauded students.

Predatory, for-profit colleges are scamming students and taxpayers out of millions of dollars. Secretary DeVos is helping them to get away with it.

I held an oversight hearing in my Committee on Appropriations subcommittee, and what did we find? While accounting for only 9 percent of all students enrolled in post-secondary education, predatory, for-profit colleges account for 34 percent of all defaults.

Under Secretary DeVos’ new rule, students may not receive the financial relief that they deserve and are entitled to under the borrower defense to repayment provision of the Higher Education Act. While the Obama administration created a streamlined process to help students access the relief, the Trump administration is making it nearly impossible.

Under the Secretary’s new rule, if borrowers cannot prove the school intentionally defrauded them or if they cannot file their claim fast enough or if they cannot document their exact financial harm, they lose out. As little as 3 percent of eligible debt will be forgiven now.

With the Secretary’s rule, what little relief there is will likely be shouldered by taxpayers, not the schools that are committing the fraud. It is wrong.

In Connecticut, 1,100 defrauded students are waiting to be made whole. They need help, not Secretary DeVos’ cruel policy.

We must pass this Congressional Review Act resolution and stop her.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on my side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina has 2 minutes remaining.

The Speaker pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina has 2 minutes remaining.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield no further requests for time and would inquire through the Chair if my colleague has any remaining speakers on her side.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we have no further people to testify. We are ready to close.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me say again, the Secretary has been faithfully executing the law. The problem is that our colleagues don’t like the law as it is, and so we need to change the law if they don’t like what the Secretary is executing. However, that is not where we are today.

Students who have been harmed by fraudulent practices deserve relief, period. There is no disagreement on that issue, Mr. Speaker.

Sadly, President Obama’s overzealous and flawed borrower defense regulation abandoned due process and limited student choice. So the Trump administration acted quickly to reverse this frustrating regulation.

In 2019, the Education Department issued a new borrower defense rule to better protect borrowers and taxpayers. The rule is the result of more than 2 years of deliberations, public hearings, negotiations with the higher education stakeholders, and considering, incorporating, and responding to public comments on the issues.

To hear our colleagues speak about it, it is something that came straight off of Secretary DeVos’ desk. Not true.

Thanks to this regulatory reset, all colleges and universities will be held accountable, defrauded students will see relief, and taxpayer dollars will be better protected.

Today’s resolution would repeal the Trump administration’s rule and go back to Obama regulations that harm students and taxpayers. That is unreasonable to think about, that our colleagues want to do that. They want to actually harm the students they claim they want to help. Students deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this misguided resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to correct some misinformation about the 2016 rule that my colleagues on the other side have stated today.

First of all, the law, the Higher Education Act, entitles borrowers a right to relief. This applies to all institutions, not just a few.

The reason the 2019 rule saves money is because meritorious claims will be denied. Under this new rule, students will see only 3 percent of their loans discharged, and predatory institutions will pay only 1 percent of their fraud.

The 2019 rule sets an impossibly high bar for students to prove relief, inconsistent with State law.

The 2016 rule allowed for arbitration. It just banned predudite arbitration and class action waivers.

The 2016 rule was closely negotiated with institutions, including HBCUs, that struck a balance that was fair to institutions and students.

The Department of Education predicts that by 2021 over 200,000 borrowers will face this type of fraud. This is not about borrowers in the past; this is about borrowers now. This number will only continue to grow if we don’t pass the reforms in the College Affordability Act.
Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD three letters: a letter from The American Legion; a letter from 20 State attorneys general; and a letter from a coalition of groups, including Student Veterans of America, supporting our effort to overturn the Secretary’s harmful borrower defense rule.

The American Legion.

Dear Senator Durbin:

On behalf of the nearly 2 million members of The American Legion, I write to express our support for Joint Resolution 56, providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to, “Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability.” The rule, as currently written, is fundamentally rigged against defrauded borrowers or student loans, depriving them of the opportunity for debt relief that Congress intended to afford them under the Higher Education Act. Affirming this position is American Legion Resolution No. 82: Preserve Veteran and Servicemember Rights to Gainful Employment and Borrower Defense Protections, adopted in our National Convention 2017.

Thousands of student veterans have been defrauded over the years—promised their credits would transfer when they wouldn’t, given false or misleading job placement rates in marketing, promised one educational experience when they were recruited, but given something completely different. This type of deception against our veterans and servicemembers has been a lucrative scam for unscrupulous actors.

As veterans are aggressively targeted due to their service to our country, they must be afforded the group remedy to redress the Department of Education’s “Borrower Defense” rule eliminates this right, forcing veterans to individually prove their claim, share the specific type of financial harm they suffered, and prove the school knowingly made substantive misrepresentations. The preponderance of evidence required for this process is so onerous that the Department of Education itself estimated that only 3 percent of applicants would get relief.

Until every veteran’s application for student loan forgiveness is processed, we will continue to demand fair and timely decisions. The rule that the Department of Education has promulgated flagrantly denies defrauded borrowers their fundamental due process, and The American Legion calls on Congress to overturn this regulatory action.

Senator Durbin, The American Legion applauds the actions of the Attorneys General in addressing this critical issue facing our nation’s veterans and their families.

For God & Country,

James V. HOLL, Oxford, National Commander.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Senate Office of the Attorney General,

Boston, Massachusetts, January 14, 2020.

Dear Senator Durbin,

Washington, DC.

Dear Senator Durbin and Representative Lee:

As 57 organizations representing and advocating for student borrowers, taxpayers, veterans and service members, faculty and staff, civil rights and consumers, we write in support of your efforts to disapprove the 2019 Borrower Defense to Repayment rule pursuant to the Congressional Review Act.

The purpose of the borrower defense rule as defined by the Higher Education Act is to protect students from fraud, deception, and other illegal misconduct by unscrupulous colleges. A well-designed rule...
will both provide relief to students who have been lied to and cheated, and deter illegal conduct by colleges.

However, the final rule issued by the Department of Education on September 23, 2019, would accomplish neither of these goals. An analysis of the Department’s own calculations estimated only 3 percent of the loans that resulted from school misconduct would be cancelled under the new rule. Schools would be held accountable for reimbursing taxpayers for just 1 percent of these loans.

The DeVos Borrower Defense rule issued in September imposes unreasonable time limits on students who have been deceived and misled by their schools. It requires applicants to meet thresholds that make it impossible for wronged borrowers to obtain loan cancellation.

The rule eliminates the ability of groups of borrowers to be granted relief, even in cases where there is substantial compelling evidence of widespread wrongdoing. It prohibits the filing of claims after three years even when evidence of wrongdoing emerges at a later date. It requires borrowers to prove schools’ intentional deceptive and illegal recruiting tactics. Moreover, a borrower defense rule that fails to adequately protect students would force each eligible student impacted by a school closure to individually find out about their statutory right to relief, apply, and navigate the government’s bureaucracy to have their loans cancelled.

Many of us wrote to the Department in August 2018 in response to the notice of proposed rulemaking and carefully outlined our considerations. However, the Department rejected our recommendations that would have provided a fair process that protects students and taxpayer dollars. Instead, the Department would force each eligible student impacted by a school closure to individually find out about their statutory right to relief, apply, and navigate the government’s bureaucracy to have their loans cancelled.

Meanwhile, the Department refuses to take action on a massive backlog of over 200,000 pending borrower defense claims, having failed to approve or deny a single claim in over a year. We fully support your effort to repeal the 2019 borrower defense rule, and look forward to restoration of the 2016 rule, which would give borrowers access to a borrower defense rule that fails to adequately protect students harms the most vulnerable students, including first-generation college students, young students, and military-connected students, who are targeted by and disproportionately enrolled in predatory-for-profit colleges.

The Obama Administration proposed rules that would streamline the process for students to get discharged from their student loan obligations and be able to move on with their lives. Unfortunately, these rules were unable to go into effect due to Secretary DeVos’s unlawful refusal to implement the Obama-era rule. Instead, Secretary DeVos has worked tirelessly to make the process for students seeking relief more burdensome.

The new Borrower Defense rule makes it harder for borrowers to seek the relief they desperately need so that they can move on with their lives. The new rule drastically shortens the application period for borrowers to apply for relief, raises the bar that borrowers have to prove that an institution defrauded them, and allows institutions to access the evidence provided the borrower so that they have an administrative appeal when attempting to undermine these claims.

Simply put, Secretary DeVos’s Borrowers Defense rule riggs the game in favor of fraudulent institutions while making life much more difficult for those students that were ripped off. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution so that we may use our Congressional Review Act authority to stop this rule before it ruins the livelihood of any more students.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 790, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 231, nays 180, not voting 18, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 76 and to reject Secretary DeVos’s harmful rule that makes it nearly impossible for borrowers to seek the relief that they have the right to seek.

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 76 and to reject Secretary DeVos’s harmful rule that makes it nearly impossible for borrowers to seek the relief that they have the right to seek.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution disapproving the Administration’s new “Borrowers Defense to Repayment” rule. This proposed rule would make it more difficult for defrauded students in my district to seek relief from their student loan obligations.

Over the past few years, we have seen large for-profit colleges close shop, leaving students with significant amounts of student debt and useless degrees. These closures include hundreds of large for-profit campuses in North Texas, thus impacting thousands of students across the state. These students were falsely promised a better life if they obtained a degree from these institutions. However, because of these closures, students were worse off financially.

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Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on passage of the joint resolution will be followed by a 5-minute vote on:

Agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 231, nays 180, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 22]

| YEA—231 |
|---|---|
| Adams | Davis |
| Aguilar | Dear |
| Allred | DeFazio |
| Ams | DeGette |
| Barragan | DeLauro |
| Bass | DelBene |
| Beatty | Delgado |
| Bera | Demings |
| Beyer | Desanisier |
| Bishop (CA) | Deutch |
| Brown (OH) | Dingell |
| Brown (CA) | Doyle (NY) |
| Brown (MD) | Doyle, Michael |
| Boyle, Brendan P. | Engel |
| Brindisi (NY) | Engel, Peter |
| Brownley (CA) | Espaillat |
| Busto | Finkenauer |
| Carabasal | Fitzpatrick |
| Cardenas | Fletcher |
| Carson (IN) | Foster |
| Cartwright | Frankel |
| Case | Frudge |
| Casten (IL) | Garamendi |
| Castor (FL) | Garcia (IL) |
| Castor (FL) | Garcia (TX) |
| Chu, Judy | Golden |
| Cicilline | Gomez |
| Cicilline | Gomez, E. (TX) |
| Clayburn | Gottheimer |
| Clarke (MA) | Green, Al |
| Clarke (NC) | Gurrieri |
| Clyburn | Haaland |
| Cohen | Harder (CA) |
| Cornells | Hastings |
| Cooper | Hayes |
| Correa | Heck |
| Correa | Hice (NY) |
| Courtney | Himes |
| Cox (CA) | McAllister |
| Crist | McClain |
| Crow | McConkey |
| Cummings (AR) | McEachin |
| Cummings (NJ) | McCollum |
| Davis (GA) | McBath |
| Davis, Danny K. | Moulton |
| Jeffries | Murphy (FL) |
| Jeffries | O’Malley |
| Jackson Lee | McSally |
| Jayapal | Moulton |
| Jefferson | Murphy (FL) |
Mr. GAETZ changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the joint resolution was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for: Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record that on January 16, 2020, I missed one roll call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted: “yea” on rollover Vote 22, H.J. Res. 76.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore, pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal. Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 133. An act to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration as follows:

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 801

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR: Mr. Van Drew.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Taylor.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY: Mr. Van Drew.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.
CONGRATULATING LSU ON WINNING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a group of young men who had an excellent undefeated season at LSU and won the national championship.

I also rise to congratulate Coach Orgeron for his leadership in shaping not only those young men on the field, but off the field also.

I also take great pride, Mr. Speaker, in recognizing one outstanding individual on that team, his name is Grant Delpit.

Grant Delpit was my first batboy at the congressional baseball game. Last year he was the unanimous All-American, and this year he caused a fumble in the national championship game. But more importantly, his parents, a lawyer, law enforcement, and his grandmother serves on the board of a charter school in my district. They are an exceptional family.

Mr. Speaker, we have a commitment that when we see our young people doing well that we recognize them and congratulate them. So, to all of the outstanding young men at LSU for winning the national championship, and to Grant Delpit for excelling in the classroom, off and on the field, I just want to say congratulations, we recognize you. And good luck in whatever you do in your future.

CONGRATULATING THE WESTLAKE CHAPPARRALS ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the 2019 Westlake High School Chapparrals football team on winning their second State championship title.

For Texans, high school football isn’t just a sport, it is a way of life. Each week my family and I gather under Friday night lights and cheer our team on to victory. The young men, women, and coaches on our team spend countless hours running drills, watching film, and getting ready for their moment in history.

During the 2019 season, Westlake’s dedication paid off as they posted a 24-0 shutout over Denton Guyer at AT&T Stadium for their second State title.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 35th Congressional District in Texas, I congratulate the Chaps on their victory and wish them the very best in their bright futures. In God we trust.

TIME TO HELP OUR FELLOW AMERICANS IN PUERTO RICO

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

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, it was over 2 years ago that Hurricane Maria hit the island of Puerto Rico, and our fellow Americans sustained one of the worst natural disasters, with the highest death toll in modern history. Now we have, again, earthquakes hitting the island since December 28 to this date.

I got to go this week and saw firsthand school buildings crumbling. I saw folks sitting out in tents who need emergency housing and mental health services. Yet we still have less than half the money that we allocated for Hurricane Maria actually down on the island.

It is time for the Trump administration to bring that money down.

In addition, it is time to declare a major disaster declaration. We cannot let this tragedy happen again. America is watching. History is watching. It is time to help our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico.

RECOGNIZING TALENTED ALL-AMERICAN GAMES WOMEN BASKETBALL PLAYERS

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

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize three talented high school basketball players in my district. Khadija Faye, Tiera White, and Brianna Ellis.

Khadija and Tiera play basketball at Father Lopez High School in Daytona Beach, and Brianna plays basketball at Flagler Palm Coast High School in Palm Coast, Florida. All three of these young women have just been nominated to play in the 2020 All-American Games, a national basketball competition benefitting the Ronald McDonald charities. They were among 46 seniors from Florida to be selected for this honor.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize their hard work and talent on the House floor today. The final roster will honor these 46 girls from Florida to be selected for this honor.

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SKYROCKETING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

(Ms. CRAIG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago I started a healthcare listening tour across Minnesota’s Second Congressional District. Whether it is Wabasha or Burnsville, the issue is the same. The cost of lifesaving prescription drugs is skyrocketing. Over the past 2

ADDRESSING SUICIDE PREVENTION

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about the Suicide Prevention Act.

I read this statistic on the House floor before, but it bears repeating: every 9 minutes someone in the United States commits suicide. And for every suicide-related death, there are 25 attempts. These are truly heartbreaking statistics, and they hit close to home.

I have met with the family and friends of those who have taken their own life. I have heard their stories and I am responding to their pleas for help.

This bill is part of a longstanding commitment to reverse this troubling trend. It is bipartisan, it is bicameral, and it would provide for new resources to turn the tide on this dire situation.

Part of the problem when it comes to effectively addressing suicide is that medical and other professionals have outdated resources and stale data. The current data collected on the efforts regarding suicide are often years out of date, and this limits the ability of State and local health organizations, as well as community organizations, to recognize the trends early and intervene.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking my colleagues here in the House and the Senate to respond to those who are crying for help. This legislation makes so much sense, we should make it a priority.

RELIEF FOR DEFRAUCED STUDENTS

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of H.J. Res. 76, a resolution to overturn Secretary DeVos’ harmful borrower defense rule.

Secretary DeVos claims her rule is to help students and to protect taxpayers, but this rule does the complete opposite.

Instead of working on behalf of students that have been defrauded by predatory for-profit colleges, Secretary DeVos seeks to protect those bad actors who leave students with crushing debt and worthless degrees.

Secretary DeVos refuses to provide relief to defrauded students, eliminates their protections and higher education, and weakens safeguards to prevent low quality schools from receiving taxpayer money.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I was proud to vote for and help pass H.J. Res. 76 to overturn Secretary DeVos’ anti-student rule, and I urge prompt action by the full Senate.

In God we trust.
On March 4, the Supreme Court will hear June Medical Services v. Gee. The Louisiana law requiring admitting privileges would leave just one clinic open and one physician to provide all the abortions in Louisiana.

Although Roe is the law of the land, 27 States, one by one, have determined that 27 States, one by one, have determined that they will ban abortions in a State where abortion would be legal. The 1-in-3 women living in America who have had an abortion on January 22, I rise for the 1-in-4 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, to those waging war on the rights of women, next week is the 40th anniversary of the Women's March. We have seen the power women wield when they march to the ballot box. Get ready for 2020 because we are not going back.

ROE V. WADE DECISION DEPRIVES STATES' RIGHTS

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, 47 years ago, the Supreme Court of the United States incorrectly decided Roe v. Wade. Since then, the rights of States to determine whether or not they will provide unborn children the same right to life and liberty as those outside the womb has been eliminated.

Since then, 61 million American children have been killed without a say and without due process. Since then, the Supreme Court has effectively tied the hands of those with compassion by depriving States the ability to protect life.

Justice Antonin Scalia, in his dissent in Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey, saw the harm in this, saying: "By foreclosing all democratic outlet for the deep passions this issue arouses, by banning the issue from the political forum that gives all participants, even the losers, a fair hearing and an honest fight, by continuing the imposition of a rigid national rule instead of allowing for regional differences, the Court merely prolongs and intensifies the anguish."

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree with the late Justice Scalia more.

HONORING JEANETTE PEDONE ON HER RETIREMENT AS ASSISTANT CHIEF CLERK OF DEBATES

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeanette Pedone on her recent retirement as our Assistant Chief Clerk of Debates, after nearly 17 years of service here in the House.

Jeanette grew up along the eastern seaboard but always enjoyed her summers in Harvey Cedars, New Jersey. She attended Drexel University, where she earned a degree in Technology and the New York School of Interior Design. Jeanette came to the House from the Stenograph Company, where she was a sales representative. She first served as an editor for committee hearings in the Office of Official Reporters in 2003, and she became an Assistant Chief Clerk of Debates a year later.

Jeanette was a debate clerk for more than 16 years, the longest job she ever held, and served under four Speakers of the House, four Clerks of the House, and four Chiefs of the Office of Official Reporters.

As a debate clerk, she coordinated the production of the Congressional Record from the floor of the House, recording who spoke on the floor and all parliamentary actions of the House, a pretty big job. She also assisted the official reporters and editors in gathering speeches and supplemental information for the Record.

Jeanette was a familiar face on the floor and had a front-row seat to history. She represented the office at a State of the Union Address, five State of the Union speeches to joint meetings of Congress by foreign leaders, and many important legislative moments here on the floor. But she most fondly recalls meeting her childhood idol, Patty Duke, and her son, the actor Sean Astin, when they toured the House floor late one night after adjournment.

Jeanette retired to Lords Valley, Pennsylvania, with her husband, Joe. She looks forward to spending more time with her family, including her daughter, Courtney, and her son, Jeff. She also now has granddaughters to shower with attention.

Mr. Speaker, we wish Jeanette all the best on behalf of the entire House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING REFUGIO HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Refugio High School Bobcats football team for winning their fifth State championship. The Bobcats had a 16-0 record this year on the way to the Class 2A Division 1 championship game, where they won 28-7.

What makes this win extra special is that Refugio was one of the hardest hit communities by Hurricane Harvey. Initially, the vast majority of students was homeless, and football games were delayed as the school and stadium were repaired. While the damage to homes, schools, and businesses in that community was devastating, the spirit of Refugio remained strong.

Head coach Jason Herring consistently gives all the credit to the kids who put in the hours and showed up to get their work done. He has played a big role in helping these students fulfill their potential. All in all, it was an awesome year for the team.

In Refugio, winning football games is part of the legacy that goes to building
that strong community, and I look forward to seeing what the team does next year.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the players, coaches, families, and the entire Refugio community on this achievement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIE BELTON

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Willie Belton, a political leader, successful businessman, and decorated war veteran who passed away on January 8, 2020. Born and raised in Basile, Louisiana, Mr. Belton went on to serve in the United States Army and was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his heroic acts of sacrifice. Later, he received the Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal in gratitude for his faithful service.

Mr. Belton was also a monumental figure within the civil rights movement. He was chosen to lead a local NAACP chapter and worked alongside some of history’s heroes, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to put an end to racial discrimination and ensure equal opportunity for all. In 1960, he was chosen to lead a local NAACP chapter and worked alongside some of history’s heroes, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to put an end to racial discrimination and ensure equal opportunity for all. In 1960, he was chosen to lead a local NAACP chapter and worked alongside some of history’s heroes, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to put an end to racial discrimination and ensure equal opportunity for all. In 1960, he was chosen to lead a local NAACP chapter and worked alongside some of history’s heroes, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to put an end to racial discrimination and ensure equal opportunity for all. In 1960, he was chosen to lead a local NAACP chapter and worked alongside some of history’s heroes, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to put an end to racial discrimination and ensure equal opportunity for all.

Our prayers are with the Belton family as they grieve the loss of an American hero. His service to this country and his active commitment to social justice will never be forgotten.

May he rest in peace.

THANKING TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FOR DEFENDING UNBORN

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as pro-life, pro-family, and pro-child. No matter what your faith is, everyone understands that life is very precious and that life is a gift. I believe that as Members of Congress and, really, as all citizens, we are called to protect the vulnerable, and this is one of my core beliefs. Being pro-life means not just pro-birth but being interested in the welfare of the child during his or her entire formative years.

That is why I am not only a longtime member of the Pro-Life Caucus but also the co-chair of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank this administration for the work they have done to defend the unborn, including changing the rules for title 10 to expanding the Mexico City policy. I look forward to continuing to work with the administration on these issues as we come to the time of January when we remember the ruling on Roe v. Wade.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the day when there are no more abortions because there are no more unwanted children.

RECOGNIZING EAGLE SCOUT EVAN MICHAEL HOLMES

(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 recognize Evan Michael Holmes from Troop 95 in Upper Township on the attainment of his Eagle Scout rank. Eagle Scout is the highest rank obtainable from the Boy Scouts of America, and only 4 percent of all boys ever achieve this prestigious recognition.

Eagle Scouts are more likely to dedicate their life to service, and his service is very special. He is planning to join the Navy in February 2020. I was proud of Evan’s beautiful Court of Honor that was celebrated earlier this month, and I congratulate Evan.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of Evan and look forward to big things in the future from him. Some of us look for heroes in celebrities—God help us. Some look for heroes here in Washington—equally, God help us. But my heroes are individuals, young men like Evan, who do more, who work harder, and who know what it is to be a true American and a good person, who really care for and love their families and the people around them.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Evan the very best, and may God bless him.

RECONSIGNING EAGLE SCOUT EVAN MICHAEL HOLMES

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 60 minutes.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize Evan Michael Holmes from Troop 95 in Upper Township on the attainment of his Eagle Scout rank. Eagle Scout is the highest rank obtainable from the Boy Scouts of America, and only 4 percent of all boys ever achieve this prestigious recognition.

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Mr. Speaker, I wish Evan the very best, and may God bless him.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND MORAL AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore, Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER).

PROTECTING OUR WATERS AND COMMUNITIES

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the House passed H.R. 535, the PFAS Action Act of 2019. This important legislation makes a critical step in addressing the public health crisis caused by so-called forever chemicals like PFAS.

According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, certain compounds of PFAS, like PFOA and PFOS, are known to cause liver damage, thyroid disease, asthma, birth defects, and even some cancers.

Unfortunately, for many in northeast Wisconsin, this fight is personal and tragic. Anyone who has been to our small corner of the country knows that water is part of what makes northeast Wisconsin so special and beautiful. Unfortunately, this water, which is so central to our way of life, is under threat from chemicals like PFOA and PFOS.

While until recently, PFAS was an unknown contaminant. Recent studies give us a better understanding of the risks posed by compounds like PFOA and PFOS. Not only have our communities been unwittingly placed at risk by these toxins, but it has taken far too long to get them the resources required to mitigate their effects.

As a result, these toxic chemicals have contaminated local water sources and literally poisoned the well from which Wisconsinites drink.

No one should be afraid to drink or use the water from their tap. The fact that this is the case for many across the country, including in northeast Wisconsin, and in Peshtigo, in particular, means one thing: We must act with a sense of urgency to defend our communities and protect the clean water that underpins our way of life.

As a member of the PFAS Task Force, I am committed to finding ways to combat PFAS and its negative effects on our communities.

Last year, Representative DELGADO and I introduced the PFAS Right-to-Know Act, a bipartisan bill that would require PFAS to be listed on the Toxics Release Inventory and require manufacturers, processors, and producers to report their usage of PFAS chemicals to the EPA.

Signed into law last month as part of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, this bill provides communities with a better understanding of where these toxins come from so we can better combat their effects. While this was an important first step, there is more to be done.

The PFAS Action Act builds on last year’s progress through a number of important provisions. It designates...
PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances to ensure that all those responsible for contamination do their part to clean up and restore our waters and habitats. It establishes stronger drinking water standards to give States and communities the resources they need to start removing PFAS.

It strengthens the Clean Water Act to include PFOS and PFOA as toxic pollutants.

This legislation will be critical in protecting waters in northeast Wisconsin and across the country for current and future generations. When it comes to the PFAS crisis, I would simply argue to my own colleagues who may be skeptical of which direction we need to go or the need for the Federal Government to get involved that inaction is not an option.

The PFAS Action Act is a thorough, comprehensive, and long-overdue solution, and I want to thank Representatives PALLONE and DINGELL for their leadership, which my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their hard work in protecting our water and our communities.

Mr. GOMHERT. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor to be here in the House of Representatives and have an opportunity to speak, as so many places around the world don’t have those privileges, those rights.

Sometimes people ask, well, if the rights are truly endowed by our creator, then why don’t people have them all over the world?

And it is an endowment, these rights, like an inheritance, but the only way you get to keep any inheritance is if you are willing to fight for it, because if you are not, in this world, evil people will always be trying to take what you have and take it for themselves.

So we have been blessed to be in a country where we had men and women willing to stand up and fight for us.

My 4 years in the Army, we were never in combat. I still think we should have gone, in 1979, to Iran; and if we had addressed the attack on our American property, which was the U.S. Embassy, then the Ayatollah would have addressed the attack on our American military, and they were set to kill and maim American military. That was after Soleimani had taken over the IRGC and he had his special troops.

But he was a terrorist. He had been allowed to kill Americans for far too long, and the world is a better place without him.

It was amazing that people on both sides of the aisle could agree on that when President Obama ordered the killing of Osama bin Laden, and yet so many of those same people with whom we agreed thought it was atrocious that President Trump would order the taking out of the lead terrorist killing hundreds of Americans. It is just a strange thing.

Some call it Trump Derangement Syndrome. They just have so much hatred for our current President that it doesn’t matter that it is in direct conflict with what he has done. For example, our chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the minority leader in the Senate had some pretty strong quotes back when President Clinton was impeached, and now they say 180-degree opposition things, completely contradicting themselves about what impeachment should be and not be.

So it is clear, though, from the Constitution—this is the last sentence of Article II. It says: “The President, Vice President and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason—that is a crime—‘bribery’—that is a crime—‘or other high crimes’—those are crimes—‘and misdemeanors’—and those are crimes.

So it is very clear, if you are going to impeach and then convict and remove a President from office, there need to have been crimes.

Somehow the prior impeachments—there have only been a few—the allegations involved crimes.

Perjury as President Clinton was guilty of, is a crime. He was not prosecuted. There still seemed to be a permanent feeling that you couldn’t convict a sitting President of a crime. But he paid a very heavy price, being disbarred for perjury and other costs that he had to pay.

But, unfortunately, we now live in a time where right and wrong are supposed to be so relative. It all depends. The ends justify the means. That is the way you lose a great civilization. That is the way you lose moral authority, when right and wrong all become relative.

In fact, John Adams, as President, in 1797, our second President, made very clear when he said this Constitution is meant to guard against the wicked schemes; one is a person lying tongue; one is a heart that devises wicked schemes; one is a person who stirs up conflict in the community; and, frankly, among some people who conspired to eliminate a sitting President.

Actually, they started out conspiring to use taxpayer funds to use the FBI, intelligence community, even some defense funds, State Department personnel and funds, to prevent Donald Trump from being elected. And then after he was elected, those guns were turned on him to try to eliminate him from office.

Obviously, in the current impeachment, there is no treason; there is no high crime; there is no misdemeanor. So those pushing these Articles of Impeachment, abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, actually ended up being guilty of both of those allegations.

But they are not crimes; they are not high crimes; they are not misdemeanors; they are not bribery. But they are guilty of those themselves.

If you go back, as I am thrilled that so many of my friends across the aisle are doing now, quoting our Founders, they made clear in those early debates that you could not, you should not, could not be able to remove a President or someone because you don’t like the way they are doing things or maladministration; or you think they are not doing something quickly enough and so you would say they are obstructing Congress; or you don’t like what they did; or someone because you would say: Oh, they are abusing their power—even though the Obama administration did the very same things, just much worse.

I thought it was worse when I met with a big group of weeping Nigerian mothers whose children were kidnapped and chained to beds, normally raped multiple times a day, from what we were told. I asked the pastor who was trying to assist so many of these Nigerian women: Where are the fathers?

He said: That is part of the tragedy. The fathers know that their little girls are chained to beds and being raped.
every day, and they don’t feel like they should stay in a bed when they were not able to protect their daughters.

And I have got to give it to the Obama administration. They did hold up a sign and say “bringbackourgirls.” But from what Nigerians in government told me they were told: If you really want us to take out Boko Haram for you, we have got the power; we have got the money; we have got the military might; but you are going to have to change your laws to allow abortion and to allow same-sex marriage. And if you are not going to do that, we are not going to help you like we could with Boko Haram.

I saw a quote from a Catholic bishop in Nigeria who was basically saying: Our religious beliefs are not for sale, not to President Obama, to John Kerry, to America. They are not for sale.

So some of us were concerned that we could have helped stop some of the biggest atrocities going on in the world by radical Islam, but money was withheld. Help was withheld in order to achieve a political agenda regarding same-sex marriage and abortion, according to people I met with there in Nigeria, and seemed to be bolstered by articles that have been read back at that time.

We also know that this Congress has repeatedly, since I have been here, made clear we don’t want to be giving away money to countries that are going to use it for improper purposes.

Now that changed a great deal during the Obama administration. We are willing to give $150 billion to people that we knew there is a decent chance they were going to be using it to kill Americans and to terrorize the world, maybe use it, some of it, to pursue nuclear weapons. We have been hearing that some of it was used by Soleimani to help coordinate attacks against Americans around the Middle East because they want Americans out of the Middle East because they want Americans out of the Middle East.

But I have had a bill in most of the Congresses in which I have been a Member called the United Nations Voting Accountability Act, and it put requirements on our money.

I almost got it passed as an amendment early on. It just simply basically says any nation that votes against the United States’ position in the U.N. more than half of the time shall receive no assistance of any kind from the United States in the subsequent year. It seems like in March, somewhere around there, we get the voting results from the previous year for the U.N. and you can go through and see what percentage of the time each country voted with us and when they voted against us.

I think it would be a great requirement to put on our financial aid, and as a nation that has been here in Congress, you don’t have to pay people to hate you, they will do it for free. You don’t have to pay them to hate you, they are perfectly happy to hate you for free.

And as I found from being very small in elementary school, you don’t win the respect of a bully by giving them your lunch money or giving them whatever they demand to make them pay a price. Even if you don’t win the war, if you hurt them—of course, they hurt you worse—they decide they will pick on somebody else because they don’t want to get hurt themselves, and they know you will fight back.

It is nice here in the United States, we are big and strong enough we can take it to bullies, terrorists like Soleimani, and I thank God that he is gone and there will be Americans living as a result of him being gone.

So Trump derangement syndrome has caused the House majority to push through two Articles of Impeachment.

They turn and demand that when the President say to the President of Russia, Tell Vladimir I will have a lot more flexibility after the next election? So they could give in a lot more than he even had in the past.

It is called projecting. You engage in improper conduct to accuse your opponent of engaging in what you did. That is exactly what we have seen here, projecting.

So you have somebody that gets paid off by corrupt entities in Ukraine, and they say to the President of the United States does his job and basically says to Ukraine—when they elect a president who got elected on the basis that he was going to end the corruption, we sure would like to see it if it involves American people. You know, please, we would like to see what you got if it involves Americans. There is nothing wrong with that. It is perfectly legal.

If you listen to the content of some people we have heard in Washington, the contention basically is: You may have committed a crime or engaged in corrupt activity, if you will, but we will not run the tables, we will not hold the tables, accuse President Trump, and then back the Ukrainian President off from investigating their corruption, and all of the focus is on President Trump instead of on those who may be guilty of high crimes, including bribery. It has been interesting to see the way that has political calculation.

We are told constantly, there is breaking news, the President should not have sat on that money to Ukraine. There was nothing illegal about holding up the money. And if I were President, I would be holding up any money that was going to any country that engaged in or where there was rampant corruption, as we knew had gone on in Ukraine, and require them to produce evidence that they were actually trying to stop corruption. Corruption seemed to involve American individuals, we have now stopped that investigation by Ukraine into the corruption by Americans, and that means that Ukraine is not going to be rid of corruption because they haven’t been able to adequately pursue it. There is no breaking news. There is nothing new if people reporting it were fair.

Again, one good thing from my standpoint about the Trump derangement syndrome, we are seeing lots of bad actors among deep staters in the State Department, in the Intel community, in the FBI at the top, at the DOJ, some of the top people, but it was hard to identify them. Well, because of the hatred for Donald Trump that is just inarticulable, it is so deserving to those that have this level of despising the President they keep raising their heads, so we know who the people are that are willing to abuse their office and violate their oath to the Constitution and loyalty to our own government.

I didn’t hear the first part of Lieu-tenant Colonel Vindman—I have got
family members that are lieutenant colonels, I have known so many serving in the military, in the Army, but he is the only one that I ever heard get high, righteous, and mighty and demand to be called lieutenant colonel, even though most days he doesn’t wear a uniform. But he certainly is one of those people that don’t normally respect the military, as well as some of us that do, they would go on and on about him being a part of the military.

I also may have got me the transcript of his testimony, and I got it before he had finished, and I am reading through and I am going. My word, Vindman has been violating his oath to his own Constitution. And he certainly is not being loyal to the President when the President is not committing a crime. He is clearly being more loyal to Ukraine.

Then you find out later, well, actually, he was admonished because a superior officer heard him bad-mouthing the Vice President to some Latinos. But that is why it came as no surprise to me. I was thinking he is more loyal to Ukraine than he is to the United States. It was no big surprise when I found out that Vindman was offered the position of defense minister three times, because clearly he had shown the Ukrainian leaders that he was more loyal to them than he was to his own U.S. leaders. That might be a good move for him at some point since he appears to have more loyalty to Ukraine. He may want to take them up on that at some point. Obviously, he would want to wait until after the impeachment trial is over.

I know there are some that want to have live witnesses in the Senate Chamber, just make it a full-blown circus. We should have had live witnesses in the House. That is what they did during the Clinton impeachment. You had fact witnesses that testified before the Joint Committee, however, we had a bunch of opinions coming in.

We didn’t get the real fact witnesses. And of course, the real fact witnesses, in my mind, would include Alexandra Chalupa, the actions and antics she was involved in, along with Eric Ciaramella, Abigail Grace, and Sean Misko; they had both worked at the National Security Council. They have a lot of information about work with Ukraine, real facts, not just made up stuff. They would have been important to get under oath. I still think they would be.

Andrew McCarthy, just a superb former prosecutor, had an article yesterday or today talking about the Senate should just say we are not taking up impeachment until you finish. You want us to do the investigation that you didn’t do in the House because you were in such a hurry to get it to the Senate. We are not going to do your investigation, you don’t have the high crimes, you don’t have the misdemeanor, you don’t have treason, you don’t have bribery. So why don’t you go back, and if you come up with a high crime, misdemeanor, bribe or treason then come see us once you have actually got evidence of something like that.

Unfortunately, the House passed impeachment even though it didn’t rise to the level of impeachable offenses. It is an allegation of maladministration, which means he should never be a basis for impeachment, and that is why they didn’t include those types of things as a basis for impeachment. That is, what they have alleged, and that is what is now down at the Senate whistleblower is going to take them up. I agree with my friend, Andy McCarthy. The Senate should not do the House’s job.

The House had thousands of pages of transcripts. I sure wish they would re-release the Inspector General’s deposition, but of course, that is why they did it down in the SCIF. None of the information we were told was classified. The witnesses were told if you have any answer that may involve classified information, just don’t answer it. That is also a cue, don’t answer any questions Republicans ask that you don’t want to answer. And that was the reason that so often Republican questions were interrupted with instructions to the witness by the chairman of Intel. That is why Intel did it. They wanted to have them in secret even though they weren’t classified, have them in a place where most of us could not be there, including people like those of us on the Judiciary Committee, the true committee of jurisdiction.

Then they could leak out what they thought might be helpful, even if they were leaks that were not accurate about what was actually testified to, and certainly out of context, to try to build this feeling that the President had done something terrible.

Again, this has been going on for 3 years, the investigation. We have been told since the day after President Trump was elected that they were going to impeach him. They didn’t know what for, but they were going to find something.

As Senator Schumer said back I believe it was in 1998 or 1999, during the Clinton impeachment, he pointed out that the Clinton impeachment—even though, as I say, it involved an actual crime of perjury, the Clinton impeachment lowered the bar. He said now it will be too easy to go after a President and impeach him for a minor crime like perjury.

Well, he had no idea how low the bar would be made by the Democrats. Now, it really is dangerous because they have shown you don’t have to have a crime. All you have to have is a majority in the House and you can help destroy at least 3-plus years of a President’s term by keeping them under a cloud the whole time.

I didn’t initially support Donald Trump as a candidate, but I really think people believed if we can just go after his family, go after him, go after business and friends, 6 months in, he will resign. He will say: “I am going back to making money. You can forget this. I don’t need this,” and walk away, but they just didn’t know President Trump. He was not going to walk away. He could see this country was in big trouble.

As Newt Gingrich has said, if Hillary Clinton had been elected, we would never have known the extent of the corruption in these departments. We find out even in Defense, as Adam Lovinger found, they were paying hundreds of thousands of dollars, I think over a million dollars, to a guy named Stefan Halper. It didn’t look like there was anything they were getting back, and that was his job. Ultimately, they don’t question Halper’s involvement with the Defense Department, making all this money, getting rich helping the Defense Department as a professor over in London.

Little did Adam Lovinger know that he was going to work for a number of departments by trying to set up Carter Page, setting up Papadopoulos, and just helping out trying to bring down a candidate and then bring down a President.

The Senate in the Defense Department got into this effort to prevent the election and then to remove a sitting President. Historically, that is called a coup d’état. Sometimes, it is without violence.

In this case, of course, we found out there was violence at Trump events, and they blamed Trump for that. Then we find out, in a secret recording, a Democratic operative said: Yeah, we are the ones that hire people to go in and start fights so that we can accuse Trump supporters of being violent.

That is also a tactic of the Muslim Brotherhood. It is what they have done in Egypt. They had the largest peaceful uprising in the history of the world, led by Morsi, and then to remove a sitting President. They are doing that. Morsi, who was shredding their Constitution. They arose, demanded he be removed. The Muslim Brotherhood went out, started violence, burned down some churches and synagogues. Then CNN and others faithfully reported that it was the protesters and not the Muslim Brotherhood that did that.

But it was amazing what the people of Egypt did in their peaceful protests against a man shredding their Constitution, much as our Department of Justice and FBI top people have done over the last 4 years.

Some have said they only began to investigate the Trump campaign in July 2016, but we know it was months before that.

It looks like they were probably investigating different campaigns, trying to figure out ways, if that person won the Republican nomination, then they would come after them as well. I don’t have any doubt that would have happened.

As former Speaker Gingrich has said, we wouldn’t have had any idea just how
corrupt the intel and these other folks had become.

If you want a real fact witness, it ought to be Brennan and Clapper. Of course, we saw how comfortable they have been lying under oath when testifying before Congress. It would be nice if they were held accountable.

It would be nice if Koskinen had been held accountable, if Loretta Lynch had been held accountable, because right now, after all these abuses during the Obama years, people got very arrogant about their abuses of their positions, and nobody has been made to pay. That needs to happen.

But we don’t need to have people who are comfortable lying under oath come down to testify at a big circus in the Senate Chamber. They should adopt exactly what they did under the Clinton rules.

If they have witnesses, depose them, use the testimony from the depositions. Senators from both parties can subpoena witnesses to be asked, but they ought to follow exactly the rules exactly the way they did during the Clinton impeachment. They shouldn’t be taking new witnesses.

Like Andy McCarthy says, the Senate should ask the President to do the job that the House should have done but did not. He is exactly right about that.

I would encourage, Mr. Speaker, and I hope, the Senate will hold to those rules. They were rules that were demanded and agreed to under the Clinton impeachment during the Clinton administration. They seemed to have been fair rules back then. They ought to enforce them exactly the same way: no live witnesses in the Chamber. That is not the place to have an investigation.

There is no high crime; there is no misdemeanor. None of those were charged.

We heard about bribery. We heard about Russia, Russia, Russia. We know that the real crimes regarding Russia were committed by Christopher Steele; potentially the DNC; and the Clinton campaign, which paid Fusion GPS, which paid Christopher Steele, who worked possibly with—he said, yeah, it is possible that maybe they worked for Putin, the people he got his information from. Maybe they were involved with Ukraine. We are not sure.

Obviously, the Hillary Clinton campaign asked foreign individuals to interfere in our election.

It amazes me that even some smart reporters have said all this Ukraine stuff has been disproven. No, it hasn’t. They act as if Russia and Ukraine activity—that you couldn’t have misconduct and also have misconduct in Ukraine. Absolutely you could. In fact, we know that countries around the world, including China, have been trying to affect our elections.

For those who have been students of Russia and their current highest leader, Putin, Putin didn’t care so much who got elected in that election. We have heard testimony that they provided things to help Hillary Clinton as well. That doesn’t come out in the media a whole lot because it is not consistent with what the alt-left media would have you believe.

But they tried things to help Hillary Clinton and they did things to help Donald Trump. They were not as much interested in who got elected as they were about dividing America, and they have been extremely successful with that.

America is divided. It is terribly divided. People get mad at each other in this Chamber and in committees. It is so frustrating. I hope it doesn’t get as bad in the Senate as it has here.

But Putin succeeded. And they didn’t have to spend hardly any money, not much money, to divide America.

They have tried for so long, yet here, with some unknowing allies, they have been able to divide America like hadn’t happened in the last 150 years. It is tragic.

I am hopeful that Senators will understand that the accounts they have seen in the media are rarely factual, that they are going to have to do a little bit of digging, that they are not going to be able to take summaries at face value, and that they need to do some real digging, do some real homework to find out exactly what the facts are. They will be amazed.

I am hoping that people who will be deposed will not include Alexandra Chalupa, Eric Ciaramella, Abigail Grace, and Sean Misko. I have said that for months.

Some report stories and say: “Oh, Gohmert named the whistleblower.”

No, I didn’t. I named four fact witnesses. Apparently, all these media folks must know who the whistleblower is to say that I named him.

I have never named a whistleblower. We were told earlier on apparently it was someone I didn’t name. I named the whistleblower ever. I have named people I think are fact witnesses and that I think would be very good to have in depositions in the Senate. I hope they will be called.

I don’t think they need Vindman again. They certainly don’t need law professors who are so inconsistent and just have a law professor act like he is really reluctant to talk about impeachment, have people talk about how serious and how high they are. When, actually, like in the case of the Harvard professor, he has been talking about it since right after the election. He has been trying to come up with ways to impeach President Trump. These were not honest witnesses.

Then you have people like Turley, Professors Turley and Dershowitz, who were actually trying to be fair and who have been extremely consistent. I have had profound disagreements with both of those same issues, but I have always found them to be honest.

Some people are shocked that I have liberal friends who are Democrats. When people are honest, you understand where they are coming from. When they haven’t lied to you, you can work together. That can happen, and it does happen here.

I hope that this impeachment stuff ends so that we can get back to helping the President help America, as he has been doing for 3 years. He has done an extraordinary job. Until the impeachment is over, apparently, that is not going to happen.

For those who believe in the power of prayer, we need to be asking God for mercy. I would implore people who believe in the power of prayer in the United States: Do not pray for justice because we don’t want God’s justice to come down on America or we are over.

We need mercy. We need grace. We need direction, and we need to come back to the place where we recognize there is an absolute right or wrong. It comes from a universal source, as C. S. Lewis talked about, where he came through an atheist to becoming, ultimately, a Christian.

But the realization started that he could never know that there was a fair and unfair, a right and wrong, a just or unjust, unless there was some ubiquitous universal standard of right and wrong. Otherwise, he would be like a man born blind. If you have never seen the light, how can you know that there is light and dark? You have never seen it. You have never experienced it.

So there has to be something placed in our hearts that gives us an idea of right and wrong, truth and untruth. And just because, as he said, some people come closer to hitting it right, doesn’t mean there is no absolute right and wrong, just or unjust.

We need to get back to the point where truth matters, justice matters. And when we have officials, as we still do—we still have some in our Justice Department, in our intelligence department or agencies, in the FBI—and we do need a new FBI Director, he is part of the problem—but until we get back to having people in the Justice Department, in intel, who are honorable, just, upright people, then we will continue our slide toward the dustbin of history.

No Nation lasts forever. The United States won’t. But my prayer is that we will come together and do the things that will allow this country to succeed as a Republic with people having freedom for at least 50 more years. Is that too much to ask?

I know people are worried about climate change. We won’t make another dozen years where we are right now unless we have some massive reform within our government. We need to come together to do that.

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

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker’s appointment, pursuant to 15 U.S.C.
DISINFORMATION IS THE BIG MAMA OF ALL WEAPONS TARGETING OUR NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, our Nation has gone through quite a tumultuous first 15 days of 2020. We marched right up to the brink of war after President Donald Trump authorized the assassination of Iran’s General Soleimani. And even though the Iranians did launch a measured attack, it is like the argument that the husband believed he won with his wife. It ain’t over yet.

Long before the current crisis with Iran, our peerless intelligence agencies began warning us of robust cyberattacks from Russia, China, North Korea, and, of course, Iran. These nations are all hell-bent on doing damage to us and using bots, an online method of passing disinformation to unsuspecting Americans, with the ultimate goal of turning unsuspecting Americans against each other.

If we do that, we are repeating or allowing the repetition of what the Russians did in 2016, which is to again meddle in our upcoming quadrennial election.

Now, for me, it is difficult to blame our enemies for seeking to exploit the weaknesses in our society, because it is so crystal clear to me that we are doing to ourselves what our enemies have been unable to do in the last 150 years.

Our current extreme political partisanship and reliance on social media—which is, by the way, littered with disinformation—but with that, we have allowed a well to be dug into the heart of our country. What we need most is to control what is inside our Nation. We control what is inside our Nation. What we need most is inside our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I accept and remember and meditate on this: Under the right conditions, even the most inspirational democracy in the history of the world can wane.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM ‘BILL’ GRAVES WOFFORD, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) for 30 minutes.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Graves Wofford, Jr., of Rockwall, Texas, who was a teacher and a selfless public servant.

Mr. Speaker, Matthew Ryan Jones was killed on October 11, 2019, in the line of duty as a deputy sheriff.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Graves Wofford, Jr., of Rockwall, Texas, who was a teacher and a selfless public servant.

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Mr. Speaker, Matthew Ryan Jones was killed on October 11, 2019, in the line of duty as a deputy sheriff.
Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:
Mr. LEWIS, at the request of Mr. HOYER, for January 15 and today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED
Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereto signed by the Speaker:
H.R. 263. An act to rename the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge as the Congressman Lester Wolff Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge.
H.R. 494. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Emanципation National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED
The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:
S. 457. An act to require that $1 coins issued during 2019 honor George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bullion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

ADJOURNMENT
Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, January 17, 2020, at 10:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.
Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:
3589. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s Policy Statement — Policy Statement on Compliance and Reporting Requirements, transmitted to the Office of the General Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s Policy Statement — Policy Statement on Compliance and Reporting Requirements, transmitted to the Office of the General Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s final rule — Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustments received January 15, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3590. A letter from the Secretary, Office of the General Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s Policy Statement — Policy Statement on Compliance and Reporting Requirements, transmitted to the Office of the General Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s final rule — Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustments received January 15, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3591. A letter from the Program Specialist, Chief Counsel’s Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department’s joint final rule — Community Reinvestment Act Regulations [Docket ID: OCC-2019-0025] (RIN: 1567-AE72) received January 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3592. A letter from the Departmental Privacy Officer, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Air quality regulations, and the Department’s final rule — Community Reinvestment Act Regulations [Docket ID: OCC-2019-0025] (RIN: 1567-AE72) received January 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3591. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration’s summary presentation of a final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2020-04; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR-2019-0001; Sequence No. 9] received January 15, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3592. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration’s Small Entity Compliance Guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2020-04 [Docket No.: FAR-2019-0001; Sequence No. 9] received January 15, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3593. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Bureau’s final rule — Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustments received January 15, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3594. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Bureau’s final rule — Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustments received January 15, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3595. A letter from the Director, General Counsel’s Division, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office’s final rule — 2020 Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustments for Ethics in Government Act Violations (RIN: 2020-03) received January 15, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3596. A letter from the Director, General Counsel’s Division, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office’s final rule — 2020 Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustments for Ethics in Government Act Violations (RIN: 2020-03) received January 15, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3597. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s IRB only rule — 2020 Standard Mileage Rates (Notice 2020-05) received January 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3598. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s final regulations and removal of temporary regulations — Regulations Relating to Withholding and Reporting on Certain U.S. Source Income Paid to Foreign Persons (TD 9890) (RIN: 1545-BN73, 1545-BN74, 1545-B203, 1545-BV73, 1545-BG03) received January 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3599. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s IRB only rule — Update to Revenue Procedure 2019-14 (RP-120439-19) received January 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3600. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s Major rule — Investing in Qualified Opportunity Zones (TD 9889) (RIN: 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 888); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:
Mr. NADLER. Committee on the Judiciary. House Joint Resolution 79. Resolution removing the requirement for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; with an amendment (Rept. 116-376). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred as follows:
By Ms. ESCOBAR (for herself and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):
H.R. 3625. A bill to authorize the imposi-
tion of sanctions with respect to actions that exacerbate climate change, to reinforce comprehensive efforts to limit global average temperature rise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, Oversight and Reform, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
By Mrs. HAYES:
H.R. 3626. A bill to abolish the Conscience and Religious Freedom Division in the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.
By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. THIESSEN):
H.R. 3627. A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 with respect to pre-agreement actions that exacerbate climate change, to reinforce comprehensive efforts to limit global average temperature rise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.
By Mr. WALTZ (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Maryland):
H.R. 3628. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify certain allotments under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. THIESSEN):
H.R. 3629. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide classes on financial literacy to elementary and secondary students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.
By Mr. CRIST (for himself and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico):
H.R. 3630. A bill to provide that the Social Security Administration pay fees associated with obtaining birth or State identification card for purposes of obtaining a replacement social security card for certain victims of domestic violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.
By Mr. KIM (for himself and Ms. SHERILL):
H.R. 5631. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to medical and other health profession schools to expand or develop education and training programs for the substance use prevention and treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KIM:

H.R. 5632. A bill to establish procedures regarding the approval of opioid drugs by the Food and Drug Administration; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KIM (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 5633. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to provide a public education campaign for the promotion outreach and education campaign to raise public awareness of synthetic opioids; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce;

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 5634. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to require that past-due benefits be paid prior to the payment of social security representative fees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means;

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. EMMER):

H.R. 5635. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to exclude from gross income gain from disposition of virtual currency in a personal transaction; to the Committee on Ways and Means;

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. DRUTCH, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 5636. A bill to provide for the accurate reporting of fossil fuel extraction and emissions on public and Indian lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources;

By Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself, Mr. BACON, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. STEFANKI, Mr. COLE, Mr. MITCHELL, Ms. HOULIHAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. GOTTHUMERI):

H.R. 5637. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish presumptions of service connection for diseases associated with firefighting; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs;

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CHENey, Mr. COX of Arizona, and Mr. GIANNFORTI):

H.R. 5638. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act to prevent a species that is not native to the United States from being listed as an endangered species or a threatened species, to prohibit certain types of financial assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources;

By Mr. BRINDISI (for himself and Mr. WALTZ):

H.R. 5639. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to accept any instrument of gift for a purpose as specified by the Secretary; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs;

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. PHILLIPS):

H.R. 5640. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health metrics; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce;

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 5641. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, concerning grants and develop value capture policy; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure;

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 5642. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Transportation to set aside not more than twenty percent of certain funds for certain active transportation projects and activities from the Federal lands transportation program and Federal Lands Access Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure;

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. WENSTROM):

H.R. 5643. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for S corporation reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means;

By Mr. MADOWS (for himself and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 5644. A bill to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform;

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. QUIEGLEY, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 5645. A bill to provide for media coverage of Federal appellate court proceedings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary;

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. FULCHER):

H.R. 5646. A bill to provide for the creation of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of priority public access to personnel records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform;

By Mr. PASCARELL (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BOST, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. MALINOWSKI):

H.R. 5647. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to support fire safety education programs on college campuses; to the Committee on Education and Labor;

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. ZELDEN, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, and Mr. CRESHLAW):

H.R. 5648. A bill to direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to provide grants to veterans for the purchase and installation of a central heating system for their homes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs;

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Mr. STEVES, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 5649. A bill to direct the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to establish a grant program to fund research and development with respect to certain cellular phone applications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology;

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. KINZINGER, and Mr. MOULTON):


By Mr. WYNN:

H.R. 5651. A bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to require assurances that certain family planning service projects and programs be publicly available and maintain the contact information of adoption centers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce;

By Ms. CHENEY:

H.R. 5652. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives considered and agreed to;

By Ms. KAPUTH (for herself, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. QUIELLY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CONCannon, Mr. COSTA, Mr. RYAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. LIPFRE:

H.R. 5653. A resolution affirming the United States vital interest in liberty in Europe and resolve support for Ukraine in its efforts to counter Russian aggression and continue its trajectory among the community of democracies; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs;

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KINNAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. O’HALLERAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. COX of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. BERA, Mr. BOST, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SCHLEIFER, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. TED LIU of California, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COOK, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. KILDEA, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mrs. KINKFATRICK, Mr. STANTON, Mr. TLAIR, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PHELTMITTER, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. CORREA, Mr. NINOTCH, Mr. GRAJALVA, Mr. SWALL of California, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. CALVERLY, Mr. VELA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CASE, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. SCHULTE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WRAY, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. HARTZLIER, Mr. CLEIDENAS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. DINGELL, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SCHIERI, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. DAVIS of California, Mr. BASS, Ms. EMHIO, Mr. TRONNI, Mr. KIND, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. DELBEIRNE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. WATANABE, Mr. BONAMICI, Mr. WEHR of Texas, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. WENSTROUP, Mr. HICK, Mr. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. MCMENRY)

H.R. 5653. A resolution recognizing the longstanding partnership between the United States and Australia to share critical fire-fighting resources during times of crisis; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs;

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 5652. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)
this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mrs. HAYES:
H.R. 5626: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. CURTIS:
H.R. 5627: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 8, Clause 3 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. WALTZ:
H.R. 5628: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. RUDD:
H.R. 5629: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
By CHRIST:
H.R. 5630: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. KIM:
H.R. 5631: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. KIM:
H.R. 5632: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. HURCHETT:
H.R. 5634: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular State.
By Ms. DELBENE:
H.R. 5635: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. LOWENTHAL:
H.R. 5636: 121 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 Ms. SPANBERGER:
H.R. 5637: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14
By Mr. BIGGS:
H.R. 5638: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14
By Ms. PORTER:
H.R. 5649: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. BRINDISI:
H.R. 5639: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:
H.R. 5640: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. DeSAULNIER:
H.R. 5641: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
By Mr. HUFFMAN:
H.R. 5642: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. MEADOWS:
H.R. 5643: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I
By Mr. NADLER:
H.R. 5645: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article III, Section 1 vests the judicial power of the United States in the Supreme Court and any inferior courts Congress establishes. Article I, Section 8, clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws "which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution" any "other" powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States.
By Mr. PAPPAS:
H.R. 5646: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall have authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."
By Mr. PASCRELL:
H.R. 5647: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. PERRY:
H.R. 5648: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
By Ms. PORTER:
H.R. 5649: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. WELCH:
H.R. 5650: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. WITTMAN:
H.R. 5651: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 219: Mr. SHIMkus and Mr. RESCHENTHALER
H.R. 445: Mr. CARRAJAlo and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALoneY of New York
H.R. 490: Mr. Murphy of North Carolina and Mr. LAMALFA
H.R. 587: Mr. Murphy of North Carolina, Mr. WALDEN, Mrs. Murphy of Florida, and Mr. PAPPAS
H.R. 803: Mr. WomAcK
H.R. 929: Mr. PurScH of North Carolina, Mr. McEACHrin, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LeVIN of Michigan, Mr. THOMPson of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. O’HALLERAN, Mr. BALDERSON, and Ms. JAYAPA1
H.R. 943: Mr. Bost
H.R. 1133: Mr. LeVIN of Michigan
H.R. 1135: Ms. Judy Chu of California
H.R. 1235: Mr. Smith of New Jersey
H.R. 1256: Mr. Smith of New Jersey
H.R. 1346: Mr. Ryan
H.R. 1350: Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Turner, and Mr. POCAN
H.R. 1400: Mr. ALlRED, Ms. JAYAPA1, and Mr. GoMZeZ
H.R. 1549: Mr. DeSaulnirE
H.R. 1688: Mr. PETERson
H.R. 1707: Mr. SoUZELI
H.R. 1735: Mr. EngEL
H.R. 1748: Mr. TOnKo
H.R. 1816: Ms. VELANezzE
H.R. 1878: Mr. Smith of New Jersey
H.R. 1978: Mr. POCAN
H.R. 1995: Mr. Smith of New Jersey
H.R. 2013: Mr. CoWAr
H.R. 2117: Mrs. Hayks
H.R. 2238: Mrs. AnNx
H.R. 2418: Mr. CourseY, Ms. ESCoBAr, Mrs. McBACh, and Ms. BlUNT ROCHESTEr
H.R. 2195: Mr. KILDER
H.R. 2214: Mr. VeASEY and Ms. PlASKEtt
H.R. 2223: Mr. GhijaLva
H.R. 2260: Mr. Yoko
H.R. 2315: Mr. Smith of New Jersey
H.R. 2343: Ms. NORTon
H.R. 2466: Mr. DAVID ScOTT of Georgia
H.R. 2482: Mr. O’HALLERAN
H.R. 2561: Mr. Smith of New Jersey
H.R. 2553: Mr. JoYCE of Pennsylvania
H.R. 2692: Ms. McCOLLum
H.R. 2679: Mr. Skitt of New Jersey
H.R. 2711: Mrs. KirkpAtrick, Mr. KENnedY, and Mr. POCAn
H.R. 2747: Mr. DeSaulnirE
H.R. 2771: Mrs. AnNx
H.R. 2812: Mr. KENnedY
H.R. 2838: Mr. Smith of New Jersey,

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H.R. 2843: Ms. Meng.
H.R. 2912: Mr. Ruppersberger.
H.R. 2931: Mr. Serrano.
H.R. 2936: Mr. Womack.
H.R. 2991: Mr. Lamb and Mr. Trone.
H.R. 3107: Mr. Baird and Mr. Lawson of Florida.
H.R. 3225: Mr. Nadler.
H.R. 3241: Mr. Lawson of Florida.
H.R. 3368: Mr. Smith of New Jersey.
H.R. 3436: Mr. Timmons.
H.R. 3570: Mrs. Lawrence.
H.R. 3645: Mr. Shimkus.
H.R. 3742: Mr. Katko.
H.R. 3825: Mr. Thompson of California and Mr. Ruiz.
H.R. 3922: Mr. Reed.
H.R. 3969: Ms. Stevens.
H.R. 3975: Mr. Tonko.
H.R. 4069: Mr. Mooney of West Virginia.
H.R. 4189: Mr. Holding, Mr. Gosar, and Mr. Kelly of Mississippi.
H.R. 4220: Mr. Butterfield, Ms. Craig, and Mr. Engel.
H.R. 4296: Ms. Meng.
H.R. 4564: Mr. Stewart.
H.R. 4681: Mr. Mooney of West Virginia, Ms. Cheney, and Mr. Brindisi.
H.R. 4705: Mr. Cooper.
H.R. 4794: Mr. Lowenthal.
H.R. 4807: Mrs. Axne.
H.R. 4903: Mr. Flores, Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia, Mr. Moolenaar, Mr. Gooden, and Mr. Green of Tennessee.
H.R. 4926: Mr. McKinley.
H.R. 4928: Mr. Takano.
H.R. 4946: Mr. Hill of Arkansas.
H.R. 5194: Mr. Takano.
H.R. 5151: Mr. Pocan.
H.R. 5169: Mrs. Axne.
H.R. 5191: Mr. Engel.
H.R. 5200: Mr. Bishop of Georgia.
H.R. 5319: Mrs. Axne, Mr. Grijalva, and Mrs. Rodgers of Washington.
H.R. 5394: Mr. Ratcliffe.
H.R. 5427: Mr. Cline.
H.R. 5450: Ms. Judy Chu of California.
H.R. 5492: Mr. Desaulnier.
H.R. 5507: Mr. King of New York.
H.R. 5517: Mr. Hastings, Ms. Johnson of Texas, Ms. Jackson Lee, and Mr. Krishnamoorthi.
H.R. 5538: Mr. Crist, Mr. Suozzi, and Mr. Hastings.
H.R. 5548: Mr. Lawson of Florida and Miss González-Colón of Puerto Rico.
H.R. 5552: Ms. Lee of California.
H.R. 5588: Ms. Stevens.
H. J. Res. 66: Mr. Grijalva.
H. Con. Res. 36: Mr. Morelle.
H. Res. 114: Mr. Trone and Mr. Comer.
H. Res. 374: Mrs. Brooks of Indiana.
H. Res. 687: Mrs. Axne.
H. Res. 729: Mr. Pocan.
H. Res. 742: Mrs. Axne.
H. Res. 788: Mr. Yoho.
H. Res. 791: Mr. King of Iowa, Mr. Cline, Mr. Estes, Mr. Waltz, and Mrs. Hartley.
H. Res. 797: Ms. Bonamici, Mr. Levin of Michigan, Ms. Dean, Ms. Shalala, Mr. Beyer, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Ryan, and Ms. Clarke of New York.
The Senate met at 9:45 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 King, ruler of all nature, thank you for the opportunity to serve You and country. Help us to give government what belongs to government as we render to You our faithful stewardship.

Lord, guide our lawmakers to make right choices in challenging times. Enable them to feel Your presence and become lights to a dark world. Open their eyes to see Your daily gifts and blessings, infusing them with a spirit of gratitude.

Protect our Nation from sea to shining sea, as You empower us to live for Your glory.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I have legislation to require the United States to work to block World Bank projects in wealthy countries like China, North Korea, and Russia restrict their citizens’ rights to practice their own religion.

China, for example, plans to enforce additional restrictions on religious groups starting February 1. That is already on top of a very bad record they have for religious freedom. That is in regard to China, but it would apply to all countries.

I have legislation to require the United States to work to block World Bank projects in wealthy countries like China, North Korea, and Russia restrict their citizens’ rights to practice their own religion.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

IMPEACHMENT
Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, it took 4 weeks—yes, 4 weeks, but the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives is finally ready—finally ready—to defend their impeachment of the President of the United States.

After weeks of delay, the Speaker of the House decided yesterday that a trial could finally go forward. She signed the impeachment papers. That took place at a table with a political slogan stuck onto it. And they posed—they posed—afterward for smiling photos. And the Speaker distributed souvenir pens—souvenir pens—to her own colleagues, emblazoned with her golden signature that literally came in on silver platters. The pens literally came in on silver platters. There were golden pens on silver platters, a souvenir to celebrate the moment.

I seem to remember Democrats falling over themselves to say they did not see impeachment as a long-sought political win. House Democrats said over and over that they recognized the gravity and the seriousness of this action, and, of course, they had only come to it reluctantly. Well, nothing says seriousness and sobriety like handing out souvenirs, as though this were a happy bill-signing instead of the gravest process in our Constitution.

This final display neatly distilled the House’s partisan process into one perfect visual. It was a transparently partisan performance from beginning to end.

That is why they sped through a slapdash inquiry in 12 weeks, when previous Presidential impeachments came after months, if not years, of investigations and hearings. That is why the House cut short their own inquiry, declined to pursue their own subpoenas, and denied the President due process, but now—now they want the Senate to redo their homework and rerun the investigation.

That is why our colleague the Democratic leader told the press that whatever happens next, as long as he can weaponize the trial to hurt the Republicans in the 2020 election. “It’s a win-win.” That is what the Democratic leader of the Senate said.
That is why the Speaker of the House apparently saw nothing strange about celebrating the third Presidential impeachment in American history with souvenirs and posed for photographs—souvenirs and posed photographs.

That pretty well sums it up. That is what the process has been thus far, but it is not what this process will be going forward.

The Founding Fathers who crafted and ratified our Constitution knew that our Nation might sometimes fall prey to the kind of dangerous factionalism and partisanship that has consumed—literally consumed—the House of Representatives.

The Framers set up the Senate specifically to act as a check against the short-termism and the runaway passions to which the House of Representatives might fall victim.

Alexander Hamilton worried that “the demon of faction” would “extend his scepter” over the House majorities “at certain seasons.” That is what Alexander Hamilton said. He feared for the viability of the government established by the Constitution if, blinded by factualism, the House of Representatives would abuse the power of impeachment to serve nakedly partisan purposes.

The framers might have worried about Alexander Hamilton’s fears had the House of Representatives not already been infected by the “demon of faction” that Alexander Hamilton feared.

Thirteen years ago, I remember vividly a late-night debate in the Senate on theło that would set the stage for this very body to honor our founding purposes.

In the 26 years since the ratification of NAFTA, trade with Mexico and Canada has come to directly support 12 million American jobs—12 million workers and their families who depend on robust trade with our North American neighbors.

No wonder farmers, ranchers, steelworkers, and manufacturers across our country have been so eager to see the USMCA signed, sealed, and delivered. In one recent letter, Kentucky farmers told me: “We need the agreement ratified, and we need it to happen now.”

I know many colleagues have been hearing the same thing from their home States. Republicans, Democrats, Senators, Representatives—our incoming has been the same: Get this deal passed. Failure is not an option.

Of course, for far too long, our counterparts in the House kept all these Americans waiting. It took more than a year and a lot of pressure from Senate Republicans to get the Speaker of the House to stop blocking the trade deal and finally let the House vote on it. Late last year, she finally relented. It passed by a big bipartisan margin, of course, and on and on. Commerce with our neighbors is essential across the board.

No wonder experts estimate that USMCA would create 176,000 new American jobs. No wonder they predict it will yield tens of billions of dollars in economic growth.

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I am especially grateful to our colleagues and counterparts who got this across the finish line: to the U.S. Trade Representative, Bob Lighthizer, and his hard-working team, led by his chief of staff, Jamieson Greer; to Chairman Grassley for leading the bipartisan effort in the Senate Finance Committee and his trade team, led by Nasim Fussell; to Ranking Member Wyden and his trade counsel, Jayme White, and all of our Finance Committee colleagues and staff; and to the chairmen of our other committees of jurisdiction who worked nimblly to get this done.

I want to thank the exceptional Cloakroom staff—in particular, Christopher Tuck.

I want to thank members of my own team whose efforts were invaluable, most especially my chief economic policy council, Jay Khosla, whose role in securing this agreement has been absolutely essential; Ali Neely and the Cloakroom staff, Erica Suaries and my policy advisor; and, of course, our fearless leaders, Sharon Soderstrom, my chief of staff, and my deputy chief of staff for policy, Scott Raab.

Of course, I am most grateful to President Trump for prioritizing, negotiating, and delivering on this major promise. Today the Senate will send this landmark agreement to the President’s desk—a big bipartisan win. It comes the very same week as President Trump also signed phase one of his administration’s trade agreement with China—quite a week of substantive accomplishments for the Nation, for the President, and for our international trade. Both of these measures will only add to all the other Republican policies of the past 3 years that have helped generate this historically strong economic moment for working Americans and for their families.

I would urge every one of our colleagues to join me in voting to pass the USMCA.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

THE PRESIDENT PRO Tempore of the Senate. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

THE PRESIDENT PRO Tempore of the Senate. Morning business is closed.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT—Continued

THE PRESIDENT PRO Tempore of the Senate. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5430, which the clerk will report by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (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.

Mr. McConnell. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDENT PRO Tempore of the Senate. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. Schumer. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this is a somber day. The events that will take place this afternoon have happened only twice before in our grand Nation’s 250-year history. The Chief Justice will swear in every U.S. Senator to participate in a court of impeachment in a trial of the President of the United States.

Yesterday, the Senate received notice that the House of Representatives has two Articles of Impeachment to present. The House managers will exhibit those two articles today at noon. The first article charges the President with abuse of power: coercing a foreign leader into interfering in our elections, thereby using the powers of the Presidency, the most powerful public office in the world, to benefit himself rather than the public interest. The second charges the President with obstruction of Congress for an unprecedented blockade of the legislature’s ability to investigate those very matters. Let me talk about each one.

The first is so serious. Some of our Republican colleagues have said—some of the President’s own men have said: Yeah, he did it, but it doesn’t matter; it is not impeachable. Some of them even say he had no choice—many of my Republican colleagues amazingly—it is wrong.

Let me ask the American people: Do we want foreign leaders helping determine who is our President, our Senators, our Congressmen, our Governors, our legislators? That is what President Trump’s argument will be: that it is OK to do that, that there is nothing wrong with it, that it is perfect.

Hardly anything is more serious than power outside the borders of the United States determining, influencing elections inside the United States. It is bad enough to do it but even worse to blackmail a country of aid that was legally allocated to get them to do it. It is low. It is not what America has been all about.

The second charge as well. The President says he wants the truth, but he blocks every attempt to get the facts. All the witnesses we are asking for—could have allowed them to testify in the House. They wanted them. The President is blocking.

Again, the American people—just about all of them—are asking the question: What is the President hiding? What is he afraid of? If he did nothing wrong, why didn’t he let the witnesses and the documents come forward in the House of Representatives?

Put another way, the House of Representatives has accused the President of trying to shake down a foreign leader for personal gain, deliberately soliciting foreign interference in our elections—something the Founding Fathers greatly feared—and then doing everything he could to cover it up.

The gravity of these charges is self-evident to anyone who is not self-interested. If proved, they are not petty crimes or politics as usual but a deep,oundng injury to our democracy, precisely the sort of conduct most feared by the Founders of our Constitution.

We as Senators, Democrats and Republicans, must rise to the occasion, realizing the seriousness of the charges and the importance of an impeachment proceeding. The beginning of the impeachment trial today will be largely ceremonial, but soon our duty will be constitutional. The constitutional duty is to conduct a fair trial, and then, as our oaths this afternoon command, Senators must “do impartial justice.” Senators must “do impartial justice.” The weight of that oath will fall on our shoulders. Our ability to honor it will be preserved in history.

Yesterday evening, it was gratified to hear the Republican leader, at least in part of his speech, ask the Senate to rise to the occasion. I was glad to hear him say so. For somebody who has been partisan—deeply, strongly, and almost unrelentingly partisan—for 2 months that he would do anything that could bring us together: The Senate should rise to the occasion.

Far more important than saying it is doing it. What does “doing it” mean? The best way for the Senate to rise to the occasion is to be nonpartisan and to have everyone agree on the parameters of a fair trial. The best way for the Senate to rise to the occasion would be for Democrats and Republicans to agree on relevant witnesses and relevant documents, not run the trial with votes of a slim majority, not jam procedures through, not define “rising to the occasion” as “doing things my way,” which is what the majority leader has done thus far, rather: a real and honest bipartisan agreement on a point we all know must be confronted: that we must—we must—have witnesses and documents in order to have a fair trial.

A trial without witnesses is not a trial. A trial without documents is not a trial. That is why every completed impeachment trial in our Nation’s history—every single one that has gone to completion—have all included witnesses. The majority leader claims to believe in precedent. That is the precedent the President must carry.

Let us hope we don’t have one this trial.

Over the centuries, Senators have stood where we stand today, confronted with the responsibility of judging the removal of the President. They rightly concluded they were obligated to seek the truth. They were under a solemn obligation to hear the facts before rendering a final judgment.

The leader incorrectly, in my judgment, concluded the House was doing short-termism and rush. The leader is trying to do the exact same thing in the Senate. The very things he condemns the House Democrats for, he seems bent on doing. Condemning short-termism? Are we going to have a full trial? Condemning the rush? Are we going to allow the time for witnesses and documents or is the leader going to try to rush it? If in the very same time, out of the other side of his mouth, he condemns the House—in incorrectly, in my judgment—for doing it.

Another thing about the importance of witnesses and documents, the leader has still not given a good argument about why we shouldn’t have witnesses and documents. He complains about process and pens and signing ceremonies but still does not address the questions: Why should we? Why should we? Why should we? Why shouldn’t we have witnesses and documents?

We are waiting. Rise to the occasion. Remember the history. That is what the Founders said he would do last night, and I was glad to hear it, but he must act, not talk about rising to the occasion and then doing the very same things he condemns the House for.

If my colleagues have any doubts about the case for witnesses and documents in a Senate trial, the stunning revelations this week should put those to rest. We have new information about a plot by the President’s attorney and his associates to oust an American ambassador and potentially to remove the “knowledge and consent” of the President, pressure Ukrainian President Zelensky to announce an investigation of one of the President’s political rivals. The effort to remove Ambassador Yovanovitch by Lev Parnas and Mykola Zlochevskyy is now the subject of an official probe by the Government of Ukraine.

My friends, this information not only exists; it is central to the charges against the President. We have a responsibility to call witnesses and subpoena documents that will shed light on the truth here. God forbid we rush through this trial and only afterward the truth comes out.

How will my colleagues on the other side of the aisle feel if they rushed it through and then even more evidence comes out? We have seen lots come out. There has barely been a week since significant new evidence, whether making the House case, hasn’t come out as strong as the House case was to begin with.

Here is what Alexander Hamilton wrote in The Federalist 65. He said: “The greatest danger is that the decision [in an impeachment trial] will be regulated more by the comparative strength of parties than by the real demonstration of innocence or guilt.”

Alexander Hamilton was right. If we are going to try to rush the day political parties were as strong as they are today, wanted us to come together. The leader wants to do things on his own, without any Democratic input, but, fortunately, we have the right to demand votes and to work as hard as we can for a fair trial, a full trial, a trial with witnesses, a trial with documents.
The Founders anticipated that impeachment trials would always be buffeted by the winds of politics, but they gave the power to the Senate anyway because they believed the Chamber was the only place where impartial justice of the President could truly be sought. In the coming days, these eventful and important coming days, each of us—each of us will face a choice about whether to begin this trial in search of the truth or in the service of the President’s desire to cover up and rush things. The Senate can either rise to the occasion or demonstrate that the faith of our Founders was misplaced in what they considered a grand institution. As each of us swears an oath this afternoon, let every Senator—every Senator reflect on these questions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN asked leave of the Senate for the record at this moment.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I come to the floor of the Senate today at a moment that will be remembered in history. In just a few hours, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court will come to this Chamber and will be sworn in as the Presiding Officer in the impeachment trial of President Donald John Trump. He will then administer an oath to each Member of the U.S. Senate. It is an oath that is included in our Senate manual. It is very brief, only 35 words, and it bears repeating for the record at this moment.

Each Senator will be asked to make the following oath and affirmation: “I solemnly swear that in all things pertaining to the trial of the impeachment of Donald John Trump, now pending, I will do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws: so help me God.”

In just 35 words, that oath binds all of us—Republicans and Democrats—who swear by that oath to do impartial justice. The Founding Fathers, and others, could have been much more elaborate in describing the process we face, but in its simplicity, this oath really tells us what we will face in the coming days.

I believe more than ever, starting on Tuesday, when the impeachment trial begins in earnest on the floor of the Senate, America will be watching. Many Americans have busy lives—personal, private, family, and professional. They tune in to the political events of the moment as many of us do, but I think more and more will be watching come Tuesday. They are going to see a historic moment, only the third time in history when a President of the United States faces a trial. What will they find? Will they find an effort to do impartial justice? Will they find partisanship? Will they find a real trial?

I think it is important for us to realize that a real trial includes evidence. As a lawyer, I know many cases in a real trial, a few of them to verdict. I had to prepare my case, not just my theory of the law or statement of facts but proof, real proof that came from documents and witnesses. That is what a real trial is about. Unfortunately, on the other side, the majority leader has suggested we don’t need witnesses and that it is only evidence of the weakness of the impeachment charges. I think he is wrong.

As the Democratic leader said this morning, history will prove him wrong because in impeachment trial after impeachment trial, evidence and witnesses have been presented. That is the tradition of the Senate and the precedent of the U.S. Senate.

If there is an effort to short circuit that, to eliminate the witnesses and the evidence, I think it will be obvious to the American people who are following this what is underway.

In this morning’s newspapers, it was reported that the President’s defense team has been ready, anxious, if you will, for this impeachment trial to begin and equally anxious to end it as quickly as possible. They don’t prevail in that sentiment because a race to judgment may not serve the cause of impartial justice. We believe that the House managers should be allowed to make their presentation, and they have done that, and we have President Trump’s defense team, as well. We believe that Members of the Senate should hear those arguments and then proceed to consider any additional evidence.

What kind of evidence may be relevant? As Senator SCHUMER, of New York, mentioned just a few minutes ago, it seems that every day there unfolds another chapter in this story. Every day we learn of the efforts of the President’s self-described personal attorney, Rudolph Giuliani, to appeal directly to the leadership of Ukraine to initiate a political investigation of the Biden family, to serve President Trump’s political interest in the 2020 Presidential campaign.

Questions were raised by Senator VAN HOLLEN to the Government Accountability Office as to whether or not it was legal or illegal for the administration to withhold those funds. We have now received the statement from the General Accountability Office. They have held that the President’s action in withholding the funds appropriated by Congress to aid to Ukraine while that country was trying to defend itself against an invasion ordered by Vladimir Putin.

This is an important ruling that serves a thorough hearing in the impeachment trial. It should be part of the evidence of wrongdoing by the President, especially as it relates to the alleged abuse of power. I also hope this ruling will convince the administration to speed the additional delivery of $250 million in military aid, which the Congress has also sent to Ukraine.

I am going to yield the floor because I know one of my colleagues is coming to speak.

A few hours, this Chamber will be transformed. As we noted yesterday, at about 5:38 p.m., when the clerk of the House arrived with the Articles of Impeachment, there was a change in the atmosphere and environment of this Chamber, and I can sense it even today. We realize we are only moments away from a historic meeting of this Chamber on the issue of Presidential impeachment. When we take that oath of office, each and every one of us, swearing impartial justice, we need to remember that not only is America watching but history will hold us accountable.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. Wyden. Madam President, soon the Senate will vote on the final passage of the new North American Free Trade Agreement. I am going to make a few remarks tonight, and I am told Senator TOOMEY is here to make remarks. Later, he is going to offer, I believe, some procedural requests.
The new NAFTA is a good deal for American workers because Democrats in this body and Democrats in the other body stopped the Trump administration from going ahead with business as usual on trade enforcement. There has been an effort by Members on the other side in the Senate to actually block enforcement dollars. With Chairman Grassley’s help, we were able to prevent that.

If you write a trade agreement with weak enforcement, particularly on labor and environmental issues, my view is you sell out American workers and key industries, whether it is automobiles, whether it is technology, or whether it is manufacturing. Basically, you set up a race to the bottom on cheap wages and the treatment of labor.

I particularly want to thank Senator Brown, my colleague from Ohio, who for decades has led the fight for tough trade enforcement. We spoke yesterday on our efforts that we worked on this side of the aisle, but we reached out to a lot of Senators on the other side of the aisle as well.

I just want to give an example of what the Brown-Wyden trade enforcement act does. In the past it would take almost to eternity to bring trade enforcement action. I spelled out yesterday how the Brown-Wyden enforcement package speeds up the timeline for tough trade enforcement by more than 900 percent. That, in my view, throws a real lifeline—an actual lifeline to communities that are worried about whether they are going to have an economic heartbeat in the days ahead.

I also wanted to mention—and I am then going to yield to my colleague, and we are going to use this time so that everybody gets a chance to make some remarks—that this is the first ever trade agreement in which the United States locks in strong rules on digital trade and technology. Back when the first NAFTA came about, you didn’t have Senators with smartphones in their pocket. You didn’t have the internet as the shipping lane of the 21st century. What we did in this part of the bill, which was really bipartisan, is we protected intellectual property. We prohibited shakedowns of data belonging to innovative American companies, and I was especially involved in making sure on establishment of small and U.S. law to defend the small technology entrepreneurs working to build successful companies in a field dominated by a small number of Goliaths.

These rules on technology and trade ought to be the cornerstones of our trade policy in the years ahead because those rules on technology protect every single American industry—healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, you name it. It is how the United States also is going to fight back against authoritarian governments in the United States also is going to fight back against authoritarian governments, and key industries, you name it. It is how the digital economy, you name it. It is how the technology is how the technology entrepreneurs working to build successful companies in a field dominated by a small number of Goliaths.

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One of the reasons that is so important is that any legislation we consider under trade promotion authority be compliant with trade promotion authority, because, if it is not, if we allow extraneous provisions, for instance, then, we are circumventing the normal legislative process of the legislation to occur with a simple majority vote—51 out of 100 instead of the usual 60-vote threshold. That is what trade promotion authority makes possible.

It seems to me that it is very important that any legislation we consider under trade promotion authority be compliant with trade promotion authority, because, if it is not, if we allow extraneous provisions, for instance, then, we are circumventing the normal legislative process of the legislation to occur with a simple majority vote—51 out of 100 instead of the usual 60-vote threshold. That is what trade promotion authority makes possible.

One of the reasons that is so important is that this is a delegated authority. I remind my colleagues that trade policy is clearly unambiguously assigned to Congress in the Constitution. It is our responsibility to manage trade, and legislation is obviously and undoubtedly exclusively granted to Congress in the Constitution. So our branch of government has exclusive responsibility for implementing trade agreements.

One of the reasons that is so important is that this is a delegated authority. I remind my colleagues that trade policy is clearly unambiguously assigned to Congress in the Constitution. It is our responsibility to manage trade, and legislation is obviously and undoubtedly exclusively granted to Congress in the Constitution. So our branch of government has exclusive responsibility for implementing trade agreements.

What do we have here? We have a piece of legislation that deals with trade. When we choose to delegate our responsibility to the executive branch, it is very important to me that we insist that delegated authority be exercised properly and that the legislation that follows from it comply with the law.

What I want to raise is a concern about one of several—but one respect, in particular—in which the legislation we are considering today does not, in fact, comply with the trade promotion authority under which this legislation is being considered. Specifically, I am concerned about whether this is an aspect of some of the spending that occurs in this bill.

By way of background, I think it is important to know that the Senate has never passed a spending bill with a simple majority vote. I don’t think that has ever happened in modern times since we established the 60-vote threshold on any piece of legislation.

We don’t do discretionary appropriations with a simple majority vote because it has been the collective will of this body for decades that responsibility should occur at a 60-vote threshold and should be subject to amendments.

Now, why is that? It is in order to comply with the trade promotion authority. It is in order to comply with the conditions of granting an expedited process.

What the trade promotion authority reads, among other things, is that any provision in this implementing legislation must be strictly necessary or appropriate for the implementation of the trade agreement. Well, spending is not strictly necessary for this purpose because it can occur in a separate bill, and that is the way it has always been done.

If we allow this to proceed on this basis—exactly as is contemplated—we are really going to dramatically undermine the 60-vote threshold for spending, and there is spending in this bill. There is $843 million—almost $1 billion—and it gets worse. It gets worse because this spending has an emergency spending designation. So it is not only that we are spending money in a way that has never been done before, and it is not only that we are spending money in a way that has never been done before, but now we have decided to call it emergency spending.
Why is it that it gets an emergency spending designation? Why did someone bother to give this spending an emergency designation? There is a simple reason.

Under our budget rules, if you label spending emergency, then you don’t have to offset that spending if you exceed our agreed-upon statutory spending caps. We are at the caps, and I gather that the folks who wrote this don’t want to have to offset this new spending with a reduction anywhere else to honor enormous budget of our Federal Government. So they have designated it as emergency spending.

This is clearly an abuse of the use of an emergency designation. I mean, we designate emergency spending when we have to respond to a tornado or to a flood or to an outbreak of Ebola. These sorts of things are unpredictable, sudden, devastating. Those are actual emergencies. This is what that provision is there for. Yet here we are, using it for doubling the salary budget for the U.S. trade office. That is not an emergency. It is not even close.

So I am going to offer a point of order. It is very, very simple, and it is very, very, very, very small thing. What I am going to do is to raise a point of order against the emergency designation of one of the spending lines in this appropriation. I could do it for all of them. I could raise an issue that there is spending in the first place, but I am not going to do that. I am going to take a very, very modest and narrow approach.

I suggest that we raise a point of order against the emergency designation—against $50 million of the hundreds of millions of dollars altogether—that clearly is not an emergency, and that clearly, in my view, is inconsistent with the trade promotion authority.

What would be the consequences if my budget point of order were to succeed?

First of all, not a dime of spending would be reduced. This is not an attempt to cut spending. Eliminating an emergency designation does not cut any spending in this bill. What it would mean is that Congress would have until the end of the year to find an offset for this $50 million, which, by the way, is about one-one-thousand of one penny for every Federal Government dollar spent. It is a tiny, tiny amount of money. It means the bill will still pass because there will easily be more than 60 votes for this bill. Then it will go to the House, where it will pass because it already has passed.

The point isn’t to save money per se, for it is too small to really matter in that regard. The point is, are we willing to enforce our own law that governs the proceedings of this body?

I think one of my colleagues is likely to respond by offering a point of order or a provision that will preclude the possibility of my offering this point of order. Not only that, I think it is going to preclude the possibility of any Senator’s offering any budgetary point of order, which will be a way of saying it will be forbidden to enforce compliance with the TPA’s budgetary rules in this legislation.

To my colleagues, I think this is a very, very bad idea. I think to suggest that we are going to have this bill that is not compliant with the trade promotion authority and that we are going to consider the possibility of raising a point of order about that non-compliance would be a big mistake. I will soon have the exact language that we will be using for this purpose, and we will discuss. Then we will have a vote on whether or not to preclude the possibility of enforcing our budget rules with respect to this implementing legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, this is a very serious claim being made by Senator TOOMEY, and I don’t take it lightly. The small amount of $50 million afforded by the trade promotion authority is a very important matter.

The appropriations language that Senator TOOMEY takes issue with is, indeed, trade promotion authority—compliant. The appropriations ensure that the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement’s commitments are fulfilled and enforceable by providing adequate resources to do so. The commitments cover bipartisan priorities, including the monitoring, enforcement, and re-capitalization of the North American Development Bank.

If funds were only authorized, as Senator TOOMEY has suggested, there would be no guarantee that we would be able to fulfill the commitments made in the USMCA, and the credibility of our good-faith negotiations with Mexico and Canada is the presumption that we will carry out this agreement year after year after year. Besides, historically, all trade bills result in changes to Federal spending and revenue.

This bill has the benefit of reducing the deficit even with the funds discussed by Senator TOOMEY. Striking the emergency designations could lead to a sequestration of discretionary funding as regular appropriations for fiscal year 2020 have already been enacted. The emergency designation is, in this precise context—considered strictly necessary or appropriate under section 103 of the trade promotion authority 2015.

Here is the oddity of the Senator’s argument: If Senator TOOMEY is suggesting funding is authorized, I think he inherently agrees that enforcement funding is either strictly necessary or appropriate to implement the USMCA. This is a very important clarification to make; that the trade promotion authority law is “strictly necessary or appropriate.”

It is for Congress, then, to decide what is strictly necessary or appropriate. The Committee on Finance, with jurisdiction over the entire bill, and the Committees on the Budget and Appropriations, with jurisdiction over the language at issue, voted overwhelmingly to support the bill. It is important to note that the final appropriation was signed in consideration of concerns about spending, including my own concerns.

Finally, I emphasize this was a negotiated outcome, which was necessary in order to achieve the broad bipartisan support that this bill is going to get—particularly to get it through the House of Representatives.

I am satisfied with the final outcome, so I will make a motion to waive the point of order, if it is made, and I urge my colleagues to support waiving the point of order and to vote yes for the USMCA so we can deliver a victory to the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 1 minute and then for Senator TOOMEY to proceed with the procedural question.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, first, I want to make sure that we can enter into the RECORD a thanks that is deserved to the bipartisan team here in the Senate that has made this day possible.

Second, on one substantive point, because I associate myself with the remarks of Chairman GRASSLEY, I think we need to understand that what the Toomey procedural issue is all about is really that of a Trojan horse for rolling back an aggressive effort to enforce the rights that workers care about and that we all care about with respect to our land, air, and water. I know the Senator from Pennsylvania disagrees with it, but I just wanted to make that point.

The chairman is right with respect to the procedure. I just want people to understand what the substantive issue is. This is just a policy disagreement, and that is what the Senate is all about.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I will make two quick points and then get to the point of order.

First of all, I disagree with the chairman. I do think the spending in this bill is neither strictly necessary nor appropriate, but that is not what the point of order is about. If my point of order is sustained and if the motion that is going to be made by the chairman is to be rejected, not a penny will be reduced in the spending of this bill, which is why I couldn’t disagree more with my colleague from Oregon in his suggesting it is a 'Trojan horse for the budget.' It doesn’t do anything by a dime from this bill. It simply means that by the end of the fiscal year, Congress will have to find an offset for this
very, very modest amount of money. It is an attempt to try to enforce some kind of compliance.

POINT OF ORDER

Madam President, pursuant to section 314(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I raise a point of order against the emergency designation on page No. 233, lines 4 through 8, of H.R. 5430.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget resolutions for purposes of H.R. 5430, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The Senator from Kansas.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL IN THE CASE OF MARTIN F. McMAHON V. SENATOR TED CRUZ, ET AL.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 474, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 474, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 474) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

TEMPORARY REAUTHORIZATION AND STUDY OF THE EMERGENCY SCHEDULING OF FENTANYL AND FENTANYL ANALOGUES ACT

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3201, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3201) to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, as follows:

The bill (S. 3201) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3201

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 “Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY ORDER FOR FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, section 1308.11(h)(30) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, shall remain in effect until May 2, 2021.

SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT ON IMPACTS OF CLASSWIDE SCHEDULING.

(b) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a study of the classification of fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), research on fentanyl-related substances, and the importation of fentanyl-related substances into the United States; and

(2) not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, submit a report on the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

(C) the Caucus on International Narcotics Control of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(E) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The Comptroller General, in conducting the study and developing the report required under subsection (b), shall—

(1) evaluate class control of fentanyl-related substances, including—

(A) the definition of class I controlled substances in section 1308.11(h)(30)(I) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, including the process by which the definition was formulated;

(B) the potential for classifying fentanyl-related substances with no, low, abuse potential, or potential accepted medical use, as schedule I controlled substances when scheduled as a class; and

(C) any known classification of fentanyl-related substances with no, low, abuse potential, or potential accepted medical use, as schedule I controlled substances that has resulted from the scheduling action of the Drug Enforcement Administration that added paragraph (h)(30) to section 1308.11 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations;

(2) review the impact or potential impact of controls on fentanyl-related substances with no, low, abuse potential, or potential accepted medical use on public health and safety, including on—

(A) diversion risks, overdose deaths, and law enforcement encounters with fentanyl-related substances; and

(B) Federal law enforcement investigations and prosecutions of offenses relating to fentanyl-related substances;

(3) review the impact of international regulatory controls on fentanyl-related substances on the supply of such substances to the United States, including by the Government of the People’s Republic of China;

(4) review the impact or potential impact of screening and other interdiction efforts at points of entry into the United States on the importation of fentanyl-related substances into the United States;

(5) recommend best practices for accurate, swift, and permanent control of fentanyl-related substances, including—

(A) how to quickly remove from the schedules under the Controlled Substances Act substances that are determined, upon discovery, to have no abuse potential or potential accepted medical use;

(B) how to reschedule substances that are determined, upon discovery, to have a low abuse potential or potential accepted medical use;

(6) review the impact or potential impact of fentanyl-related controls by class on scientific and biomedical research; and

(7) evaluate the processes used to obtain or modify Federal authorization to conduct research with fentanyl-related substances, including—

(A) identifying opportunities to reduce unnecessary burdens on persons seeking to research fentanyl-related substances;

(B) identifying opportunities to reduce any redundancies in the responsibilities of Federal agencies;

(C) identifying opportunities to reduce any inefficiencies related to the processes used to obtain or modify Federal authorization to conduct research with fentanyl-related substances;

(D) identifying opportunities to improve the protocol review and approval process conducted by Federal agencies; and

(E) evaluating the degree, if any, to which existing processes for identifying a Federal authorization to conduct research with a fentanyl-related substance that are separate from the applicable processes for other schedule 1 controlled substances could reduce the burdens or lead to confusion among persons seeking to research fentanyl-related substances or other schedule I controlled substances;

(d) INPUT FROM CERTAIN FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In conducting the study and developing the report under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall consider the views of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice.

INFORMATION AGENCIES.—Each Federal department or agency shall, in accordance with applicable procedures for the appropriate handling of classified information, promptly provide reasonable access to documents, statistical data, and any other information that the Comptroller General determines is necessary to conduct the study and develop the report required under subsection (b).

(f) I NPUT FROM CERTAIN NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—In conducting the study and developing the report under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall consider the views of experts from certain non-Federal entities, including—

(1) the scientific and medical research community;
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(2) the State and local law enforcement community; and
(3) the civil rights and criminal justice reform communities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

AMENDING TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO MODIFY THE LIMITATION ON PAY FOR CERTAIN HIGH-LEVEL EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3084 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3084) to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the limitation on pay for certain high-level employees and officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. Moran asked unanimous consent that the bill be considered engrossed, was read the third time, and passed, as follows: S. 3084

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

SECTION 1. MODIFICATION OF PAY LIMITATION FOR CERTAIN HIGH-LEVEL EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) MODIFICATION.—Section 7404(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and except for individuals appointed under section 7401(4) and 7306” after “section 7401(4),” and inserting “under 7401(4) and 7306 of this title,” after “section 7407 of this title,”.

(b) WAIVERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may waive the limitation described in section 7404(d) of such title, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, on the amount of basic pay payable to individuals appointed under section 7401(4) or 7306 of such title for basic pay payable during the period,

(A) beginning on November 1, 2010; and

(B) ending on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) FORM.—The Secretary shall prescribe the form for requesting a waiver under paragraph (1).

(3) TREATMENT OF WAIVER.—A decision not to grant a waiver under paragraph (1) shall not be subject to further appeal, third-party review, or judicial review.

VETERAN TREATMENT COURT COORDINATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 886 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 886) to direct the Attorney General to establish and carry out a Veteran Treatment Court Program.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. Moran asked unanimous consent that the McSally amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1283) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act of 2019.”

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that veterans treatment courts are a successful program aimed at helping veterans charged with nonviolent crimes receive the help and the benefits for which the veterans are entitled.

SEC. 3. VETERAN TREATMENT COURT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Attorney General shall establish and carry out a Veteran Treatment Court Program to provide grants and technical assistance to court systems that,

(1) have adopted a Veteran Treatment Court Program; or

(2) have filed a notice of intent to establish a Veteran Treatment Court Program with the Secretary.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Veterans Treatment Court Program established under subsection (a) is to ensure the Department of Justice has a viable option for diverting veterans charged with nonviolent crimes from criminal justice, and to provide the Secretary with the necessary tools to facilitate an effective Veteran Treatment Court Program.

(c) PROGRAMS INCLUDED.—The Veterans Treatment Court Program established under subsection (a) shall include the grant programs relating to veterans treatment courts carried out by the Attorney General pursuant to sections 2991 and 3021 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651, 10701) or any other provision of law.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time. The bill (H.R. 886), as amended, was passed.

H.R. 5439

Mr. CRAWLEY. Mr. President, it is clear that we are unable to conduct business as usual, and that USMCA received.

Of course, also critical to the bill’s passing were Ambassador Bob Lighthizer and his hard-working team at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, particularly John Melle and Maria Pagan.

Getting the Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO to both endorse this trade deal was no easy feat, and it took both sides’ good faith efforts to get us here.

You have heard me extol all the good that USMCA will do for this Nation’s
farmers, ranchers, manufacturers and workers of all stripes—hundreds of thousands jobs, billions of dollars added to the economy, new market access, and a framework for the future of international trade. It is these staff members who also deserve to share in the Nobel Peace Prize and celebration.

Thank you all.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the Senate considers the “new NAFTA.” A bill now reviewed by seven Senate committees on which more than 85 Senators serve. Surely the vote count is clear: This implementing legislation will be adopted today and sent to the President. In Vermont, that will mean important wins for our State’s economy and, in particular, our dairy farmers. I will support this bill.

Vermont is a border State, and the commercial and cultural exchanges with Canada are woven into the fabric of the State. Vermont’s largest export destination. In 2018, Vermont exported $1.3 billion—billion—in goods to Canada. That is 43 percent of Vermont’s exports. Trade with our neighbors to the north is essential to Vermont, just as trade throughout North America is important to our national economy.

This agreement is far from perfect, but reflects a compromise that results when parties come together with a desire to make progress. It makes important updates to the more than 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement to reflect the advances in digital trade and intellectual property. The agreement will protect our ability domestically to increase the availability of affordable drugs. Importantly, to Vermont and the struggling dairy industry across the country, the agreement will increase U.S. access to markets in Canada and Mexico for our high-quality dairy products.

The new NAFTA also includes funding to improve water infrastructure on the U.S.-Mexico border, and to improve environmental infrastructure on both sides of the southern border. It also includes funding to support reforms to the labor justice system in Mexico, to reduce the use of child labor and forced labor, to reduce human trafficking, and for international labor activities. These are important aspects of the deal that we should all strongly support.

The agreement is a compromise. For all its gains, it lacks important accountability measures to address the escalating threat of climate change. No one surprised that an administration that announced from the start its intention to remove the United States from the landmark Paris agreement would not agree to binding limits on pollution. It should not surprise us that the Trump administration would not agree to any system to enforce environmental regulations. It is the greatest flaw of this agreement and a startling missed opportunity. We can no longer deny that climate change is real. The United States has a real opportunity to be a world leader in developing the green jobs and green economies that must drive our future. So while I am grateful that House Democrats were able to secure some concessions from the administration that will ensure that at least consider environmental protections. The worst is, the new NAFTA unfortunately misses that chance.

I have heard from Vermont businesses concerned about our trade future, particularly with our neighbors to the north. I support this deal, and I ask unanimous consent to place a letter of support from the Vermont Chamber of Commerce and Vermont employers in the RECORD. It is because our trading relationships throughout North America are so vitally important to our national economy, and to local economies like those in Vermont, that I will support this agreement.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record.


Hon. Patrick Leahy, Senator, U.S. Senate.

Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Leahy: We, the undersigned, urge you to vote in support of S. 3052, the “United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Implementation Act.” Passage of this bill would provide much needed updates to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which took effect over a quarter of a century ago.

As you are aware, Vermont depends heavily on trade with our North American neighbors, particularly Canada. USMCA provides a path forward that strengthens these trade relationships and protects the interests of Vermont workers and industry. The proposed agreement promotes job stability and growth, while also providing tariff-free access to sell U.S. products in Canada and Mexico. A fully implemented USMCA also prevents the steep increases in consumer goods prices that would have resulted from inaction. Further, USMCA grows digital trade, including by guaranteeing freedom to move data across borders, while protecting intellectual property.

Passage of USMCA relieves much of the uncertainty our business community has faced in relation to trade over the last several years. Businesses across Vermont have made clear that the unpredictable imposition of tariffs and the threat of tariffs have added significant, often unsustainable costs to doing business. These added costs have harmed industry and limited growth by discouraging the long-term investments that would otherwise be made. USMCA would have otherwise occurred had it not been for unprecedented levels of volatility in our trade dependent markets.

Implementation of USMCA would greatly benefit Vermonters and their employees by providing the mechanisms necessary for Vermont to continue a prosperous and competitive relationship with our top trade partner. Please promptly approve USMCA.


Mrs. Feinstein. Mr. President, in 1993, I voted against the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA. At the time, I was concerned about a number of issues, including that NAFTA would not adequately protect American jobs—manufacturing jobs in particular—and also lacked sufficient environmental protections.

Today, I voted yes on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement that will replace NAFTA because it will substantially improve upon NAFTA, and in the process benefit California and the United States. There are several provisions in the agreement that will help California, including greater access to Canadian agricultural markets, including dairy; labor provisions that go far beyond past trade agreements; and $300 million to help address pollution from the Tijuana River. It also includes $215 million and renewed authorization for the North American Development Bank to address pollution along the U.S-Mexico border, a provision that comes from legislation I introduced with Senator Cornyn.

The agreement sets new standards for labor protections in a trade agreement. The agreement will require Mexico to make major improvements to its labor laws, including collective bargaining reforms, establishing independent labor courts and union discovery rights, and eliminating compulsory labor. It will substantially improve monitoring and enforcement of these labor reforms in Mexico, and make the enforcement process easier. For example, the agreement will establish benchmarks for Mexico’s compliance with its labor obligations that will trigger a new labor-specific enforcement mechanism if those obligations are not met.

The updates to NAFTA include several provisions that will help California’s agricultural producers, including increasing access to Canada’s dairy market. The agreement also puts wine, beer, and spirit products from each country on a more level playing field. I recognize that some critics think we can do more to protect the environment and fight climate change, and I agree. But we can’t make the perfect the enemy of the good, and this agreement takes important steps in that area. In terms of investment along the southern border, the agreement provides increased funding for environmental compliance monitoring and enforcement, helps prevent illegal and unregulated fishing and trafficking of wildlife, protects marine species, affirms each country’s commitments to international environmental agreements, and makes it easier for countries to issue regulations in the public interest.

This agreement is a step in the right direction, in large part due to important improvements made by House Democrats. Those improvements helped secure many of the strong labor
and environmental provisions I have just mentioned.

These updates to NAFTA will also go a long way toward stabilizing our trade relationships with Mexico and Canada—two of the most important trading partners in the Western Hemisphere. Canada and Mexico are two of the largest trading partners with the United States, each accounting for more than $600 billion in trade. The two countries are California’s two largest export markets, buying nearly $30 billion of California’s exports each year.

Finally, it is notable that this agreement has broad bipartisan support, which I think is a sign that Congress can still work together to get important things done.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I consider these amendments to NAFTA. I opposed the original NAFTA in 1993 because I believed it would kill American jobs and failed to protect the environment. As a result, I would be bad policy just hasn’t cut it.

Many proponents of the new NAFTA have argued that the changes in the new NAFTA will improve on the original NAFTA. In fact, USITC forecasts that the new NAFTA will “raise U.S. real GDP by $68.2 billion (0.35 percent) and U.S. employment by 0.97 percent.” This agreement, once implemented, years in the future. While each new job is critically important, these projections in no way match the rhetoric that President Trump spins and demonstrate that the new NAFTA fails to live up to its promises.

The implementing legislation contains the Environmental Standards of the new NAFTA’s proponents. The new NAFTA includes resources to enforce environmental and labor standards in Mexico. Yet it does not include funding to assist workers negatively impacted by increased trade in the implementing legislation—such assistance was at least included in 1993.

In 1993, I thought that NAFTA failed this test and as a result would be bad for Rhode Island’s workers, manufacturers, and small businesses. I outlined a number of concerns at the time.

I believed that NAFTA would increase incentives for companies to move factories and outsource jobs to Mexico—depressing wages for American workers. I also worried that the conditions on the ground in Mexico and the disposition of its government were not conducive to a free-trade agreement. Sadly, many of these concerns were realized under NAFTA, along with increased globalization, certainly contributed to stagnating wages, loss of jobs, and a diminishing manufacturing base. Businesses outsourced jobs and moved factories to Mexico where costs and wages were lower. Labor standards were lowered and small and medium-sized workers were taken advantage of.

Additionally, there were lax environmental standards, further incentivizing businesses to move jobs to Mexico, and which have proven harmful to our environment. Alternating between threatening to withdraw from NAFTA and imposing tariffs on dubious national security grounds, President Trump damaged critical relationships for, at best, marginal gains. That is clearly wrong.

Of the new NAFTA’s proponents, it will remove “uncertainty” from the environment and our economy. Safeguarding the environment is the right thing to do. It also helps ensure our workers can compete on an even playing field. Jobs are typically outsourced because it is often cheaper to do business somewhere else. The absence of stringent and enforceable environmental standards in NAFTA contributed to a rush to move the production of goods to Mexico. It also hurt our environment. As we consider the new NAFTA, I believe we all take a look at what is being ravaged by wildfires that many scientists argue are exacerbated by climate change.

Our trade policy should intentionally include efforts to recognize and combat climate change. The new NAFTA fails to tackle this challenge today’s and every succeeding generation for the foreseeable future will have to confront, and my colleague from Rhode Island has made this point in greater and granular detail.

In 1993, conditions in Mexico and the disposition of its government were not conducive to a free-trade agreement. Mexico’s democratic institutions and law enforcement agencies were weak and susceptible to corruption. As is frequently reported in the news, this remains a challenge for Mexico. If Mexico cannot arrest certain of its citizens for fear of cartel violence, it seems unreasonable to believe that it will be able to effectively inspect factories for alleged labor violations in territory controlled by cartels or factories in which cartels have an interest.

In order to revitalize manufacturing in America, we need a commitment to workers. We need to make national investments in infrastructure and innovation. But, instead, what President Trump is offering is a repackaging and rebranding of NAFTA.

President Trump may not be an expert on a lot of things, but he knows the importance of branding. He thinks he can call NAFTA terrible, fiddle around the edges, rebrand it as the United States-States-Mexico Agreement, NAFTA 2.0, or whatever name he wants to come up with, and then call it great, big, and beautiful, when in reality, he hasn’t solved a problem.

Further, the new NAFTA fits neatly into President Trump’s habit of creating a problem, sowing chaos, and then seeking credit when he provides a “solution” that is marginally better than where he began or worse.

Many proponents of the new NAFTA explain that an important reason to vote in favor of this deal is that if ratified, it will remove “uncertainty” from the economy and our relationship with our NAFTA partners. However, the cause of uncertainty from our relationship with Canada and Mexico was created by President Trump through his threats to us and trading partners. The arsonist is not a hero for putting out the blaze he intentionally set.

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The President's pattern of behavior is prevalent throughout his trade policy. The President’s tariffs and tweets are having a damaging effect. Indeed, while President Trump continues to assert that China is paying the cost, economists, including those from the Federal Reserve, have instead proven that these tariffs are being paid by American families, workers, farmers, small businesses, and manufacturers.

These NAFTA amendments are just another example of an economic policy that provides crumbs to the middle-class. It goes hand in hand with the President and Republicans in Congress choosing to spend $1.9 trillion on tax cuts for the biggest companies and the wealthiest one percent of Americans who were recently estimated to already control more than a third of America’s wealth. It is no wonder the President’s tax law is unpopular. People can read the paper and see the list of those now paying little to nothing in taxes, while their expenses remain more or less the same and investment in roads and other infrastructure, education, or healthcare facilities goes unmet.

We should be focusing our attention on lifting up working families and small business owners ensuring the American Nation is on sound financial footing. While some of my Democratic colleagues had a hand in improving the initial agreement, it still fails to provide adequately for Rhode Island's workers and small businesses or the environment. Just like the old NAFTA, I cannot support this new one.

STATEMENT ON THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, trade with Canada and Mexico is vitally important to Maine’s economy, supporting numerous small businesses and more than 500,000 jobs in our State.

In reviewing the text of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, the replacement for the deeply flawed NAFTA, my paramount concern was ensuring that Maine workers will be protected. After careful assessment of the benefits USMCA will have for those employed in Maine’s manufacturing industry, agriculture sector, and small businesses, I will vote in support of the USMCA.

According to the U.S. International Trade Commission, USMCA is projected to have a positive impact on all broad industry sectors, increasing employment by 176,000 jobs and increasing real GDP by $68.2 billion. This agreement also makes important improvements to labor and environmental standards and brings these issues into the core of the agreement. This is a step in the right direction for modernizing trade agreements.

Dana Connors, president & CEO of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, said:

Our border countries are important trade partners for Maine businesses, in fact, trade with our friends to the north is vital to many Maine businesses on a daily basis. The Maine State Chamber of Commerce thanks Senator Collins for her support of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The USMCA’s passage is vital for Maine businesses, will restore trade uncertainty and help our economy to continue to thrive.

One out of five Maine manufacturing firms export to Canada and Mexico, and the majority of these are small- and medium-sized companies. Without tariff-free trade, Maine’s manufactured goods exported to Canada and Mexico could face $6.3 million to $26 million in additional tariffs, jeopardizing Maine jobs. Companies like New Balance, which employs hundreds of Mainers at its facilities in Norridgewock, Norway, and Skowhegan, and Texas Instruments in South Portland, depend on a stable North American supply chain.

Amy Dow, director of public relations and government relations for New Balance, said:

On behalf of our company’s Maine associates, New Balance supports the passage of the USMCA that will enable the continued success and future growth of our three manufacturing facilities in Maine. Senator Collin’s support and leadership on this trade agreement has been vital to ensure that our factories continue to produce thousands of pairs of shoes annually for export to the Canadian market.

Stephen Bonner, Texas Instruments’ vice president for worldwide government relations, said:

Texas Instruments is a long-time supporter of predictable, open-market based trade policies. We’re pleased that the new USMCA includes strong digital trade and intellectual property provisions to adapt the agreement to the 21st century economy, and support its passage.

We our agricultural producers also rely on a stable and predictable trading environment. U.S. agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico are more than the quadrupled between 1993 and 2017. In Maine, I have heard from producers in the dairy, potato, and wild blueberry industries who have shared their support for free and fair trade agreements.

Maine has a special relationship with Canada in particular, given our shared border. While there remain frictions with Canada, including fishing rights, right whale regulations, and softwood lumber issues, Canada is our largest trading partner and has consistently been our top U.S. export market. As a native of Aroostook County, I know how many of our border communities are truly intertwined, with people and goods traveling back and forth daily. In 2019, Maine and Canada traded an average of $350 million in goods per month.

Ambassador Robert Lighthizer deserves recognition for his tremendous work on this agreement. It is imperative to see a trade agreement receive such strong bipartisan support.

The yeas and nays were ordered. The clerk will call the roll. The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent; the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 13 Leg.]

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NOT VOTING—1

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 78, the nays are 21. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to, and the point of order fails.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 30 seconds for Senator Wyden for closing remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement is a major achievement for President Trump and a very big bipartisan win for the American people. We should all take care, Republican or Democrat, that this is good. I look forward to signing this bill and sending it to the President’s desk.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, when the Trump administration unveiled their
original version of this proposal, it was stunning to see how weak it was in terms of trade enforcement. When you write a proposal with weak trade enforcement, particularly on labor and environmental issues, you sell out American workers and you launch a corporate race to the bottom of cheap wages and the treatment of labor.

Senator BROWN and I decided that was unacceptable, and we were going to create a trade enforcement regime with real teeth. We worked with Senators here; we worked with Senators on the other side of the aisle and in the other body. To give you an example of what this means with respect to enforcing trade law, we sped up the timeline by more than 300 percent.

The second point—just very quickly—what this proposal does is bring technology and trade policy into the 21st century. When the last North American Free Trade Agreement was considered, nobody had a smartphone. So what we did is protect intellectual property; we prohibited shakedowns of data belonging to innovative companies; and on something I care deeply about, we drew on established U.S. law to defend small tech entrepreneurs in a field dominated by Goliaths.

I urge my colleagues to support this proposal and once again thank Bob Lighthizer, the hardest working man in the trade agreement business.

I urge a "yes" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. WICKER. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. INhofe.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 89, nays 10, as follows:

(Yolcall Vote No. 14 Leg.)

YEAS—89

Alexander

Sasse

Smith

Van Hollen

Rubio

Sasse

Scott (FL)

Stabenow

Warner

Sasse (NE)

Scott (SC)

Sullivan

Warren

Shaheen

Shelby

Stern

Young

Simon

Sinema

Toohey

Northern—10

Booher

Gillibrand

Harris

Markley

NAYS—10

Reed

Sanders

Schatz

Whitehouse

NAY—10

Toomey

Whitehouse

The bill (H.R. 5430) was passed.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. President, for the information of Senators, under the previous order, at 12 noon the Senate will receive the managers of the House of Representatives to exhibit the Articles of Impeachment against Donald John Trump, President of the United States.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The hour of 12 noon having arrived and a quorum being present, the Sergeant at Arms will present the managers on the part of the House of Representatives.

EXHIBITION OF ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT AGAINST DONALD JOHN TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

At noon, the managers on the part of the House of Representatives of the impeachment of Donald John Trump appeared below the bar of the Senate, and the Sergeant at Arms, Michael C. Stenger, announced their presence, as follows:

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The managers on the part of the House will be received and escorted to the well of the Senate.

The managers were thereupon escorted by the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, Michael C. Stenger, to the well of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Sergeant at Arms will make the proclamation.

The Sergeant at Arms, Michael C. Stenger, made the proclamation, as follows:

Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye! All persons are commanded to keep silent, on pain of imprisonment, while the Senate of the United States is sitting for the trial of the articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives against Donald John Trump, President of the United States.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The managers on the part of the House will now proceed.

Mr. Manager SCHIFF. Mr. President, the managers on the part of the House of Representatives are present and ready to present the Articles of Impeachment which have been preferred by the House of Representatives against Donald John Trump, President of the United States.

The House adopted the following resolution, which will permit the Senate to receive an impeachment trial against Donald John Trump, President of the United States, that a message be sent to the Senate to inform the Senate of these appointments, and that the managers so appointed may, in connection with the preparation and the conduct of the trial, exhibit the articles of impeachment to the Senate and take all other actions necessary, which may include the exhibition of the articles of impeachment that the managers consider necessary.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Attest:

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

[Seal Affixed]

With the permission of the Senate, I will now read the Articles of Impeachment, House Resolution 755.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 755

IMPEACHING DONALD JOHN TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

Resolved, That Donald John Trump, President of the United States, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors and that the following articles of impeachment be exhibited to the United States Senate:

Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in the name of itself and of the people of the United States of America, against Donald John Trump, President of the United States of America, in maintenance and support of its impeachment against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

ARTICLE I: ABUSE OF POWER

The Constitution provides that the House of Representatives “shall have the sole Power of Impeachment,” and that the President “shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other High Crimes and Misdemeanors.” In his conduct of the office of President of the United States—and in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed—Donald J. Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency, in that:
Using the powers of his high office, President Trump solicited the interference of a foreign government, Ukraine, in the 2020 United States Presidential election. He did so through a course of conduct that included soliciting the Government of Ukraine to publicly announce investigations that would benefit his reelection, harm the election prospects of a political opponent, and influence the 2020 United States Presidential election to his advantage. President Trump also sought to pressure the Government of Ukraine to exercise these same powers to condition official United States Government acts of significant value to Ukraine on its public announcement of the investigations. President Trump engaged in this scheme or course of conduct for corrupt purposes in pursuit of personal political benefit. In so doing, President Trump used the power of the Presidency in a manner that compromised the national security of the United States and undermined the integrity of the United States democratic process. He thus ignored and injured the interests of the Nation.

President Trump engaged in this scheme or course of conduct through the following means:

1. President Trump—acting both directly and through his agents within and outside the United States Government—corruptly solicited the Government of Ukraine to publicly announce investigations into:
   - (A) a discredited theory promoted by Russia aligned media outlets—rather than Russia—interfered in the 2016 United States Presidential election.
   - (B) a discredited theory promoted by Russia aligned media outlets that President Trump sought to demonstrate continued United States support for the Government of Ukraine.

2. With the same corrupt motives, President Trump—acting both directly and through his agents within and outside the United States Government—conditioned two official acts on the public announcements that had requested:
   - (A) the release of $391 million of United States taxpayer funds that Congress had appropriated on a bipartisan basis for the purpose of providing vital military and security assistance to Ukraine to oppose Russian aggression and which President Trump had ordered suspended; and
   - (B) a head of state meeting at the White House, which the President of Ukraine sought to demonstrate continued United States support for the Government of Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression.

3. Faced with the public revelation of his actions, President Trump ultimately released the military and security assistance to the Government of Ukraine, but has persisted in openly and corruptly urging and soliciting Ukraine to undertake investigations for his personal political benefit.

These actions were consistent with President Trump’s previous invitations of foreign interference in United States elections.

In all of this, President Trump abused the powers of the Presidency by ignoring and injuring national security and other vital national interests to obtain an improper personal political benefit. He has also betrayed the Nation by abusing his high office to enlist a vital constitutional safeguard vested solely in the House of Representatives.

In all of this, President Trump has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as President and constitutional commitment to the rule of law and justice, and to the manifest interest of the people of the United States.

President Trump, by such conduct, has demonstrated that he will remain a threat to the Constitution if allowed to remain in office, and has acted in a manner incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law. President Trump thus warrants impeachment and trial, removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States.

NANCY Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Attest:

CHERYL L. JOHNSON, Clerk.

[Seal Affixed]

Mr. President, that completes the exhibition of the Articles of Impeachment against Donald John Trump, President of the United States.

The managers request that the Senate take order for the trial, and the managers now request leave to withdraw.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore.

Thank you, Mr. SCHIFF.

The Senate will duly notify the House of Representatives when it is ready to proceed to trial.

The majority leader.

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of Senators, pursuant to yesterday’s order, at 2 o’clock today, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the Articles of Impeachment. The Chief Justice of the United States will preside over the trial, as required in article I, section 3, clause 6, of the United States Constitution.

APPOINTMENT OF ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, also, under the previous order, the Presiding Officer has been authorized to appoint a committee of four Senators, two upon the recommendation of the majority leader and two upon the recommendation of the Democratic leader, to escort the Chief Justice into the Senate Chamber. I ask that the Presiding Officer do so now.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore.

The Chair, pursuant to order of January 15, 2020, on behalf of the majority leader and the Democratic leader, appoints Mr. BLUNT of Missouri, Mr. LEAHY of Vermont, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN of California to escort the Chief Justice of the United States into the Senate Chamber.

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of Senators, there will
be a live quorum call prior to the arrival of the Chief Justice at 2 p.m. today.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:21 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 2 p.m. when called to order by the President pro tempore.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE
The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to ask all of our colleagues to take a seat.

Mr. President, I am about to suggest the absence of a quorum. For the information of all of our colleagues, this will be a live quorum. Following that, we will consider the Articles of Impeachment, which will commence with the swearing in of the Chief Justice of the United States and all Senators.

QUORUM CALL
Mr. McCONNELL. Accordingly, then, Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll, and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 1]

Alexander  Gardner  Peters
Balwdin  Gillibrand  Portman
Barrasso  Graham  Reed
Benet  Grassley  Risch
Blackburn  Harris  Roberts
Blumenthal  Hassan  Romney
Blunt  Hawley  Rosen
Booker  Heinrich  Rounds
Boosman  Hirono  Rubio
Braun  Hoeven  Sanders
Brown  Hyde-Smith  Sasse
Burr  Johnson  Schatz
Cantwell  Jones  Schumer
Capito  Kaine  Scott (FL)
Cardin  Kennedy  Scott (SC)
Carper  King  Shaheen
Casey  Klobuchar  Shelby
Cassidy  Lankford  Sinema
Collins  Leahy  Smith
Coons  Lee  Stabenow
Cornyn  Loeffler  Sullivan
Cortez Masto  Manchin  Tester
Cotton  Markay  Thune
Cramer  McConnell  Tillis
Crapo  McSally  Toomey
Cruz  Menendez  Udall
Daines  Merkley  Van Hollen
Duckworth  Moran  Warner
Durbin  Markowski  Warren
Enzi  Murphy  Whitehouse
Ernst  Murray  Wicker
Feinstein  Paul  Wyden
Fischer  Perdue  Young

TRIAL OF DONALD JOHN TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
The PRESIDENT pro tempore. A quorum is present.

Under the previous order, the hour of 2 p.m. having arrived and a quorum having been established, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the Articles of Impeachment against Donald John Trump, President of the United States.

The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, at this time, pursuant to rule IV of the Senate Rules on Impeachment and the United States Constitution, the Presiding Officer will now administer the oath to John D. Roberts, Chief Justice of the United States.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the escort committee will now conduct the Chief Justice of the United States to the dais to be administered the oath.

(Senators rising.)

The Chief Justice was thereupon escorted into the Chamber by Senators BLUNT, LEAHY, GRAHAM, and FEINSTEIN.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. Senators, I attend to this solemn duty in conformity with your notice, for the purpose of joining with you for the trial of the President of the United States. I am now prepared to take the oath.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Will you place your left hand on the Bible and raise your right hand.

Do you solemnly swear that in all things appertaining to the trial of the impeachment of Donald John Trump, President of the United States, now pending, you will do impartial justice according to the Constitution and the laws, so help you God?

The CHIEF JUSTICE. I do.

At this time I will administer the oath to all Senators in the Chamber in conformance with article I, section 3, clause 6 of the Constitution and the Senate’s impeachment rules.

Will all Senators now stand, remain standing, and raise their right hand.

Do you solemnly swear that in all things appertaining to the trial of the impeachment of Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, now pending, you will do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws, so help you God?

SENATORS, I do.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. The clerk will call the names in groups of four. The Senators will present themselves at the desk to sign the Oath Book.

The legislative clerk called the roll, and the Senators presented to the Chief Justice “I do” and signed the Official Oath Book.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. Chief Justice, any Senator who was not in the Senate Chamber at the time the oath was administered to the other Senators will make that fact known to the Chief Justice so that the oath may be administered as soon as possible.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. The Sergeant at Arms will make that proclamation.

The Sergeant at Arms, Michael C. Stenger, made proclamation as follows: Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye! All persons are commanded to keep silent, on pain of imprisonment, while the House of Representatives is exhibiting to the Senate of the United States Articles of Impeachment against Donald John Trump, President of the United States.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. Chief Justice, for the information of the Senate, on my behalf and that of the distinguished Democratic leader, I am about to propose several unanimous consent requests that will assist with the organization of the next steps of these proceedings. They deal largely with necessary paperwork incident to the trial.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—PROVIDING ISSUANCE OF A SUMMONS AND FOR RELATED PROCEDURES CONCERNING THE ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT AGAINST DONALD JOHN TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. Chief Justice, I ask unanimous consent that the summons be issued in the usual form provided that the President may file until 6 p.m. on Saturday, January 18, 2020, to file his answer with the Secretary of the Senate, which will be spread upon the Journal, and the House of Representatives have until 12 noon on Monday, January 20, 2020, to file its replication with the Secretary of the Senate; finally, I ask unanimous consent that the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to print as a Senate document those documents filed by the parties together, to be available to all parties.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—FILING TRIAL BRIEFS
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. Chief Justice, I ask unanimous consent that if the House of Representatives wishes to file a trial brief, it be filed with the Secretary of the Senate by 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 18, 2020; further, that if the House wishes to file a rebuttal brief, it be filed with the Secretary of the Senate by 12 noon on Monday, January 20, 2020; further, that if the House wishes to file a rebuttal brief, it be filed with the Secretary of the Senate by 12 noon on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to print as a Senate document all documents filed by the parties together, to be available for all parties.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. Without objection, it is so ordered.
by individuals described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a) and, as determined necessary, other employees and officers of the Senate.

(c) ENFORCEMENT BY THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER.—The Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate shall take such actions as are necessary to enforce this resolution.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020, AT 1 P.M.

Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. Chief Justice, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate adjourn until Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 1 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:33 p.m., sitting as Court of Impeachment, adjourned until Tuesday, January 21, at 1 p.m.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEACH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate has remained in session this afternoon following the first meeting of our impeachment trial. History will not only remember today for the first steps of the trial, but today was also a tremendous bipartisan legislative accomplishment for the American people.

The Senate passed USMCA, President Trump’s historic new trade agreement with Mexico and Canada, by a vote of 89 to 10. Now this landmark deal, which experts estimate will add tens of billions of dollars to the U.S. economy and create 176,000 new jobs, is on its way to the White House to be signed into law by the President.

This was a major priority for farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, small businesses, and working families across the entire country, and today, the Senate got it done.

We also passed another important bill that will keep analogues of the dangerous drug fentanyl designated as schedule I narcotics. It will keep them appropriately listed among the most dangerous illegal drugs and keep this important tool in the hands of law enforcement. The legislation also preserves mandatory minimum sentences for the criminals who unleash these dangerous poisons on our streets.

Law enforcement officials from Kentucky and across the Nation have been pleading with Congress for months to keep these drugs in our state. But our Democratic colleagues have resisted Republican efforts to make these temporary measures permanent.

Finally, this week, thanks to Chairman GRAHAM and the Judiciary Committee, we were at least able to get an agreement to prevent these measures from expiring for now.

There is a lot of work to do. Fentanyl and these analogues are a plague—a plague. They kill more Americans than any other illegal drug—nearly 800 overdose deaths in 2018 alone, just in my State. The problem, of course, is nationwide. We are going to stay in the fight and keep working, but today’s victory was an important step.

The Senate will next convene on Tuesday. As I discussed this morning, an impeachment trial is just about the most serious business in which the U.S. Senate can engage. The Founding Fathers gave us this task for a reason. They had confidence in the Senate for a reason. They knew this institution could do what was right for our Nation, so I am confident that we can prove our Framers right in the days that lie ahead.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY

Cooperation Agency,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. James E. Risch,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Chairman: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19-66 concerning the Navy’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost $1.50 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan
changes supporting Naval Fires Planner and associated TacLink Control System for installation on the Hobart Class Destroyers; 
Nine (9) shipsets of MK 34 Gun Weapon System parts for installation on the Hobart Class Destroyers; five (5) shipsets of the MK 60 Mod 1 Gun Computing System and the MK 20 Electro Optical Sight System, and the Naval Fire Planning and associated TacLink Control System for installation on the Hunter Class Frigates; 
Three (3) shipsets of Mode S/S Mode S capable Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Systems; 
Six (6) shipsets of the MK 34 Gun Weapon System Computer Programs (one for Hobart Class, one for Hunter Class), and associated computer programs for AEGIS Combat System components to include the MK 160 Gun Computing System and the MK 20 Electro Optical Sight System, and the Naval Fire Planning and associated TacLink Control System for installation on the Hunter Class Frigates; 
Six (6) shipsets of AN/SRQ-4 Hawklink and SQQ-89 Sonobuoy processing equipment for installation on the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; 
Defense services for development and integration of a capability upgrade for the installed AEGIS Combat System on the Hobart Class Destroyer, including Integrated Air and Missile Defense capability and growth capability for Ballistic Missile Defense; 
Development of training support for installation of a AEGIS Combat System for installation on the Hunter Class Frigates; 
Six (6) shipsets of AN/SQ-4 Hawklink and SQQ-89 Sonobuoy processing equipment for installation on the Hobart Class Destroyers; 
Six (6) shipsets of the Global Positioning System (GPS)—Based Positioning, Navigation and Control (SPC) Program for installation on the Hunter Class Frigates; 
Procurement and delivery of support material, special purpose test equipment, initial logistics outfitting, spares and other ancillary equipment to support the installation and integration of AEGIS Combat System equipment on the Hobart and Hunter ship classes; 
Procurement and delivery of installation support material, special purpose test equipment, initial logistics outfitting, spares and other ancillary equipment to support the installation and integration of AEGIS Combat System equipment on the Hobart and Hunter ship classes; 
Six (6) shipsets of Command and Control Processor (C2P) equipment for installation on the Hobart Class Destroyers; 
Nine (9) shipsets of MK 3 Gun Weapon System (GWS) modification equipment to include the Electro Optical Sight System, and the Naval Fires Planner and associated TacLink Control System for installation on the Hunter Class Frigates; 
Six (6) shipsets of the MK 34 Gun Weapon System parts for installation on the Hobart Class Destroyers; 
Three (3) shipsets of the MK 41 Vertical Launching Systems (VLS) for installation on the Hunter Class Frigates; 
Proposal of training support for curriculum development, training tool development, front-end analysis, and crew training for the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; 
U.S. Government and contractor representative engineering, logistics, and technical support services and other related elements of logistics and program support for the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; 
Procurement, staging, delivery and installation of AEGIS Combat System components to include the MK 160 Gun Computing System and the MK 20 Electro Optical Sight System, and the Naval Fire Planning and associated TacLink Control System for installation on the Hunter Class Frigates; 
Development of technical documentation to support both programs; provision of logistics and other services to support the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; 
Procurement, staging, delivery and installation of AEGIS Combat System components to include the MK 160 Gun Computing System and the MK 20 Electro Optical Sight System, and the Naval Fire Planning and associated TacLink Control System for installation on the Hunter Class Frigates; 
Proposal of training support for curriculum development, training tool development, front-end analysis, and crew training for the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; 
Six (6) shipsets of Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) terminals for installation on the Hunter and Hobart Class ships; 
Six (6) shipsets of Command and Control Processor (C2P) equipment for installation on the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; 
Eight (8) shipsets of Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) terminals for installation on the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; 
Six (6) shipsets of Command and Control Processor (C2P) equipment for installation on the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; 
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Six (6) shipsets of Command and Control Processor (C2P) equipment for installation on the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; 
Six (6) shipsets of Command and Control Processor (C2P) equipment for installation on the Hobart and Hunter Class ships;
installation support material, special purpose test equipment, initial logistics outfitting, and other ancillary equipment to support the integration and testing of the AEGIS Combat System equipment for the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; and delivery of training support for curriculum development, training tool development, front-end analysis, and crew training for the Hobart and Hunter Class ships. The total estimated cost is $1.50 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic partner is significant to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region.

The proposed sale will enhance Australia’s Surface Combatant capability by modernizing its existing three AEGIS capable Hobart Class Destroyers with the latest technology and delivering the first three of nine AEGIS capable Hunter Class Frigates. This sale enhances Australia’s self-defense capability, while significantly improving interoperability with U.S. Navy AEGIS combatants in the region. By deploying a surface combatant fleet that will incorporate Cooperative Engagement Capabilities (CEC), Australia will significantly improve network-centric warfare capability for US forces operating in the region. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

There are a significant number of companies under contract with the U.S. Navy that will provide components and systems as well as engineering services during the execution of this sale. Significant portions of the effort to be performed by Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, and Mission Systems, Moorestown, NJ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require travel of U.S. Government and contractor representatives to Australia on a temporary basis for program support and management oversight. No extended (long-term) visits to Australia will be required as part of this effort.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
S271

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on January 20, we celebrate the 91st anniversary of the birth of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In the short 39 years that he spent on Earth, Dr. King devoted his life to achieving justice. He stood up for others who were in bondage. He longed to see the promises of the Declaration of Independence fulfilled. He bravely preached the equal worth of every human soul, and a growth in empathy for complete strangers.

Dr. King taught us that justice doesn’t have to be sweeped away—grand—it can be quiet; it can take root in small moments. The world that he envisioned can be created with good deeds between neighbors, helping hands offered to friends, and displays of empathy for complete strangers.

Another thing we can do is support the systems and institutions that have the power to uphold equality. This is why I am working to ensure that none of us is striving alone for a better world. That kind of otherness, that solidarity, will always win out over hatred and fear.

Nearly 52 years after Dr. King’s murder, it is important to pause and reflect on the profound impact that his dream of peace and equality has had on our Nation’s character. Dr. King’s legacy includes expanded voting rights, more inclusive housing policies, and the demonstration of what can be done by people on the basis of race. Not only that, but his advocacy for economic justice illuminated the ways that race and class intersect in America, inspiring future generations to demand freedom from all forms of oppression.

But today is also an opportunity to reflect on what is still needed to make Dr. King’s dream a reality. Our criminal justice system still operates as a tool with which to surveil and subjugate minority communities.

People of color, especially African Americans, are still disenchanted at substantially higher rates and have to navigate sophisticated voter deception and intimidation practices in order to exercise their right to vote. White supremacists are still marching in the streets while the occupant of our country’s highest office proclaims that there are “good people on both sides.”

It turns out that the forces of injustices, and the cases they create are strong and adaptable. Often, when we think we have defeated them, they have in fact taken a new, unfamiliar form, or simply hidden below the surface, waiting for an opportunity to emerge. Sadly, they may in power right now who offer platforms and shelter to these forces. They threaten to drag our country back to a darker time.

We can’t let that happen. I appreciate how daunting that imperative is—goodness knows that I ask myself all the time how I, just one man, can possibly effect the change that I hope to see in the world. But it helps to remember that Martin Luther King was an old, one ordinary man called to an extraordinary mission.

So all we need to do is model ourselves in Dr. King’s image. Easy, right? Maybe not. But a good way to start is to recall his lesson that “life’s most persistent question is: what are you doing for others?” Dr. King taught us that justice doesn’t have to be sweeped away—grand—it can be quiet; it can take root in small moments. The world that he envisioned can be created with good deeds between neighbors, helping hands offered to friends, and displays of empathy for complete strangers.

When we do these things, we recognize each other’s humanity, we bind ourselves to one another, and then we work with each other to make sure that none of us is striving alone for a better world. That kind of otherness, that solidarity, will always win out over hatred and fear.

Another thing we can do is support the systems and institutions that have the power to uphold equality. This is why I am working to ensure that none of us is striving alone for a better world. That kind of otherness, that solidarity, will always win out over hatred and fear.
Federal resources for things like schools, hospitals, and housing. It has the potential to ensure that all Americans get the services and political representation to which they are entitled, or it could further skew the playing field in favor of the already privileged. It all depends on whether minority communities are fully counted.

Historically, they have not been. That is why I am asking each and every American to please, please participate in the census this year. Dr. King taught us that every human being is equal, that all of us deserve to live with dignity and respect. He shined a light on the forgotten and the oppressed and demanded better for them. Help to honor his memory by making sure that no one goes uncounted. Carry on his legacy by demanding a government that serves and protects each of its citizens equally. In this way, we can continue building the world that Dr. King envisioned.

At the request of Mr. Rounds, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.

NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY AND AFRICA

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, as chairwoman of the Armed Services Committee, my top priority is ensuring the effective implementation of the National Defense Strategy. I rise today to speak about the importance of Africa as a key front in our global efforts under the NDS to compete with China and Russia, defend U.S. national security, and combat radical terrorist groups like al-Qaida and ISIS. The NDS says competition with China and Russia clearly demonstrates that both countries view Africa as a critical battlefield to fulfill their global ambitions and challenge U.S. interests.

Over the past 20 years, I have conducted 164 African country visits. I can tell you it is no coincidence that China established its first overseas military base in Djibouti—strategically located on one of the most important maritime transit routes in the world. I visited Djibouti in 2011 and stood on China’s military base and their encroachment on the Port of Djibouti. Elsewhere, China is using cash and debt to trap countries and force them to put their infrastructure and potentially their very sovereignty on sale. For example, 90 percent of African exports depend on ports and China is the dominant port authority in Africa. It is clear that with ongoing Chinese investments on the continent, many of these nations have a stake to defend. China is using its military presence in Africa to protect its investments and challenge U.S. interests.

This statement was delivered so frequently and with such sincerity that one was compelled to look inward and question one’s self of what a privilege it is to work in the U.S. Senate on behalf of the American people.

Chris Allen was a student of history and a lover of politics. Ladies and gentlemen, Chris Allen loved tax policy. If that doesn’t tell you what a special person he was, I don’t know what does. Chris’s attitude about his job extended to his coworkers. He loved his coworkers. When he was on my staff, Chris was always willing to help junior staff, senior staff, or interns. It didn’t matter if he had time rolled up in his sleeves and pitched in. He gave you advice. He truly cared.

When it came time for my 2014 campaign, Chris spent his vacation days with me in Kansas—knocking on doors, walking in parades, and being a force of positive energy no matter what we faced. Normally these are grueling tasks but for Chris. He had fun. He loved it.

As a matter of fact, posted on the wall of our little Hart kitchen, we have a selfie on election night of my crew at the victory party. The picture is entitled “This is what victory looks like.” And right smack-dab in the middle is Chris. Allen. Now, when I am heating up my coffee, I look at Chris in the picture, and I can feel his joy as he is surrounded by our family of staffers.

Elections weren’t his only love. Chris Allen loved a cold beer. He loved a natty jacket. He loved loud pants. Sometimes he loved wearing them together. He loved his lacrosse. He loved his Baltimore neighborhood. He loved all things English and French. He loved researching his ancestry.

Chris Allen loved his parents, his in-laws, his brothers, his nieces and nephews, but nothing compared to his love for Lynda, Lucie, and Sophie. He was not just a proud dad who boasted of his daughters’ accomplishments big and small; he was better. He was a father of staffers. Chris had time for you. He rolled up his sleeves and pitched in. He gave you advice. He truly cared.

I always looked forward to my briefings with Chris. For one, he got my jokes. He understood my references to radio and television shows and personal stories that my other staff would have to research and lose interest in. But it was also understanding of the history of the issues, even those not in his portfolio.
He was an excellent steward of my priorities on the Finance Committee, so much so that they stole him from me. At the time I told him, “Listen, you still work for me, you are just sitting down the hall.”

To illustrate Chris’ popularity, I would like to share this story.

There is an annual, all-day legislative meeting held in Washington for a Kansas group that requires a lot of preparation. My staff must be able to speak about a variety of topics and difficult issues before an audience of at least 100 Kansans. At one of these such meetings, Chris had just left my office to work at tax nerd nirvana, the Senate Finance Committee. I called him back to answer a few tax questions while my new staffer transitioned into the role. Before Chris was scheduled to arrive, a number of questions about taxes came up and my staff deferred to him, mentioning they would wait for the “real tax guy” to show up. Their repeated deference to him built up a feeling of anticipation in the room. At long last, Chris strolled in, and heads swivel around to the back of the room to see the great tax man cometh. It was like Elvis had entered the building. The audience got to their feet and gave him a standing ovation. One man was even moved to testify how Chris had helped his community on a rural tax issue and it had made all of the difference. And at the front of the room on the panel, there sat Chris in his dapper jacket, his head tilted back and his beaming smile. He loved to help and they loved him.

Whether it was the tax reform bill or pension legislation, Chris’ brilliant mind made the measure better—every time. And his work will have a long lasting influence on our Nation and literally, all of America. What a career Chris Allen had.

Everyone in this room will probably agree that Chris’s best stories were about himself, and he was usually his own purveyor. Something had happened to him. He had messed something up, or he had gleefully embarrassed his daughters. You can hear him now. I was a bit player in one of his favorite tales. It was his first Finance Committee hearing working for me. Chris had prepped for days—weeks probably. He was both nervous and excited. As we walked over to the committee room, he told me he was calling Lynda, hoping she could watch the hearing on CSPAN and catch him sitting behind the dais.

So I decided to have a little fun with Chris. As the time for questions got to the Senator next to me, I very dramatically motioned to Chris. Chris looked at me and was sure I was thinking, “Oh no, what could I have forgotten to tell him.” Chris leaned in, and I put my hand to the side of my mouth: “Chris, this is your moment. Look very serious. Nod your head a few times and hold—now tell me something very crucial...we are going to make sure Lynda sees you!”

Chris got the biggest kick out of it, and we met the goal—he was on CSPAN. So while we take the issues and the policy very seriously, and we negotiate very intensely—and Chris could sure do that—we can also stop for a minute to appreciate where we are and what it is to do these jobs. As I said, Chris never forgot or took it for granted. He appreciated every minute in the Senate.

I understand Lucie has shared a link to a Google doc for Chris’s friends and loved ones to put together but interesting stories about Chris.” I encourage everyone to do so. These stories will be a treasure trove for Lynda, Sophie, and Lucie. I hope you can preserve them in some way with your genealogy work. I know he would like that. I will conclude with a note to Lynda and the girls: I always say you are only as good as your staff; it is your friends and family who make you what you are. In my office, staff are family. You can’t do this work without knowing your family. Besides, Chris still works for me. He is just sitting and smiling a few floors up.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING OXFORD-BELLEVUE FERRY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am proud to name Oxford-Bellevue Ferry, believed to be our Nation’s oldest privately owned ferry, as the U.S. Senate Small Business of the Week.

Currently owned and operated by Judy and Tom Chalfant, the ferry has transported residents and tourists between the towns of Oxford and Bellevue across the Tred Avon River since 1683—more than 90 years before the Colonies came together to form the United States, making it one of the oldest companies in the country.

Over the past three centuries, the ferry has become a part of the fabric of the community, with some residents calling it “the pulse of the river.” Residents have also come to associate the sound of the ferry’s engine with the turning of the seasons: the first sounds mark the beginning of spring, while the ferry’s final rumble of the year lets them know that fall has arrived.

Tom and Judy purchased the ferry route and moved to Maryland in 2001. Since then, they have not only been good stewards of the ferry’s history, but they have become pillars in the Oxford community and leaders in Maryland’s tourism industry.

Last year, Judy was appointed chair of the Maryland Tourism Development Board, where she advocates for Maryland’s tourism industry and helps market Maryland as a tourist destination. In 2018, Tom and Judy were awarded the Community Impact Award by the Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism for their commitment to serving Talbot County, its visitors, and its residents.

I was proud to stand with Tom and Judy for the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry’s 325th anniversary celebration in 2008 and am proud to recognize their continued success today. I hope the ferry will still be transporting Marylanders and tourists across the Tred Avon River for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA ROST

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Linda Rost of Fallon County for being named Montana’s 2020 Teacher of the Year.

Linda is a highly qualified science teacher at Baker High School with a master’s degree in science education from Montana State University. Linda has been inspiring students and motivating them to dig deeper when it comes to science education. The folks in Fallon County are very proud of Linda’s prestigious recognition.

Because of the size of the Baker High School, Linda teaches multiple age groups. While it is a joy, it is also one of the many challenges that comes from teaching at a small rural school. Linda goes above and beyond to find a variety of ways to connect with each student ensuring they understand the course material in a fun and engaging way.

The Montana Teacher of the Year award is a long and competitive process. After interacting with several selection committees made up of top education leaders from across Montana, Linda was selected as the 2020 winner. Linda will now go on to represent Montana in the 2020 National Teacher of the Year competition.

It is my honor to recognize Linda for her dedication to teaching young Montanans. Fallon County and Montana are very fortunate to have a teacher like Linda to ensure that our rural students are getting the highest quality education possible.

TRIBUTE TO KARTHIK AND RAHUL CHALUMURI

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Karthik and Rahul Chalumuri of Keene as January 2020’s Granite Staters of the Month for their efforts to organize donation drives at their school to support patients at a local hospital.

Karthik and Rahul, fraternal twins attending Keene High School, have been involved in their local community from a young age. When they were 5 years old, their parents brought them to volunteer at their local soup kitchen, and helped instill in them the importance of giving back to their community.

As they headed into their senior year at Keene High School, these two young men decided that they wanted to give back to the community before they headed off to college. They founded a club at their school, Students for Hope, to organize donation drives with the intent
of sending care packages to Cheshire Medical Center's Norris Cotton Cancer Center-Kingsbury Pavilion, which would distribute the care packages to their patients. Rahul, who plans to study computer science in college, designed the group’s website from scratch to provide clear instructions on how to donate.

The group began their first donation drive in August. The brothers had low expectations for turnout and were shocked when local businesses and individuals in their community came together in support. The group made a substantial amount of items for these care packages.

Since then, they have organized two more donation drives around both Thanksgiving and Christmas and plan to hold another one in February around Valentine's Day. Although Rahul and Karthik are heading to college in the fall, they have tapped younger students to lead the organization next year.

I would like to commend Rahul and Karthik for their dedication to improving the lives of people who are less fortunate and recruiting others to do the same. I know I join the rest of the Keene community and all Granite Staters in thanking Rahul and Karthik for exemplifying the all-hands-on-deck spirit of New Hampshire.●

TRIBUTE TO CARL ADRIAN

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a close friend, ally, and devoted public servant, Mr. Carl Adrian, as he retires from a 16-year career supporting our national security, environmental cleanup, economic growth, job creation, and fostering economic development of the region. Mr. Adrian has devoted his life to supporting commerce and new innovation in the region. In his role as CEO of Tri-Cities Development Council—TRIDEC—he has been one of the Tri-Cities most effective advocates to Congress, frequently working to ensure members of Washington State’s congressional delegation were abreast of the concerns and needs of the community while strengthening federal support for Central Washington’s wine industry, signing vital MOUs with Hong Kong to bolster the local economy, and more. Mr. Adrian’s dedication to inclusive collaboration ensures important stakeholders are never left uninformed on the needs of the Tri-Cities area, and through his robust advocacy, the region has seen significant population and economic growth as well as industry expansion, offering many Tri-Citians a new path to the American Dream.

As TRIDEC’s longest-serving president, Mr. Adrian has successfully led efforts to help expand the Tri-Cities airport and offer nonstop daily flights to key regional airports; create the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in 2015; promote services to attract, retain, and improve commerce and economic development throughout the region; and do significant job growth, population growth, and the development of several new business venues in the TriCities.

It is clear to me that Washington State has benefited greatly from Mr. Adrian’s vision and passion for promoting what the Tri-Cities community, its workforce, the Hanford Site, and PNNL have to offer, as I have seen firsthand both at home and in the other Washington. His work is evident in the progress that has been made on environmental cleanup at Hanford, as well as his work to help plan a future for the Tri-Cities that looks past cleanup operations towards preserving the region’s rich history through designating the Manhattan Project National Historic Landmark and Manhattan Project National Historical Park, and seeking out new, emerging opportunities like small modular reactors to help grow additional economic opportunities in the region and boost Washington State’s leadership role in cutting-edge energy technologies to combat climate change. Through all of this, he has remained as committed as come. Last August, when I had the pleasure of visiting with Mr. Adrian at PNNL, I was unsurprised that he still carried the same enthusiasm and pride for his work as he did during his first visit with me in 2003.

Mr. Adrian has been critical to my work in the U.S. Senate to ensure the Federal Government is keeping its commitments to central Washington, and he has made a tremendous impact on the Tri-Cities community, Washington State, and our Nation. Today, I join my colleagues in the State of Washington in thanking him for his many years of service. I congratulate Mr. Carl Adrian on his retirement and wish him and his wife Rheta the best of luck as they write their next chapter together.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT LONG

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, would like to congratulate one of my fellow Idahoans, Robert Long, on winning first place in the Mongol Derby. This annual competition held in August brings people from around the world to race across the Mongolian Steppe on horseback. Robert finished the course without any setbacks. This is truly one of the toughest tests of skill and endurance for any horseman or woman, and I am proud that an Idahoan represented the United States with such excellence.

The Mongol Derby course follows the ancient path of Genghis Khan’s horse messenger system first set up over 800 years ago. The course crosses 600 miles of some of Mongolia’s harshest terrain and takes riders over a week to complete. Contestants are not only challenged by the terrain but also by the traditional methods of the race. The hundreds of horses that shoulder the journey are recruited from the local Mongolians, who change horses every 25 miles, just as the ancient Mongols did. Thus, contestants must have the skill to adapt to each new mount and the instinct to ride within the limits of its strengths and weaknesses. Although the races are racing towards the finish, they are also responsible for taking care of their horses’ wellbeing and ensuring they are not overworked or injured during the journey. Robert’s experience with animals helped him to win the race without any veterinary penalties.

Robert’s victory was surely an outcome of his extensive experience working with horses on the American Western terrain. “Cowboy Bob,” as he is known by his close friends, was raised in Wyoming and now lives in Boise, ID. He trained for the Mongol Derby across the American West, where the rough terrain is not so different from that of the Mongolian Steppe.

Robert not only made an impression as a master horseman but also as a gracious guest. The course covers a vast area inhabited by Mongolian nomad herdiers, who volunteer their horses for the competitors in the race at each of some of Mongolia’s harbors. Riders change horses every 25 miles, with a blue ribbon from his past competitions, which he brought after learning the significance of the color blue in Mongolia, the Land of Eternal Blue Sky.

In taking part in this race and performing with thoughtfulness and mastery, Robert exemplified how well Americans can relate to other peoples and cultures. U.S.-Mongolia relations have been growing stronger since our two nations established diplomatic ties over 30 years ago. That the Mongol Derby attracts riders from across the world demonstrates Mongolia’s ability to build global connections through...
history and culture. However, Mongolia’s contributions are certainly not limited to these spheres. Mongolia is an example of a strong democracy. Mongolia currently has over 1,000 peacekeepers deployed in Africa and contributed troops to the fight against terrorism in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mongolia is an important friend of the United States in the Indo-Pacific region. I encourage a closer relationship between the United States and Mongolia. I thank Robert for representing his country and the State of Idaho well through fostering friendship and excellence abroad.

RECOGNIZING TWO SISTERS NEW BEGINNINGS, LLC

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my privilege to recognize a unique Florida small business for its valuable contributions to the local economy and its dedicated efforts to sustainability and dignified work. Today, I am pleased to honor Two Sisters New Beginnings, Monticello, FL, the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 2013 by sisters Sandra Hood and Pat Marchman, Two Sisters New Beginnings is an eclectic antique and repurposed furniture shop. After purchasing and repurposing a couch and a table, Sandra discovered a passion for repurposing vintage furniture and decided to create a place for local artists to sell their unique items. Today, Two Sisters New Beginnings has become an asset to the Monticello community, supplying locally sourced repurposed furniture, antiques, collectibles, and more to both residents and visitors. Since its establishment, the business’s customer base has grown steadily, as has the number of local artists and craftsmen who seek to showcase their products in the store. The storefront has become such a popular destination that Two Sisters New Beginnings expanded into additional retail space next-door.

Two Sisters New Beginnings has been a long supporter of the Monticello community, participating in local events such as the Mainstreet Monticello Christmas Kickoff and Jefferson County Historical Association Home and Garden Tour. It is a member of Monticello Main Street, a business development and nonprofit organization that promotes local businesses, historic preservation, and tourism within the community. Two Sisters New Beginnings consistently donates to numerous charitable events in the local community, including the Big Bend Hospice Joyful Noise Concert and the David Hobbs Memorial Barrel Race. They have served as a silver sponsor of the Teal Magnolias Ladies Golf Tournament, an event that raises awareness and funds for ovarian cancer each year. Additionally, the vendors of Two Sisters New Beginnings share in this charitable mindset, often donating a portion of their sales to local charities like Refuge House. Two Sisters New Beginnings is an unparalleled example of how small businesses can strengthen and support a community by giving back and creating dignified jobs.

Two Sisters New Beginnings is a prime example of the integral role small businesses play in our local communities. Its community first mindset and dedication to dignified work make it a notable and integral member of the city of Monticello. Congratulations again on being named the Senate Small Business of the Week. I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:23 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1230. An act to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 11:08 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 457. An act to require that $1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bullion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

H.R. 263. An act to rename the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge as the Congressman Lester Wolf Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 434. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Emancipation National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. Grassley).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1230. An act to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, January 16, 2020, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 457. An act to require that $1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bullion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

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–3771. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, the President’s Pay Agent, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Rural Development Advance Biofuel Program Payment” (RIN0579–AC75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3772. A communication from the Policy Analyst, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (EQIP) Interim Rule” (7 CFR Part 1468) (RIN0578–AA66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3773. A communication from the Policy Analyst, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Interim Rule” (7 CFR Part 1466) (RIN0578–AA66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3775. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, the President’s Pay Agent, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Federal Student Loan Repayment Program Calendar Year 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3776. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, the President’s Pay Agent, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the extension of locality based comparability payments; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–178. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation establishing a safe daily level of cannabidiol consumption; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 163

Whereas, Cannabidiol is a chemical that is prevalent in marijuana and hemp[1] products derived from the cannabis plant; and

Whereas, [Cannabidiol] Unlike tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is also prevalent in marijuana and hemp[1] plant, the consumption of cannabidiol does not produce euphoric effects or cause an individual
to feel “high.” (In contrast to the chemical tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), and
Whereas, The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) states that products such as cannabis and dietary supplements that contain cannabidiol are illegal under federal law; and
Whereas, Within the past three years, more than [25] products have been released to the market without a clear approach for regulation or any plan from the FDA to balance consumer access and protect consumer health and safety.
Whereas, The lack of clear policy towards cannabidiol from the FDA and the patchwork regulation of the substance by the states has created a complicated legal framework, in which cannabidiol companies are attempting to operate; and
Whereas, The lack of clear regulatory guidance includes uncertainty as to the level of cannabidiol content that is safe and appropriate for human consumption. This uncertainty can present a risk to the public health, as consumers have access to a wide variety of cannabidiol products but no clear direction as to what amount is safe to consume in a single sitting or over the course of a lifetime.
Whereas, As a result of this uncertain legal framework, it has become difficult for cannabidiol companies to participate in interstate commerce, and additional federal and national cannabidiol companies are difficult to track because banks, insurance companies, and merchant service companies are unprepared to provide services to cannabidiol companies, which may be at risk of involvement from investigation or adverse enforcement actions by the FDA; and
Whereas, By enacting legislation that specifies a safe daily level of cannabidiol consumption, the President and Congress of the United States would be able to help allow people to experience the medical, holistic, and therapeutic benefits of cannabidiol while ensuring consumer safety and generate the participation of cannabidiol companies in interstate commerce, thereby generating increased economic activity, from all interstate commerce for cannabidiol companies, nationwide, now, therefore, he is:
Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:
1. This House respectfully urges the President and Congress of the United States to establish and enact legislation establishing a safe daily consumption level of cannabidiol consumption.
2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and each member of the United States Congress elected from this State.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
The following executive reports of nominations were transmitted:
Mr. WICKER for Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to strike from reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary’s desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nomination of Lorelee L. Stock, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Shannan, C., with Joshua D. Yanovick, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2020.

Air Force nomination of Kragjen J. Bramer, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Lisa A. Nemeth, to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Rozena A. Chan, to be Major.

Army nomination of Shaun J. Arredondo, to be Major.

Army nomination of Steven K. Uhiman, to be Major.

Army nomination of Christopher M. Feroli, to be Major.

Army nomination of Richard A. Malaga, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Tad T. Tsuneyoshi, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of John F. Lopez, to be Major.

Army nomination of Diego L. Becerra III, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Timothy P. Behnke, to be Major.

Army nomination of Sandra L. Molteni, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Benjamin A. Accinelli and ending with Matthew G. Wyata, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 9, 2020.

Army nomination of Justin D. Considine, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Paul T. Agena and ending with Phillip E. Peters, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 9, 2020.

Army nominations beginning with Michael V. Domenic and ending with Christopher Gunderson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 9, 2020.

Army nomination of Shauntiill L. Baah, to be Major.

Army nomination of LaJohnne A. W. Morris, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Paul Green, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Wanda L. Horton, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Robert T. Sutter, to be Major.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Enrique Bandt and ending with Gilbert L. Woods, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2020.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Michael A. Apicella, Jr. and ending with Jeffrey A. Tranberg, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2020.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Michael A. Apicella, Jr. and ending with Jeffrey A. Tranberg, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2020.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Nathaniel W. Baker III and ending with James R. Strand, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2020.

Marine Corps nomination of Robert W. Puckett, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with John A. Yukica, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with David S. Gersen and ending with Ambrosio V. Panted, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2020.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Ryan M. Cleveland and ending with Christian D. Galbraith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2020.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Daniel P. Coutles and ending with Sean R. Mcmahon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 9, 2020.

Marine Corps nomination of Matthew H. Hilton, to be Major.

Navy nomination of Adam B. Tomlinson, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Bridgette L. Riley, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Warren L. Brookes, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Laura H. Spence and ending with John E. D. Yonge III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2020.

By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Judiciary.
Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.
Joshua M. Kindred, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska.
Scott H. Rash, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.
Matthew Thomas Schelp, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.
Stephen A. Vaden, of Tennessee, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.
(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS
The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:
By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. FLEUR DE SEL, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HASSAN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. MURKOWSKI):
S. 3201. A bill to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
By Mr. KAINES (for himself and Ms. MILLER-KOSS):
S. 3214. A bill to create a unified National Trade.
By Mr. MARKEY:
S. 3229. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to revise the policy of the Agency to address the threats of terrorism, to include considerations of climate change in the strategic plan of the Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO for herself, Mr. RISCH, and Ms. ROSEN:
S. 3205. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a program to assist small business concerns with purchasing cybersecurity products and services; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, GILLIBRAND, and REED):

S. 3206. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to increase voting accessibility for individuals with disabilities and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3207. A bill to require the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish a Cybersecurity State Coordinator, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 3208. A bill to improve agency rulemaking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 3209. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to support fire safety education programs on college campuses; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. SINDEMA):

S. 3210. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to develop a clinical practice guideline or guidelines for the treatment of serious mental illness; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. BURRI (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3211. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify certain allotments under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3212. A bill to authorize additional monies to the Public Housing Capital Fund of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WARREN:

S. 3213. A bill to amend certain banking laws to establish requirements for bank mergers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3214. A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 with respect to prepayment costs of emergency watershed protection measures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 3215. A bill to establish the obligations of certain large business entities in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mrs. SHAREEN):

S. 3216. A bill to amend title XVII of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage from imposing cost-sharing requirements or limitations with respect to diagnostic examinations for breast cancer that are less favorable than such requirements with respect to screening examinations for breast cancer; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HENNECH, and Mr. MARKKEY):

S. 3217. A bill to standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KAIN:

S. J. Res. 69. 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; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were introduced, read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 474. A resolution to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Martin F. McMahon v. Senator Ted Cruz, et al; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. LEYI):

S. Res. 475. A resolution recognizing the leading role of Utahns in the fight for women’s suffrage and celebrating the sesquicentennial of the first votes by women under the equal suffrage law of Utah on February 14, 1870; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. Res. 476. A resolution congratulating the North Dakota State University Bison football team for winning the 2019 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Championship Subdivision title; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. WARNER, and Mr. MARKKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. MURKLEY):

S. Res. 477. A resolution designating the week of February 3 through 7, 2020, as “National School Counseling Week”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. PERDUE, Ms. LOEFFLER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. COTTON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BURRI, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LEE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. DAINES):

S. Res. 478. A resolution designating the week of January 26 through February 1, 2020, as “National School Choice Week”; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 74

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 74, a bill to prohibit paying Members of Congress during periods during which a Government shutdown is in effect, and for other purposes.

S. 182

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BACHMANN) were added as cosponsors of S. 182, a bill to prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 229

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 229, a bill to provide advance appropriations authority for certain accounts of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education of the Department of the Interior and the Indian Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

S. 277

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes.

S. 780

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 780, a bill to make daylight savings time permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 1754

At the request of Ms. MC SALLY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1754, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance and Medicare benefits and Medicaid coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1964

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1964, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the integration of baseball.

S. 2001

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from...
North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2001, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Wilkie O’Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HINICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2461, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2741, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2779, a bill to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Best Practices, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. CAPITTO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2842, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to expand and expedite access to cardiac rehabilitation programs and pulmonary rehabilitation programs under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2892, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions to help combat the opioid crisis.

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2931, a bill to establish a process for obtaining a Federal certificate of rehabilitation, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2936, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify the mailing requirement relating to social security account statements.

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3043, a bill to amend any known programs at aviation maintenance technician schools, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3201, a bill to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the "Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY ORDER FOR FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES.
Notwithstanding any other provision of law, section 1308.11(h)(30) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, shall remain in effect until May 6, 2021.

SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT ON IMPACTS OF CLASSWIDE SCHEDULING.
(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "fentanyl-related substances" has the meaning given in section 1308.11(h)(30)(i) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—
(1) conduct a study of the classification of fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), research on fentanyl-related substances, and the importation of fentanyl-related substances into the United States; and
(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, submit a report on the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1) to—
(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;
(B) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;
(C) the Caucus on International Narcotics Control of the Senate;
(D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and
(E) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The Comptroller General, in conducting the study and developing the report required under subsection (b), shall—
(1) evaluate class control of fentanyl-related substances;
(A) the definition of the class of fentanyl-related substances in section 1308.11(h)(30)(i) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, including the process by which the definition was formulated;
(B) the potential for classifying fentanyl-related substances with no, low, abuse potential, or potential accepted medical use, as schedule I controlled substances when scheduled as a class; and
(C) any known classification of fentanyl-related substances with no, low, abuse potential, or potential accepted medical use, as schedule I controlled substances that has resulted in the scheduling action of the Drug Enforcement Administration that added paragraph (b)(30) to section 1308.11 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations;
(2) review the impact and potential impact of controls on fentanyl-related substances on public health and safety, including—
(A) diversion risks, overdose deaths, and law enforcement encounters with fentanyl-related substances; and
(B) Federal law enforcement investigations and prosecutions of offenses relating to fentanyl-related substances;
(3) review the impact of international regulatory controls on fentanyl-related substances on the supply of such substances to the United States, including by the Government of the People’s Republic of China;
(4) review the impact or potential impact of screening and other interdiction efforts at points of entry into the United States on the importation of fentanyl-related substances into the United States;
(5) recommend best practices for accurate, swift, and permanent control of fentanyl-related substances, including—
(A) how to quickly remove from the schedules under the Controlled Substances Act substances that are determined, upon discovery, to have no abuse potential; and
(B) how to reschedule substances that are determined, upon discovery, to have a low abuse potential or potential accepted medical use;
(6) review the impact or potential impact of fentanyl-related controls by class on scientific and biomedical research; and
(7) evaluate the processes used to obtain or modify Federal authorization to conduct research with fentanyl-related substances, including—
(A) identifying opportunities to reduce unnecessary burdens on persons seeking to research fentanyl-related substances; and
(B) identifying opportunities to reduce any redundancies in the responsibilities of Federal agencies;
(C) identifying opportunities to reduce any inefficiencies related to the processes used to obtain or modify Federal authorization to conduct research with fentanyl-related substances; and
(D) identifying opportunities to improve the protocol review and approval process conducted by Federal agencies; and
(E) evaluating the degree, if any, to which establishing processes to obtain or modify a Federal authorization to conduct research with a fentanyl-related substance that are separate from the applicable processes for other schedule I controlled substances could exacerbate burdens or lead to confusion among persons seeking fentanyl-related substances or other schedule I controlled substances.

(d) INPUT FROM CERTAIN FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In conducting the study and developing the report under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall consider the views of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice.

(e) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Each Federal department or agency
shall, in accordance with applicable procedures for the appropriate handling of classified information, promptly provide reasonable access to documents, statistical data, and any other information that the Comptroller General determines is necessary to conduct the study and develop the report required under subsection (b). (1) INPUT FROM CERTAIN NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—In conducting the study and developing the report under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall consider the views of experts from certain non-Federal entities, including experts— (1) the scientific and medical research community; (2) the State and local law enforcement community; and (3) the civil rights and criminal justice reform communities.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my Judiciary Committee colleagues, Chairman GRAHAM and Senator DURBIN, as the lead sponsor of the “Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act.”

This bill will ensure that fentanyl-related substances remain in Schedule I and will help deter the manufacture of fentanyl-related substances responsible for overdose deaths.

In 2018, the number of fentanyl-related deaths in the United States increased from 28,000 to 32,000. This is more than double the number of heroin-related overdose deaths. It is staggering.

According to the information my office has received from the DEA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is clear this order has been effective.

The number of law enforcement encounters of new fentanyl analogues has decreased from 8 to 2. That is significant and means that the order has reduced the supply of new fentanyl analogues by 75 percent.

This decrease in supply has reduced the need for widespread prosecutions of fentanyl-related offenses. In fact, since the DEA’s order went into effect, it is my understanding that there has only been two related prosecutions.

Additionally, although the number of fentanyl-related overdose deaths has continued to increase, the rate at which these deaths has increased has declined significantly.

For example, between the 12 month periods ending January 2017 and January 2018, fentanyl deaths increased by nearly 36 percent. Conversely, between the 12 month periods ending May 2018 and May 2019, which is the latest data available, the rate of fentanyl deaths only increased by just over 9 percent.

I would have preferred a long-term solution to addressing this problem that can garner strong bipartisan support, and I am eager to continue working with my colleagues on such a solution.

However, given the limited amount of time that we have before the DEA’s temporary order expires, we cannot sit idly by and do nothing.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation. Given the staggering number of overdose deaths associated with fentanyl-related substances, inaction is not an option.

By Mr. Kaine (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI): S. 3203. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to codify the requirements for appointment, qualifications, and pay for therapeutic medical physicists of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, Physicians at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Therapeutic Medical Physicists to help plan and deliver critical radiation treatment to patients. Inadequate support from these medical professionals can place veterans at risk for radiation injury or inappropriate treatment. As radiation therapy has become more sophisticated and more common over the past fifteen years, the Department has struggled to recruit and retain Therapeutic Medical Physicists. The average salary in the private sector for a PhD board certified Therapeutic Medical Physicists with ten to fourteen years of work experience is approximately $190,000, but current law limits salaries for these employees at the Department to $166,500, inhibiting the Department’s ability to recruit qualified individuals to fill these positions.

When faced with Therapeutic Medical Physicist shortages, the Department outsources this work to expensive contractors. Consequently, the Department substantially overspends on these services, which could be done more reliably in-house and at a much lower cost. Furthermore, contracts for T&MP services are awarded for a short period, which results in frequent turnover that can be potentially dangerous from the perspective of quality care and patient safety.

Today, I am pleased to introduce the Department of Veterans Affairs Therapeutic Medical Physicist Pay Cap Relief Act with my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI. This legislation would improve the recruitment and retention of Therapeutic Medical Physicians by allowing the Department to pay these professionals at rates competitive with the private sector. This would also help improve the quality of care for veterans by reducing the turnover of Therapeutic Medical Physicians, and lead to lower total costs for the Department by eliminating the use of expensive contractors. With these savings, the Department could raise salaries and hire more Therapeutic Medical Physicians.

This commonsense, bipartisan legislation is an opportunity to invest in professionals who treat those who have sacrificed for our nation, and improve the standard of care we provide to our veterans. I look forward to working with my colleagues to swiftly implementing the provisions of the Department of Veterans Affairs Therapeutic Medical Physicist Pay Cap Relief Act.

Thank you, Mr. President.
SENATE RESOLUTION 475—RECOGNIZING THE LEADING ROLE OF UTAHNS IN THE FIGHT FOR WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE AND CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE FIRST VOTES BY WOMEN UNDER THE EQUAL SUFFRAGE LAW OF UTAH ON FEBRUARY 14, 1870

Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. LEE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

WHEREAS, on February 10, 1870, the territorial legislature of Utah passed an Act granting women the right to vote, which was signed into law on February 12, 1870, by Acting Governor Stephen Mann;

Whereas, on February 14, 1870, women voted in the Salt Lake City election, becoming the first women to vote under an equal suffrage law within what is now the United States;

Whereas, in 1887, Congress revoked the voting rights of women in Utah;

Whereas on November 5, 1895, the new Utah Constitution was adopted with a proviso stating, “The rights of citizens of the State of Utah to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex. Both male and female citizens of this State shall enjoy equally all civil, political and religious privileges.”;

Whereas, on November 3, 1896, Martha Maria Hughes Cannon, who will be honored by a statue in the United States Capitol in 2020, was elected to the Utah State Senate and became the first woman to serve as a State senator in the United States; and

Whereas, in 1919, women’s suffrage was extended to the States and citizens women under the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the leading role of Utahns in the fight for women’s suffrage and the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States guaranteeing that the “right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex”; and

(2) celebrates the sesquicentennial of the first votes by women under the equal suffrage law of Utah on February 14, 1870.

SENATE RESOLUTION 476—CONGRATULATING THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY BISON FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION TITLE

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 476

Whereas the North Dakota State University (referred to in this preamble as “NDSU”) Bison football team won the 2019 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the “NCAA”) Division I Football Championship Subdivision title game in Frisco, Texas, on January 11, 2020, in a well-fought victory over the James Madison University Dukes by a score of 28 to 20;

Whereas, including the 2019 NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision title, the NDSU Bison football team has won 16 NCAA football championships;

Whereas the NDSU Bison football team has won 8 of the last 9 NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision titles, an achievement that continues to be unmatched in modern collegiate football history;

Whereas the NDSU Bison football team completed the football season with a perfect record of 16 wins and 0 losses, becoming the first collegiate football team in any division to accomplish this feat since the Yale University Bulldogs in 1894;

Whereas the NDSU Bison football team has recorded consecutive undefeated seasons and extended its winning streak to an NCAA Football Championship Subdivision record of 37 wins in a row, displaying remarkable skill and commitment;

Whereas head coach Matt Entz and his staff led the NDSU Bison football team to a dominant season and a championship during his first year as head coach at NDSU, instilling leadership and excellence in the members of the NDSU Bison football program;

Whereas quarterback Trey Lance became the first player in the history of the NDSU Bison football team and the first freshman quarterback to win the Walter Payton Award, which is awarded to the top offensive player in the Division I Football Championship Subdivision;

Whereas thousands of Bison fans once again attended the championship game, reflecting the tremendous pride and dedication of Bison Nation, which has supported and helped drive the achievement of the NDSU Bison football team; and

Whereas the 2019 NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision title was a victory for both the NDSU Bison football team and the entire State of North Dakota: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the North Dakota State University Bison football team for winning the 2019 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Championship Subdivision title;

(2) commends the players, coaches, and staff of the North Dakota State University Bison football team—

(A) their tireless work and dedication; and

(B) fostering a continued tradition of excellence; and

(3) recognizes the students, alumni, and loyal fans for supporting the North Dakota State University Bison football team during its successful quest to bring home yet another NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision trophy for North Dakota State University.

SENATE RESOLUTION 477—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3 THROUGH 7, 2020, AS “NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK”

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBuchar, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ-MASTO, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. MURKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. MERRICK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 477

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has designated February 3 through 7, 2020, as “National School Counseling Week”;

Whereas school counselors have long advocated for equitable opportunities for all students;

Whereas school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding students through academic learning, social and emotional development, and career exploration;

Whereas personal and social growth can help lead to increased academic achievement;

Whereas school counselors play a vital role in ensuring that students are ready for both college and careers;

Whereas school counselors play a vital role in making students aware of opportunities for financial aid and college scholarships;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood;

WHEREAS school counselors have been instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with personal trauma as well as tragedies in their communities and the United States;

Whereas school counselors face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, bullying, mental health issues, the deployment of families to serve in conflicts overseas, and school violence;

Whereas a school counselor is one of the few professionals in a school building who is trained to both education and social and emotional development;

Whereas school counselors have long advocated for equitable opportunities for all students;

WHEREAS school counselors play a vital role in making students aware of opportunities for financial aid and college scholarships;

WHEREAS school counselors play a role school counselors play in schools and the community at large in preparing students for college and careers;

WHEREAS school counselors play a vital role in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with personal trauma as well as tragedies in their communities and the United States;

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has designated February 3 through 7, 2020, as “National School Counseling Week”;

WHEREAS school counselors have long advocated for equitable opportunities for all students;

WHEREAS school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding students through academic learning, social and emotional development, and career exploration;

WHEREAS personal and social growth can help lead to increased academic achievement;

WHEREAS school counselors play a vital role in ensuring that students are ready for both college and careers;

WHEREAS school counselors play a vital role in making students aware of opportunities for financial aid and college scholarships;

WHEREAS school counselors play a role school counselors play in schools and the community at large in preparing students for college and careers;

WHEREAS school counselors face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, bullying, mental health issues, the deployment of families to serve in conflicts overseas, and school violence;

WHEREAS a school counselor is one of the few professionals in a school building who is trained to both education and social and emotional development;

WHEREAS school counselors have long advocated for equitable opportunities for all students;

WHEREAS school counselors play a vital role in making students aware of opportunities for financial aid and college scholarships;

WHEREAS school counselors play a role school counselors play in schools and the community at large in preparing students for college and careers;

WHEREAS school counselors face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, bullying, mental health issues, the deployment of families to serve in conflicts overseas, and school violence;

WHEREAS a school counselor is one of the few professionals in a school building who is trained to both education and social and emotional development;

WHEREAS school counselors have long advocated for equitable opportunities for all students;

WHEREAS school counselors play a vital role in making students aware of opportunities for financial aid and college scholarships;

WHEREAS school counselors play a role school counselors play in schools and the community at large in preparing students for college and careers;
following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 478

Whereas providing a diversity of choices in K–12 education empowers parents to select education environments that meet the individual needs of their children;

Whereas high-quality K–12 education environments of all varieties are available in the United States, including traditional public schools, public charter schools, public magnet schools, private schools, online academies, and home schooling;

Whereas lawmakers, teachers, and school leaders in each of the education environments prepare children to achieve their dreams;

Whereas more families than ever before in the United States today choose the best education for their children;

Whereas more public awareness of the issue of parental choice in education can form additional families of the benefits of proactively choosing challenging, motivating, and effective education environments for their children;

Whereas the process by which parents choose schools for their children is non-political, nonpartisan, and deserves the utmost respect; and

Whereas tens of thousands of events are planned to celebrate the benefits of educational choice during the fourth annual National School Choice Week, held the week of January 26 through February 1, 2020, which will celebrate the benefits of education options available to them; and

Whereas the purpose of the event is to prepare children to achieve their dreams; and

Whereas high-quality K–12 education environments of all varieties for their persistent, achievements, dedication, and contributions to society in the United States;

(3) encourages all parents, during National School Choice Week, to learn more about the education options available to them; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during National School Choice Week to raise public awareness of the benefits of opportunity in education.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1283. Mr. MORAN (for Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. C OONS, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BLOOMBERG, Mr. Fritchie, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KASICH, and Ms. SMITH)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 886, to direct the Attorney General to establish and carry out a Veteran Treatment Court Program.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1283. Mr. MORAN (for Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. C OONS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. SMITH)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 886, to direct the Attorney General to establish and carry out a Veteran Treatment Court Program: as follows—

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that veterans treatment courts are a successful program aimed at helping veterans charged with non-violent crimes receive the help and the benefits for which the veterans are entitled.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Attorney General shall establish and carry out a Veteran Treatment Court Program to provide grants and technical assistance to court systems that—

(1) have adopted a Veterans Treatment Court Program; or

(2) have filed a notice of intent to establish a Veteran Treatment Court Program with the Secretary.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Veterans Treatment Court Program established under subsection (a) is to ensure the Department of Justice has a single office to coordinate the provision of grants, training, and technical assistance to help State, local, and Tribal governments to develop and maintain veteran treatment courts.

(c) PROGRAMS INCLUDED.—The Veterans Treatment Court Program established under subsection (a) shall include the grant programs relating to veteran treatment courts carried out by the Attorney General pursuant to sections 2991 and 3021 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651, 10701) or any other provision of law.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 16, 2020, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: James E. McPherson, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army, and Charles Williams, of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, both of the Department of Defense.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 16, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Andrew Lynch Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, John Charles Hindenagle, and Scott H. Rash, both to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Joshua M. Kindred, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, Matthew Thomas Schelp, to be United States District Judge for the District of Missouri, Fernando L. Aenlle-Rocha, Stanley Blumenfeld, and Mark C. Scarsi, each to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Stephen A. Vaden, of Tennessee, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, and Grace Karaffa Obermann, and Stephen Sidney Schwartz, both of Virginia, to be Judges of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of all nominations on the Executive Calendar. Upon the nominations being confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the Record; the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY’S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN 1351 AIR FORCE nomination of Lorelee L. Stock, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN 1352 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning SHANNAN L. CORBIN, and ending JOSHUA D. YANOVIAK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN 1499 AIR FORCE nomination of Kraegen J. Stenerson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN 1410 AIR FORCE nomination of Lisa A. Nemeth, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN 1411 AIR FORCE nomination of Rozena A. Chan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

IN THE ARMY

PN 1296 ARMY nomination of Shaun J. Arredondo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN 1297 ARMY nomination of Steven K. Uhlenholt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN 1298 ARMY nomination of Christopher M. Perold, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 19, 2019.

PN 1333 ARMY nomination of Richard A. Malmale, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN 1334 ARMY nomination of Ted T. Tsuneyoshi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN 1335 ARMY nomination of John F. Lopez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN 1336 ARMY nomination of Diego L. Becerra, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN 1375 ARMY nomination of Timothy P. Brown, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

January 16, 2020

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020, AND TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Friday, January 17, for a pro forma session only, with no business being conducted; further, when the Senate adjourns on Friday, January 17, it next convene at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21; further, following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and morning business be closed; finally, following leader remarks, the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate on January 16, 2020:

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF LOBELER L. STOCK, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SHANNAN L. COBEN AND ENDING WITH JOSHDUBA D. YANOVIAK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KRABEIN J. BRAME, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF LISA N. NEMETH, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ROZENA A. CHAN, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF SHAUN J. ARREDONDO, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF STEVEN K. UHLMAN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER M. FEROLI, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RICHARD A. MALAGA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL D. BERNER III, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY P. BRINK, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SANDRA L. MOLTENI, TO BE MAJOR.


ARMY NOMINATION OF JUSTIN D. CONSIDINE, TO BE COLONEL.


The resolution, with their preamble, are printed in today’s Record under “Submitted Resolutions.”

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, January 21, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m., while the Senate is sitting as a court of impeachment and notwithstanding the Senate’s adjournment, the Senate can receive House messages and executive matters, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters, and Senators be allowed to submit statements for the Record, bills and resolutions and congressional requests, and, by rule, the Secretary of the Senate, on behalf of the Presiding Officer, be permitted to refer such matters.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the roll call consideration of the following Senate resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 476, S. Res. 477, and S. Res. 478.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be disposed of and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions, with their preamble, are printed in today’s Record under “Submitted Resolutions.”

The resolutions, with their preamble, are printed in today’s Record under “Submitted Resolutions.”

PN1359 ARMY nomination of Sandra L. Molteni, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2020.

PN1360 ARMY nominations (9) beginning BENJAMIN A. ACCINELLI, and ending MATTHEW G. WYATT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 9, 2020.

PN1361 ARMY nomination of Matthew H. Hilton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 9, 2020.

PN1362 NAVY nomination of Warren L. Brooks, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1363 NAVY nominations (2) beginning LARA H. SPENCE, and ending JOHN E. D. YONGE, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1364 ARMED FORCES nominations (2) beginning MICHAEL C. APICELLA, JR., and ending NATHANIEL W. BAKER, III, and ending JEFFREY A. TRANBERG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1365 ARMED FORCES nominations (10) beginning PAUL T. AGENA, and ending PHILLIP E. PETERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN1366 MARINE CORPS nominations (9) beginning ENRIQUE BANDT, and ending GILBERT L. WOODS, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN1367 MARINE CORPS nominations (10) beginning MICHAEL C. APICELLA, JR., and ending JEFFREY A. TRANBERG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1368 MARINE CORPS nominations (8) beginning PAUL T. AGENA, and ending CHRISTOPHER GUINDESEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN1369 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning DANIEL P. COULTES, and ending SEAN R. MCMAHON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN1370 MARINE CORPS nominations (12) beginning JOHN E. D. YONGE, III, and ending CHRISTOPHER GUINDESEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

IN THE ARMY

PN1360 NAVY nomination of Adam B. Tomlinson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1361 NAVY nomination of Bridgette L. Riley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

IN THE NAVY

PN1362 NAVY nomination of Warren L. Brooks, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1363 NAVY nominations (2) beginning LARA H. SPENCE, and ending JOHN E. D. YONGE, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 2 P.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 4:01 p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 17, 2020.

The resolution, with their preamble, are printed in today’s Record under “Submitted Resolutions.”
IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF SHAUN TILL, L. BAAH, TO BE MAJOR.
ARMY NOMINATION OF LAJONNE A. W. MORGAN, TO BE COLONEL.
ARMY NOMINATION OF PAUL GREEN, TO BE COLONEL.
ARMY NOMINATION OF WANDA L. HORTON, TO BE COLONEL.
ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERT T. SUTTER, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JACKIE W. MORGAN, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.
MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JACOB R. LEWIS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.
MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF ROBERT W. PUCKETT, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.
MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JOHN G. YUKICA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.
MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID S. ORRICK AND ENDING WITH AMBROSO V. PANTOJA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2020.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF ADAM B. TOMLINSON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.
NAVY NOMINATION OF BRIDGETTE L. RILEY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.
NAVY NOMINATION OF WARREN L. BROOKES, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.
HONORING NATHAN EUGENE FLETCHER

HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Eugene Fletcher. Nathan 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 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan 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, Nathan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in offering my thoughts and congratulations to Nathan Eugene Fletcher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING DR. BRENTA HELLYER, CHANCELLOR OF SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

HON. BRIAN BABIN
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an exceptional educator, San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer, on receiving the prestigious Quasar Award for Economic Development Excellence from the Bay Area Houston Partnership (BAHEP). BAHEP presents its renowned Quasar Award to an outstanding elected official or business leader who has demonstrated a strong and continual effort to support the business foundations of the greater Bay Area Houston communities.

Dr. Hellyer grew up in Hays, Kansas, a small town of nearly 12,000 in the heart of wheat and cattle country. She is the second of four children—three girls and a boy. Her father was a truck driver for Rainbow Bread and later served as a custodian at the local elementary school. Her mother was a housewife until her youngest sister started school, and then began a career as a school cook and baker.

Dr. Hellyer earned her Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Fort Hays State University, and both her master’s degree in business administration and a doctorate in community college leadership from the University of Texas at Austin. She received the Distinguished Graduate Award from the College of Education at the University of Texas at Austin in spring 2009. Dr. Hellyer is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licensed in Texas. While in college, she received many scholarships that helped finance her education and credits her success to the generosity of University donors.

Working for Fortune 500 companies in accounting and finance, eventually led Dr. Hellyer down to Houston where she met her husband, Rusty. Together, Rusty and Brenda worked with several small businesses they owned in the Deer Park and Pasadena communities. She strongly believes in serving the community, and her first involvement with San Jacinto College was as a volunteer with the San Jacinto College Foundation.

Since 2009, Dr. Hellyer has served as Chancellor of San Jacinto College, a notable Houston institution with nearly 30,000 students, four primary campuses, and an annual budget of $252 million. Her involvement with the College began in 1996 as an inaugural director for the San Jacinto College Foundation. She later served in a number of executive positions at the college, including Executive Vice President for Military and Service Development, Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs, Chief Financial Officer, and Executive Vice Chancellor.

After becoming Chancellor of San Jacinto College in May 2009, Dr. Hellyer led a rigorous strategic planning process to transform the image of the college. During her tenure, the college has made major infrastructure renovations and developed award-winning programs including its Maritime Training and Technology Center, Generation Park Campus, Aerospace Training facility, and the LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology.

These efforts have transformed San Jacinto College into a modern community college, offering students education in collaborative classrooms and hands on training with equipment they will encounter as they move into the workforce.

Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. Hellyer for her dedication as Chancellor of San Jacinto College, and for her outstanding community engagement in the greater Bay Area.

HONORING DAVIS S. WELCH

HON. JOHN R. CARTER
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Davis S. Welch as he retires following 38 years of distinguished service to the Army and the nation. Throughout his extraordinary career, he embodied the duty, honor, and loyalty that makes the U.S. Army the world’s premier fighting force.

Davis’ commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities in service of his nation is a deeply held creed that speaks to the generosity and activism of a true and devoted patriot. Throughout his career, he earned numerous academic and military accolades, including the Legion of Merit, that garnered the respect and admiration of his peers. Davis was instrumental in balancing immediate needs within resource constraints while expertly and expeditiously funding peacetime and war-related Theater, Joint, and Operational Needs Statements. His resume tells the story of a man unafraid to embrace the challenges that forge the leaders our nation needs.

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
For nearly four decades, Davis positively impacted all those around him, while zealously safeguarding the sanctity of our public accounts and our public trust. We have all benefited from his extraordinary guidance, judgment, and character. His dedicated service has greatly contributed to the security of this Country, and of free peoples around the world.

Retirement is meant to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but the beginning of a new adventure. It is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Davis Welch as he starts this new chapter of his life. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank him for his superb work and wish him the very best.

HONORING COLTON MATTHEW FRENCH
HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colton Matthew French. Colton 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 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Colton has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Colton has been involved with scouting, he has earned only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Colton has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Colton Matthew French for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PROTECTING OLDER WORKERS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION ACT

SPEECH OF
HON. JOHN KATKO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 13, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1230, the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act. This bipartisan legislation will extend federal protections against age discrimination in the workplace.

Speaking with Central New Yorkers, I have heard from many older workers who have expressed concern over the prevalence of ageism in the workplace. My constituents are not alone either. According to a recent AARP report, 3 in 5 older workers have experienced age discrimination in the workplace. Despite this statistic, the recent 2009 Supreme Court’s decision in Gross v. FBL Financial Services, Inc., has weakened protections against age discrimination, making it more difficult for older Americans to prove age discrimination and rectify these instances. For this reason, I am proud to support the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act. Under this bipartisan legislation, we will take the necessary steps to protect older workers against age discrimination in the workplace by restoring the pre-2009 legal standards for age discrimination claims.

Mr. Chair, age should never be a factor in employment decisions. Whether an older worker is forced out of a job or receiving lower pay due to age, older workers in Central New York and in the United States must be protected from age discrimination in the workplace. Troubling statistics published by AARP make it clear that age discrimination in the workplace is an issue that must be addressed by Congress. I urge my colleagues in the House to act in a bipartisan manner to protect older workers against age discrimination by supporting the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK GAFFNEY FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the distinguished career of Mark Gaffney as he retires from his position at Teamsters Local Union No. 214. As a lifelong Michigan resident, Mark Gaffney has become a cornerstone of the Michigan labor community. Upon receiving his bachelor’s degree in Philosophy and master’s degree in Labor Relations from Michigan State University, Gaffney launched a successful thirty-year career in workforce issues and labor relations. Beyond his role at Teamsters Local Union No. 214, Gaffney has also served as President of the Michigan AFL-CIO, an association of forty national labor unions representing over 700,000 Michiganders. In addition, Gaffney has directed the Economic Alliance of Michigan for twelve years as a co-chair, served as the Chair of the Board of Human Resources Development, Inc., was part of the Executive Committee of the Michigan Council for Labor and Economic Growth, and was appointed by Mayor Duggan to serve on the Detroit Workforce Board. Aside from his work with labor relations, Gaffney also has extensive healthcare experience and even served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. In 2016, Gaffney was elected statewide to serve on an eight-year term on the Board of Governors of Wayne State University.

Mark Gaffney’s professional accomplishments demonstrate his unrelenting commitment to the people of Michigan. During his time at Teamsters Local Union No. 214, the largest Teamsters Local in Michigan, Gaffney has represented and negotiated on behalf of Michigan municipal and education workers from all walks of life. Yet, Gaffney’s dedication is not exclusive to his role within the labor union. Instead, Gaffney has endeavored to represent public bodies and agencies, ensuring their needs are being properly met. Gaffney is recognized amongst his peers and colleagues as a compassionate, ambitious, and humble leader who strives for excellence without seeking praise or recognition for any of his significant accomplishments.

HONORING CONOR ALLEN LITTLETON
HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Conor Allen Littleton. Conor 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 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Conor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Conor 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, Conor has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Conor has contributed to his community, family, and peers. Most notably, Conor has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Conor 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 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.
Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Conor Allen Littleton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF DANIEL STEWART
HON. JOE COURTNEY
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Daniel Steward on his recent retirement from a remarkable fourteen-year career as first selectman for the town of Waterford, Connecticut. This tenure makes Dan the longest serving first selectman since the founding of the town in 1801 and ensures his legacy will last forever.

Dan was born and raised in Waterford and worked in the southeastern Connecticut region his entire adult life. He honed his managerial skills at Southern New England Telephone Company where he worked for twenty-eight years and then spent another three years as supervisor in information technologies at Dominion Energy’s Millstone Power Plant, Connecticut’s largest electrical energy producer. While still employed in the private sector, he began his impressive career of public service working to improve the town’s public schools, first as president of the Parent Teacher Organization, and then when he transitioned to the Waterford board of education where he rose to the position of chair. In 2005, the people of Waterford elected Dan as their First Selectman, and he hit the ground running. This win was especially significant for Waterford, as they now had the leadership of one of their own, a true Lancer. This first-hand knowledge proved crucial for the growth and success of the town. Not only did Dan make structural improvements such as building five new schools; he also paid close attention to the individual problems of Waterford’s residents. Dan’s vest ed interest in the town enabled him to connect with everyone as a leader. He took the concerns of his constituents personally; his biggest gripe with the job being only that “he wanted to make everyone happy.”

During his time as first selectman it became obvious that Dan had a gift for strong leadership and embracing change, something he knew all too well. His own father sold their family’s dairy farm to developers who would go on to build the local Lowe’s hardware store, giving Dan personal experience with the cyclical economies of small towns. When Dominion Energy’s Millstone Power Plant, a backbone of the current economy, was renegotiating with the state, Dan remained a fierce advocate for Waterford. Dan’s personal knowledge of the company gave him a unique and well-rounded perspective to facilitate a sustainable long-term plan for its continued operation.

As the Congressman for Waterford during the bulk of Dan’s tenure, I had the pleasure of working with him and the town on a number of issues, such as the memorial at Arlington National Cemetery to Vietnam hero and U.S. Army Corps Colonel Alvin ‘Abe’ Steward, a beloved son of Waterford, the development of a long term dredging plan for eastern Long Island Sound, and the recapitalization of the New England Central Railroad, to name just a few. I found Dan to be extremely thoughtful and positive, always focused on the big picture of making southeastern Connecticut’s future strong and healthy. Although we are from different political parties, he approached the job of governing from a non-political, practical point of view which I believe is a refreshing example elected officials at every level of government should follow.

Dan’s presence will be sorely missed at Town Hall, although he has certainly earned this next, hopefully more restful chapter that I’m sure he will spend with his wife, Kathy, his four daughters, and his nine grandchildren. Luckily, Waterford residents won’t have to look far as he will still support the community by going door to door for the census. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Dan for his service and congratulating him on his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND OPENING OF OZONE HOUSE’S YOUTH FACILITY
HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the grand opening of Ozone House’s youth facility.

The Ozone House is a community-based, non-profit organization that has been devoted to helping youth in crisis for the past 50 years. In Washtenaw County, nearly 1,300 youth experience homelessness annually due to situations that arise from neglect, abuse, mental illness, or other crises. In 1969, Ozone House was established to address this problem and help young people in the community learn how to lead safe, healthy, and productive lives. Each year, the Ozone House provides refuge for over 800 young people and arranges over 4,000 hours of professional counseling services at two locations in Ann Arbor and a drop-in center in Ypsilanti.

Today, we celebrate the opening of Ozone House’s new youth facility. The opening of the newly-constructed 19,000 square-foot building demonstrates the organization’s continued unrelenting commitment to youth in Michigan, as it allows the organization to improve its services and counsel more youth than ever before. The facility will provide more space and privacy to youth navigating trauma and crisis and will afford them a new sense of security, stability, and consistency. In addition to 16 private bedrooms that can sleep 32 young people, the building includes a fully-equipped kitchen for group meals, a library, a study area, and a large hangout room to give residents a place to socialize. The facility will allow the organization to improve its services at two locations in Ann Arbor and a drop-in center in Ypsilanti.

The Ozone House’s new facility will have a profound impact on the lives of hundreds of youth throughout our community and empower them to get through even the toughest of circumstances.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the grand opening of Ozone House’s new youth facility. In their commitment to providing a safe space for young people to help them grow and recognize their talents, the Ozone House continues to serve as a shining example of how organizations can make a difference for humanity. I am grateful for Ozone House’s positive impact and wish the organization continued success in the years to come.

HONORING NOAH JAMES RIECKER
HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Noah James Riecker. Noah 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 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Noah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Noah 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, Noah has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Noah James Riecker for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ROE V. WADE ANNIVERSARY
HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I am pro-life, pro-family, and pro-child. While my beliefs are rooted in my Christian faith, I am not naive enough to believe that everyone shares that connection between faith and the sanctity of life.

Yet, no matter what someone believes or doesn’t believe, everyone understands that life is precious, and it is a gift. I believe that as Members of Congress and as citizens, we are called to protect the vulnerable. This is one of my core beliefs: that being Pro-Life comes with responsibilities. It’s not enough to say that you are Pro-Life and then walk away. “Just say no” isn’t enough when it comes to abortion.

Women who find themselves with an unplanned pregnancy need support. Sometimes they need a loving shoulder to cry on. And sometimes they need help to find adoption resources.

Being pro-life means not just pro-birth but being interested in the welfare of that child during their entire formative years.

That’s why I am not only a long-time member of the Pro-Life Caucus, but also a co-chair of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption. We must speak up on behalf of the millions of babies aborted since Roe v. Wade, but also speak up for the children who have been saved by mothers who chose life.

Let’s work together to find new ways to protect the most vulnerable amongst us—to advocate for families to adopt children or become foster parents, and then promote the underlying structures that support these families.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank President Trump and his Administration for the work they have done to defend the unborn, including changing the rules for Title X and expanding the Mexico City Policy.
I look forward to the day when there are no more abortions because there are no more unwanted children.

**RECOGNIZING TIM PETROSKY FOR HIS SERVICE AT CMS ENERGY**

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**
**OF MICHIGAN**
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
**Thursday, January 16, 2020**

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it’s my honor to recognize Tim Petrosky for his service at CMS Energy. Through his exceptional leadership and dedication to the public good, Tim has become an indispensable part of Michigan’s First District.

Tim first joined CMS Energy as the spokesman for Big Rock Point Nuclear Power Plant in 1991. This historic power plant in Charlevoix, first opened in 1962, was the first nuclear power plant in the state of Michigan, the fifth oldest in the nation, and is designated as a Nuclear Historic Landmark by the American Nuclear Society. While Big Rock Point was decommissioned in 1997, Tim’s work as spokesperson continued. This included accompanying a large piece of radioactive equipment by rail car to a southern U.S. storage site by rail—giving him the nickname “Boxcar Tim.”

In 2005, Tim became NW Area Manager, Community Affairs, where he was responsible for media, communication, and community activities in three counties of the northwest Lower Peninsula. In this capacity, Tim has helped CMS Energy communicate and hear from the public—helping reach those in need during winter power outages, working with local communities to promote public safety and environmental protection, and hearing from members of the community on issues that matter most to them. With today’s ever-evolving world, the work of industry leaders like Tim has been critical in supporting the common good and ensuring the public trust. His impact on the state of Michigan cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it’s my honor to congratulate Tim Petrosky for his decades of service at CMS Energy. Michiganders can take pride in and the First District is home to such a dedicated leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Tim all the best in his future endeavors.

**IN RECOGNITION OF COMCAST XFINITY ON THE DATE OF ITS STORE’S GRAND OPENING**

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**
**OF MICHIGAN**
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
**Thursday, January 16, 2020**

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Comcast Xfinity and their employees on the date of their store’s grand opening in Taylor. Comcast Xfinity has become an important component of our Michigan community by utilizing our current infrastructure and workforce to deliver more affordable, efficient, and assessable internet services to consumers statewide.

Originally established in April 1981 as Comcast Cable, Xfinity has grown significantly and transformed the southeast Michigan community. While employing thousands of individuals across Michigan, Xfinity has simultaneously developed new infrastructure to provide countless businesses and residents alike with quality cable and internet access. Their facilities have improved our region, showcasing the market for more technology and innovation. Xfinity’s continued commitment to our state is exemplified in the company’s expansion into the Taylor community.

Comcast Xfinity’s investment in opening a Taylor facility underscores the city’s reputation as a center for growth, innovation, and advancement. With this new store, Xfinity will provide residents and businesses with the ability to access the latest technologies, products, and services. Xfinity’s new store will significantly contribute to Michigan’s telecommunications industry in the coming years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Comcast Xfinity during the grand opening of the Comcast Xfinity Store in Taylor. This critical investment will provide Michigan’s ambitious workforce and residents with access to the newest technologies in cable and internet services.

**HONORING MARTIN GEORGE STILL**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**
**OF MISSOURI**
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
**Thursday, January 16, 2020**

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Martin George Still. Martin 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 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Martin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Martin 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, Martin has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Martin George Still for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**COMMEMORATING 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY**

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**
**OF TEXAS**
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
**Thursday, January 16, 2020**

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, on Monday, January 20, the nation observes for the 35th time the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Each year this day is set aside for Americans to celebrate the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. The Martin Luther King Holiday reminds us that nothing is impossible when we are guided by the better angels of our nature.

Dr. King’s inspiring words filled a great void in our nation and answered our collective longing to become a country that truly lived by its noblest principles.

Yet, Dr. King knew that it was not enough just to talk the talk; he knew that he had to walk the walk for his words to be credible. And so, we come together on this holiday the man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice every day.

We honor the courage of a man who endured harassment, threats and beatings, and even bombings. We commemorate the man who went to jail 29 times to achieve freedom for others, and who knew he would pay the ultimate price for his leadership but kept on marching and protesting and organizing anyway.

Dr. King once said that we all have to decide whether we “will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness.”

“Life’s most persistent and nagging question,” he said, is “what are you doing for others?”

And when Dr. King talked about the end of his mortal life in one of his last sermons, on February 4, 1968 in the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, even then he lifted up the value of service as the hallmark of a full life: “I’d like somebody to mention on that day Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others,” he said, “I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life . . . to love and serve humanity.”

We should also remember that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was, above all, a person who was always willing to speak truth to power.

There is perhaps no better example of Dr. King’s moral integrity and consistency than his criticism of the Vietnam War being waged by the Johnson Administration, an administration that was otherwise a friend and champion of civil and human rights.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15, 1929.

Martin’s youth was spent in our country’s Deep South, then run by Jim Crow and the Ku Klux Klan.

For young African-Americans, it was an environment even more dangerous than the one they face today.

A young Martin managed to find a dream, one that he pieced together from his readings—in the Bible, and literature, and just about any other book he could get his hands on.

And not only did those books help him educate himself, but they also allowed him to work through the destructive and traumatic experiences of blatant discrimination, and the discriminatory abuse inflicted on himself, his family, and his people.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that we celebrate here today could have turned out to be just another African-American who would have had to learn to be happy with what he had, and what he was allowed.

But he learned to use his imagination and his dreams to see right through those “White Only” signs—to see the reality that all men, and women, regardless of their place of origin, their gender, or their creed, are created equal. This is the message that Dr. King learned that training his mind and broadening his intellect effectively shielded him from the demoralizing effects of segregation and discrimination.
Dr. King was a dreamer and his dreams were a tool through which he was able to lift his mind beyond the reality of his segregated society, and into a realm where it was possible that white and black, red and brown, and all others live and work alongside each other and prosper.

But the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was not an idle dreamer.

He shared his visions through speeches that motivated others to join in his nonviolent effort to lift themselves from poverty and isolation by creating a new America where equal justice and institutions were facts of life.

In the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are Created Equal.”

At his time and for centuries to come, African-Americans were historically, culturally, and legally excluded from inclusion in that declaration.

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, delivered 56 years ago this year, on August 28, 1963, was a clarion call to each citizen of this great nation that we still hear today.

His request was simply and eloquently conveyed—he asked America to allow of its citizens to live out the words written in its Declaration of Independence and to have a place in this nation’s Bill of Rights.

The 1960s were a time of great crisis and conflict.

The dreams of the people of this country were filled with troubling images that arose like lava from the nightmares of violence and the crises they had to face, both domestically and internationally.

It was the decade of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, and the assassinations of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Malcolm X, Presidential Candidate Robert Kennedy, and the man we honor here today.

Dr. Martin Luther King’s dream helped us turn the corner on civil rights.

It started when Dr. King led the Montgomery Bus Boycott, with Rosa Parks and others, which lasted for 381 days, and ended when the United States Supreme Court outlawed racial segregation on all public transportation.

But the dream did not die there.

It continued started with a peaceful march for suffrage that started in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965—a march that ended with violence at the hands of law enforcement officers as the marchers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Dr. King used several nonviolent tactics to protest against Jim Crow Laws in the South and he organized and led demonstrations for desegregation, labor and voting rights.

On April 4, 1967, at Riverside Church in New York City, he spoke out against the Vietnam War, when he saw the devastation that his nation was causing abroad and the effect that it had on the American men and women sent overseas.

When the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was stolen from us, he was a very young 39 years old.

People remember that Dr. King died in Memphis, but few can remember why he was there.

It was that fateful day in 1968 Dr. King came to Memphis to support a strike by the city’s sanitation workers.

The garbage men there had recently formed a chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees to demand better wages and working conditions.

But the city refused to recognize their union, and when the 1,300 employees walked off their jobs the police broke up the rally with mace and Billy clubs.

It was then that union leaders invited Dr. King to Memphis.

Despite the danger he might face entering such a volatile situation, it was an invitation he could not refuse.

Not because he longed for danger, but because the labor movement was intertwined with the civil rights movement for which he had given up so many years of his life.

The death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will never overshadow his life.

That is his legacy as a dreamer and a man of action.

It is a legacy of hope, tempered with peace.

It is a legacy not quite yet fulfilled.

I hope that Dr. King’s vision of equality under the law is never lost to us, who in the present, toil in times of unevenness in equality.

For without that vision—without that dream—we can never continue to improve on the human condition.

For those who have already forgotten, or whose vision is already clouded with the fog of complacency, I would like to recite the immortal words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

“I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former sharecroppers will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the State of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but for the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its Governor having his lips dripping with words of interposition and nullification—one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough place will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.”

Dr. King’s dream did not stop at racial equality, his ultimate dream was one of human equality and dignity.

There is no doubt that Dr. King wished and worked for freedom and justice for every individual in America.

He was in midst of planning the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign for Jobs and Justice when he was struck down by the dark deed of an assassin on April 4, 1968.

It is for us, the living, to continue that fight today and forever, in the great spirit that inspired the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
The Soviet Union. January 20 marks the 30th anniversary of this tragic day in the history of Azerbaijan, which is seen as its rebirth as an independent country.

26,000 Soviet troops attacked Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan, and its surrounding areas on the night of January 20, 1990. This vicious invasion, recorded in Azerbaijan’s national history and is remembered in the hearts of its people as “Black January” In the Soviet brutality, more than 145 innocent civilians died, around 800 people were injured, and hundreds were arrested. The Soviet crackdown was meant to smother the independence movement in Azerbaijan which was gaining momentum at the time. It proved to be a futile attempt to prop up the rule of the Communist Party, and really the whole Soviet Union. In fact, it had the opposite effect, further inflaming the independence movement and strengthening other such movements throughout the former Soviet Union.


Azerbaijan began to receive international recognition of its newfound independence in November 1991, and shortly thereafter the United States became one of the first nations to recognize the country, establishing diplomatic relations on February 28, 1992. Today, cooperation between the U.S. and Azerbaijan has blossomed to include a broad range of issues, particularly energy development and security, and we share many common interests and goals for the region.

I urge my colleagues to join me and the Azerbaijani people as they remember the events of Black January and celebrate that brutality cannot stifle the thirst for freedom.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. TAECHIN “TC” KIM

HON. DOUG LAMBORN
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I stand today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Taechin “TC” Kim, who passed away on December 29, 2019, at the age of 72. Mr. Kim was a key leader of the prayer community and prayer movement in the Pikes Peak region. As a former Korean businessman, TC dedicated his life as a prayer missionary to seeking authentic transformation of our city and nation. TC was a naturalized American citizen who cherished the Biblical, founding principles of our nation and lived an exemplary life as a true patriot. As the National Facilitator of Transform USA, he had a profound impact on Colorado Springs and beyond by organizing two weekly public prayer gatherings and constantly promoting outstanding Christian citizenship. Colorado’s 5th Congressional District is truly blessed by TC’s believing and living 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

TC Kim was born in 1947 in the city of Taegu, South Korea. He graduated from Yonsei University, Seoul with a BA in Business and received his MBA from the University of La Verne in Southern California. His professional career includes nearly 30 years as: General Manager, Samsung Trading Company; Vice President, NCH Corporation; and Asian Pacific Operations Sales Director, Otis Elevator Company/United Technologies. In 2000, he transitioned into service with a global non-profit organization Eron/Loving Concern as a missionary, providing medical supplies to South America and Africa before moving to Colorado Springs in 2007.

In 2007, TC was commissioned by several national and global ministry leaders at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. to serve as the National Facilitator of Transform USA. Soon after, TC and his wife, Soonae, moved to Colorado Springs where he began to connect with local pastors, ministry leaders, everyday people of faith, as well as many across the nation for the purpose of relationship support and collaboration towards transforming America together. In the summer of 2007, TC launched a weekly Wednesday morning prayer meeting which continues to this day. He also began a monthly national conference call to provide a networking platform for servant leaders to share about their regional/national ministry of serving others which also continues into 2020.

At both the weekly local prayer meeting as well as the monthly national conference calls, TC always encouraged and inspired people of faith to be the positive change makers in the spheres of business, education, public service, media, arts/entertainment and religion. In 2014, TC was granted space in Colorado Springs’ City Hall to launch a weekly Friday evening meeting to pray for our city. Throughout TC’s years in Colorado Springs, he always looked for opportunities to serve the needs of our community. He also convened several special Transform USA gatherings in our region including the 2011 D-Day Prayer and the 2018 Transform USA Summit. TC continued to “fight the good fight” even after he was diagnosed with stage four cancer in 2015, and “finished the race” at the end of 2019.

TC Kim lived a transformed life through loving and honoring all those around him both as a global businessman and missionary and both a local and national ministry leader. He represented Christian virtues well and many in our region, nation, and around the world have been blessed by his service. The Pikes Peak Region and beyond will continue to thrive through the lives he impacted. TC is survived by his wife Soonae, sons Andrew and Sean, their wives, and five grandchildren. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to remember the life and legacy of Mr. Taechin “TC” Kim.

RECOGNIZING COUNCILMAN GERARD JIMENEZ
HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. CUellar. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Councilman Gerard Jimenez. Mr. Jimenez was a dedicated public servant who served Floresville, Texas as a Councilman for almost two decades. He retired from Kelly Air Force Base and later went on to study Business Administration at Texas Tech University.

Born and raised in Floresville, Councilman Jimenez had a great sense of humor and captured the essence of being an enlightened public servant for Floresville, who pushed for the advancement of the city. He was a beloved and loving husband, father, grandfather, friend, and community leader. His life was dedicated to the best interests of his community and family. He shared in the vision of economic advances and took strides to help maintain the growth of the city.

Mr. Jimenez passed away on January 6, 2020. He is survived by his wife Sylvia Leal Jimenez, and four children; Gerard Scott Jimenez and wife Serena, Christopher Michael Jimenez and wife Ashley, Jade Jimenez, and Jewel Jimenez; and his siblings Samuel, Alice, Ruby, and Gloria Jimenez. He is preceded in death by his late parents, Samuel and Mary Ann Jimenez.

Gerard will be remembered as a dedicated citizen of his community, an admirable public servant, and a close friend. The city of Floresville will declare November 8th as Gerard Jimenez Day, forever cementing his memory and service into the community he dedicated his life to serving.

Madam Speaker, I thank Councilman Gerard Jimenez for the many contributions to the City of Floresville, and express my deep appreciation for his dedication to the progress of the city.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND OPENING OF THE HALAL METROPOLIS EXHIBITION OPENING
HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of the Halal Metropolis exhibition at the Stamelos Gallery Center. Halal Metropolis celebrates our diverse Muslim population in Detroit, one of the largest and most diverse Muslim populations in the nation, and will facilitate a greater sense of understanding, unity, and respect for our Muslim neighbors statewide.

Halal Metropolis is a traveling exhibition by artist Osman Khan, photographer Razi Jafri, and historian Sally Howell. The exhibition showcases the Muslim community and explores the Muslim narrative, a significant and important voice in our state’s diverse identity. The exhibition will examine the facts, fictions, and imaginaries of Muslim populations and will adapt as it travels through different socio-political contexts and gallery spaces across the
state. In the Stamelos Gallery Center, the exhibition will particularly highlight the role that food, fashion, and holiday celebration have played in augmenting Muslim visibility in the region.

Halal Metropolis represents our community’s desire to come together to challenge assumptions and celebrate the qualities that make us unique. Specifically structured to provoke conversation, the exhibition will be a conduit for change. Halal Metropolis will increase visibility for Muslims, lead to a greater understanding of their cultures, and generate a new appreciation for their role in our state’s vibrant history.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the opening of Halal Metropolis at the Stamelos Gallery Center. The valuable exhibition will offer a unique way to appreciate our Muslim community’s important contributions to our state and recognize its deeply-rooted history.

HONORING F. ANTHONY KEATING FOR HIS 24 YEARS OF SERVICE AS CIVILIAN AIDE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Anthony Keating for his 24 years of service to our community as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for the Northern New York region.

The Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army is an unpaid volunteer who advises and supports the Secretary of the Army on issues affecting his or her region. For the past 24 years, Anthony Keating has been advising Army Secretaries on the local issues affecting Fort Drum and the surrounding active service and veteran communities in the North Country.

Mr. Keating combines his local knowledge with his nine years of active duty service to the Army when advising the secretary on policy decisions. Although he is retiring from the position specifically covering Northern New York, Mr. Keating is committed to service, as he will remain on as Civilian Aide Emeritus for all of New York State.

His deep knowledge of the community, which includes Fort Drum, and his decades of experience have made him an invaluable asset to Secretary of the Army, Ryan McCarthy and his predecessors. On behalf of New York’s 21st District, I would like to thank Mr. Keating for his service and wish him well in this new chapter in his life.

ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

HON. RON ESTES
OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, today I address the first and most fundamental right guaranteed to every individual—the right to life.

Next week marks the 47th anniversary since the tragic ruling in Roe v. Wade. In that time, more than 60 million lives have been lost to abortion.

That’s 60 million babies who were never given the chance to fulfill their potential as a future doctor, farmer, artist, or maybe Member of Congress.

Last year, I helped support efforts by the Trump administration to update Title X guidelines so that tax dollars for family planning services don’t go to abortion providers.

This year we have built on our pro-life efforts by introducing the Down Syndrome Discrimination by Abortion Prevention Act to protect the most vulnerable of the unborn.

We have accomplished great victories for life over the past three years, however we know there is more to be done.

That’s why I want to thank the hundreds of thousands of Americans from Kansas and throughout our country who will be convening in Washington next week to stand for life.

We know that research has proven what pro-life Kansans have already known—that is life is precious and it begins at conception.

As a dad of three and a Kansan, I stand in support of fellow Kansans and Americans who are a voice for the voiceless.

RECOGNIZING THE GRAND OPENING OF CITY OF HOPE IN NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA

HON. HARLEY ROUDA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I, along with Representatives GILBERT R. CISNEROS, JR., J. LUIS CORREA, MIKE LEVIN, ALAN LOWENTHAL, KATIE PORTER, and LINDA T. SANCHEZ, rise to recognize the grand opening of City of Hope in Newport Beach, California. This is City of Hope’s first Orange County location and it will make a tremendous impact in enhancing the lives of residents by providing highly specialized care and pioneering cancer research closer to home.

City of Hope is a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Each year, more than 100 million people worldwide benefit from scientific and clinical discoveries made at City of Hope.

For the first time, Orange County residents will have local access to City of Hope’s network of world-renowned cancer specialists and groundbreaking treatments.

With the opening of City of Hope’s Newport Beach location, the organization, which has been named by U.S. News & World Report as the top-ranked cancer hospital in California, fulfills its promise of providing lifesaving treatments to Orange County and launches a new era in cancer care.

City of Hope is also developing a comprehensive cancer campus in Irvine, California.

City of Hope was founded more than a century ago to address a pressing medical need. Its arrival in Orange County also answers the call of a community where nearly 20 percent of cancer patients have needed to leave the area for advanced cancer care. City of Hope is bringing the latest in personalized therapies, highly specialized physicians, and nationally recognized compassionate care to our local community, which will positively impact patient healing.

We ask that all Members join us in recognizing the extraordinary work and contributions of City of Hope and their efforts to eradicate cancer and bring tomorrow’s discoveries to the people who need them today, in Orange County and around the world.

CONGRATULATING STEVEN H. PERDUE FOR RECEIVING THE 2019 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. JACK BERGMAN
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Steven H. Perdue for receiving the 2019 Distinguished Service Award from Traverse Connect. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to his community, Steve has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

Since 1929, the Distinguished Service Award has been given to leaders who have had a tremendously positive impact on the Traverse City area. Through his decades of service to his community, Steve has shown himself to be more than deserving of this honor. Founded in 1974, Grand Traverse Industries (GTI) provides comprehensive services for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As President and CEO of GTI, Steven has led these efforts since 1980. His exceptional work has helped thousands of persons with disabilities in the Grand Traverse Area find meaningful employment.

Steve’s selflessness has been previously recognized on multiple occasions, for instance receiving the 2007 Sara Hardy Humanitarian of the Year Award from the City of Traverse City. Outside of his work at GTI, Steve has served in a variety of leadership roles in the Idaho Special Olympics, the Idaho and Michigan State Trade Associations, the TC Area Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Council, and the Traverse Bay Economic Development Corporation. He also serves on the Board of SourceAmerica, a national nonprofit that creates job opportunities for those with disabilities. The impact of Steve’s work on the people of Michigan cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Steven H. Perdue for receiving the 2019 Distinguished Service Award. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Steve all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER LAWRENCE LAVALLEY FOR HIS FIFTY YEARS OF ACTIVE SERVICE WITH THE BANGOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Firefighter Lawrence LaValley for his fifty years of active service with the Bangor Volunteer Fire Department.
Since he joined, Mr. LaValley has proven to be an instrumental member of the Bangor Volunteer Fire Department. He has served in numerous roles for the department, including membership on the board of directors, safety officer, and multiple assistant chief positions. Lawrence is the current vice-president of the department; Larry, is the current Chief; and his grandson, Justin, is the Third Assistant Chief. Throughout his 50 years of service, Lawrence has demonstrated a superb work ethic and a commitment to being an outstanding firefighter. Lawrence has been among the top five responders in the department for several years running. He has also demonstrated a commitment to his community outside the department serving as Town Justice and on the Bangor Republican Committee.

Lawrence LaValley devoted 50 years of his life to fire protection, and is an exemplary member of his community. On behalf of New York’s 21st District, I would like to thank Firefighter LaValley for a lifetime of service and dedication to keeping Bangor and the surrounding communities safe.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the United House of Prayer for All People as the church celebrates its 100th year anniversary. The United House of Prayer for All People was founded by Bishop Charles Manuel Grace in 1919 in West Wareham, MA. The church is now headquartered in the District of Columbia and has 137 places of worship in 27 states.

Bishop Charles Manuel Grace’s vision for the United House of Prayer for All People was for it to be a place of worship that also addressed the critical needs of communities devastated by social and economic injustice. The impact of the church can be seen through community development, enterprise, and improved housing throughout the United States. United House of Prayer has developed thousands of multi-family and single-family homes while maintaining affordability in neighborhoods across the country.

The church has also made a major impact on education. The late Bishop Walter McCollough, the church’s second leader, founded the McCollough Scholarship College Fund to afford young people the opportunity to pursue their dreams of higher education. The late Bishop S.C. Madison established the St. Lady D. Scholastic Achievement program to reward grade school students for maintaining good citizenship and honor roll achievement.

The United House of Prayer continues to be an extraordinary force in serving the needs of the less fortunate and impoverished citizens across this country. I am fortunate to represent several House of Prayer congregations in Virginia’s 3rd congressional district. The House of Prayer promotes youth community programs, senior citizen projects, food banks, child care, and other community projects. The church remains focused on being a place where all nations and people, irrespective of denomination or creed, can pray and worship in spirit and in truth.

The 100-year celebration of the United House of Prayer for All People is not just a celebration of bricks and mortar, it is a celebration of faith, unity, and dynamic leadership. Madison, United House of Prayer for All People, under the current leadership of Bishop C.M. Bailey, has never sought public recognition for their hard work and dedication to the community. Bishop Bailey and the church have dedicated their lives to the advancement of growth and success of communities throughout the country. I congratulate them on their 100th anniversary and I am excited to see the positive contributions they will continue to make in the years ahead.

AZERBAIJAN—BLACK JANUARY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, this month, our friend and ally, the Republic of Azerbaijan marks the 30th anniversary of “Black January.” This time period symbolizes the beginning of the end of Soviet rule over Azerbaijan, an occupation that existed for much of the 20th Century. Violent conflict erupted in Azerbaijan’s capital city of Baku on January 19–20, 1990 when Soviet troops killed over 100 Azeri demonstrators and wounded around 700.

In stark contrast to the violence of the Soviet military, the people of Azerbaijan continued their peaceful protests until declaring independence from the U.S.S.R. on October 18, 1991. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the events of Black January in Azerbaijan and honoring those who lost their lives in pursuit of freedom. The United States continues to stand with our ally and partner.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF RODOLFO KARISCH

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the public service of Chief Rodolfo Karisch as he celebrates his retirement after 30 years with the U.S. Border Patrol.

Chief Karisch retires after having served with distinction as the Chief Patrol Agent of the Rio Grande Valley Sector and Commander of the South Texas Corridor. Prior to his selection as Chief Patrol Agent of the Rio Grande Valley Sector, Rodolfo Karisch served as Chief of the Tucson and Del Rio Sectors. He also served as Acting Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Professional Responsibility. Throughout his extensive career, Chief Karisch has consistently embodied the Border Patrol’s mission and values.

Chief Karisch was a friend of mine and a steady, guiding light to his institution throughout his service. His career was dedicated to the best interests of the community and the country, and he worked tirelessly to protect our border, the town of El Paso, and his community.

I thank Chief Karisch for three decades of dedicated service and wish him many happy memories with his family and loved ones during his retirement. It is often said that a retirement is an ending, but retirement is also a well-deserved beginning to new adventures and opportunities. I wish him and his family all the best in the future.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to recognize the legacy of Chief Rodolfo Karisch.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND RE-OPENING OF THE MICHIGAN UNION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON
OF IDAHO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, for personal reasons, I was unable to attend votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 18—H. Res. 798 on
agreeing to Res; YEA on Roll Call No. 19—H.R. 1230 Amend. No. 3; YEA on Roll Call No. 20—H.R. 1230 MTR; and NAY on Roll Call No. 21—H.R. 130 on passage.

HONORING WATERTOWN MAYOR JOSEPH BUTLER, JR. FOR HIS APPOINTMENT AS CIVILIAN AIDE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Watertown Mayor Joseph Butler, Jr. for his appointment as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. Joseph Butler, Jr. is a lifelong resident of Watertown, New York, a pillar of the community, business leader, and public servant. He served as a member of the Watertown City Council for eight years and as Mayor for four years. Mr. Butler is currently the president of the Watertown Local Development Corporation, a lector for St. Patrick's Church, a volunteer and Special Olympics coach, and a board member of the North Country Regional Economic Development Council. He has also held positions with the Sacred Heart Foundation, Jefferson Community College, and the American Red Cross.

His deep knowledge of the community, which includes Fort Drum, and his decades of experience as an invaluable asset to Secretary of the Army, Ryan McCarthy. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to thank Mr. Butler for his service and congratulate him on this appointment. I look forward to his success in this new role.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF INDIANA'S RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of the State of Indiana's ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. It was on this date a century ago that the Indiana General Assembly did finally convene, the states to vote in favor of ratification before the states would no longer be denied to women.

With the struggle continuing on into the 20th Century, those fighting for women's suffrage developed new connections and organizations, strengthening their forces in this march towards equality. Groups such as the Indiana Federation of Clubs, the Women's Franchise League, the Legislative Council of Indiana, and the Equal Suffrage Association employed new, more high-proﬁle tactics such as auto tours, parades, car rallies, and other major grassroots campaigns, in an effort to increase support for their cause. Leaders including Indianapolis natives Grace Julian Clarke, Dr. Amelia Keller, and Carrie Barness Ross, along with Ida Husted Harper of Terre Haute, Marie Stuart Edwards of Peru, and many others, recruited Hoosier women from all ethnic, socio-economic, and religious backgrounds to their ranks, increasing the spectrum of voices calling for equality and opportunity. As a result of their continued efforts the suffragettes were successful in persuading the Indiana General Assembly to pass the Maston-McKinley Partial Suffrage Act in 1917. This act granted women the right to vote in local elections. However, a legal ruling from the Indiana State Supreme Court struck down the law shortly before the 1917 municipal elections.

Undeterred, these brave, intrepid heroes continued their struggle. Then in 1919, the dam of inequality ﬁnally began to break as the United States House or Representatives and the United States Senate passed the 19th Amendment on June 4, 1919. The anticipated vote total in the U.S. House of Representa-
tives was predicted to be so narrow that supporters of women’s suﬀrage helped carry Hoo-
dam political and help Heinrich Born of Rochester, Indiana, from his hospital bed to the House floor so he could cast his vote in favor of the bill. After passing both houses of the

U.S. Congress, the proposed amendment was sent to the states, needing three-quarters of the states to vote in favor of ratification before the amendment could be adopted. Back in Indiana, after resisting demands to call a special session to ratify the 19th Amendment, the Indiana General Assembly at ﬁnally convened, and on January 16, 1920, Indiana became the 26th state to ratify the 19th Amendment. After decades of struggle, the power of the vote was extended to women with the adoption of the 19th Amendment on August 26, 1920. Forever more the law would guarantee that the right of citizens of the United States to vote no longer be denied to women.

Today, a century after this landmark moment, women across our country continue to lead the United States into the future with the same zeal and steely determination that sparked a political revolution and allowed our country to move another step closer to living out the ideals of its founders.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SELWYN SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of the Selwyn School's Argyle, Texas Campus and the ribbon-cutting of its newly constructed Early Childhood Center. As a proud alumna of Selwyn, I celebrate the school's achievements and join the staff, faculty, students and parents in looking forward optimistically as Selwyn renews its mission of equipping future leaders as productive citizens from a new perspective.

Founded in 1957, the Selwyn School is an independent, non-sectarian, college-preparatory school serving pre-school through grade twelve students. A member of the National Association of Independent Schools, Selwyn provides the most thoroughly individualized, comprehensive and developmentally appropriate array of student-focused experiences in North Texas. Selwyn graduates are independent thinkers and creative problem solvers trained to embrace complex challenges with empathy and innovative thought to advance the human condition.

Resilient, emotionally intelligent and globally aware, Selwyn graduates are challenged to elevate the human experience by encouraging holistic development through age appropriate challenges to foster problem-solving, emotional intelligence and social responsibility. Conducting these academic exercises with the expectation of high academic standards, graduates form the necessary academic and character-building tools necessary in adulthood to identify and successfully seek solutions to reponsibly address both the known and not yet identified challenges the world will present them in adulthood.

As an exciting backdrop for these lessons, Selwyn relocated in March 2017 to one of North Texas' most picturesque settings. The idyllic 10-acre campus provides an environment for students to explore, promoting environmental awareness and unique outdoor education opportunities. From growing their own food in the school
gardens to creating their own businesses, Selwyn creates practical and challenging opportunities for students of all ages to engage in creating solutions for the problems of their communities.

I know their commitment to the mission well, as Selwyn was an integral part of the development of the focus, curiosity and determination I've relied upon through my pursuit of postgraduate studies, success as a physician and business owner, and as a Member of Congress. Even though 50 years have passed since my graduation, I rely daily in my current legislative role on the foundations Selwyn instructors developed within my young mind. In doing so, I join other graduates, including entrepreneurs and philanthropists, who daily fulfill their life’s work in service to their fellow man.

I am honored to represent the Selwyn School both as a graduate and as a constituency I am fortunate to serve as a part of the 26th Congressional District. I look forward to witnessing the continued application of Selwyn’s mission to the success of their students and the growth and development of this new campus I join them in celebrating today.
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 5430, United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act.

Senate received the House managers to exhibit the Articles of Impeachment.

The Chief Justice and Members of the Senate were administered the oath to sit as a Court of Impeachment.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S255–S283

Measures Introduced: Seventeen bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3201–3217, S.J. Res. 69, and S. Res. 474–478. Pages S276–77

Measures Passed:

Authorizing Representation by Senate Legal Counsel: Senate agreed to S. Res. 474, to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Martin F. McMahon v. Senator Ted Cruz, et al. Page S261

Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act: Senate passed S. 3201, to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances. Pages S261–62

Department of Veterans Affairs Pay Limitation: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 3084, to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the limitation on pay for certain high-level employees and officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the bill was then passed. Page S262

Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 886, to direct the Attorney General to establish and carry out a Veteran Treatment Court Program, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Moran (for McSally) Amendment No. 1283, in the nature of a substitute. Page S262

United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act: By 89 yeas to 10 nays (Vote No. 14), Senate passed 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. Pages S256–61, S262–66

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 78 yeas to 21 nays (Vote No. 13), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to waive all applicable sections of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and applicable budget resolutions, with respect to the bill. Subsequently, the point of order that the emergency designation on page 233, lines 4 through 8 of the bill was in violation of section 314(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, was not sustained, and thus the point of order fell. Page S265

Congratulating the North Dakota State University Bison Football Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 476, congratulating the North Dakota State University Bison football team for winning the 2019 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Championship Subdivision title. Page S282

National School Counseling Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 477, designating the week of February 3 through 7, 2020, as “National School Counseling Week”. Page S282

National School Choice Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 478, designating the week of January 26 through February 1, 2020, as “National School Choice Week”. Page S282
Impeachment of President Trump: Senate proceeded to the consideration of the articles of impeachment against the President of the United States, taking the following actions:

Receiving the House Managers: The Senate received the managers appointed by the House of Representatives who presented and exhibited Articles of Impeachment against Donald John Trump, President of the United States.

Committee to Escort Chief Justice: The Chair, pursuant to the order of January 15, 2020, on behalf of the Majority Leader, and the Democratic Leader appointed Senators Blunt, Leahy, Graham, and Feinstein to escort the Chief Justice of the United States into the Senate Chamber.

Administering the Oath to Chief Justice: Pursuant to Rule IV of the Senate Rules on Impeachment and the United States Constitution, the presiding officer administered the oath to John G. Roberts, Chief Justice of the United States.

Administering the Oath to Senators: In conformance with Article I, section 3, clause 6 of the United States Constitution, and the Senate Rules on Impeachment, the Chief Justice administered the oath to the Members of the United States Senate.

Trial Summons—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the summons be issued in the usual form provided that the President may have until 6 p.m. on Saturday, January 18, 2020 to file his answer with the Secretary of the Senate, which shall be spread upon the Journal, and the House of Representatives have until 12 noon on Monday, January 20, 2020 to file its replication with the Secretary of the Senate; and that the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to print as a Senate document these documents filed by the parties together, to be available for all parties.

Trial Briefs—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that if the House of Representatives wishes to file a trial brief, it be filed with the Secretary of the Senate by 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 18, 2020; that if the President wishes to file a trial brief, it be filed with the Secretary of the Senate by 12 noon on Monday, January 20, 2020; that if the House of Representatives wishes to file a rebuttal brief, it be filed with the Secretary of the Senate by 12 noon on Tuesday, January 21, 2020; and that the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to print as a Senate document all documents filed by the parties together, to be available for all parties.

Furniture, Equipment, and Laptops—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that in recognition of the unique requirements raised by the impeachment trial of Donald John Trump, President of the United States, the Sergeant at Arms shall install appropriate equipment and furniture in the Senate Chamber during all times that Senate is sitting for trial with the Chief Justice of the United States presiding, the appropriate equipment, furniture, and computer equipment in accordance with the allocations and provisions at the desk; and that they be printed in the Record.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate sitting as a Court of Impeachment adjourn until 1 p.m., on Tuesday, January 21, 2020.

Impeachment Reporting—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, from 10 a.m., to 11 a.m., while the Senate is sitting as a Court of Impeachment, and notwithstanding the Senate’s adjournment, the Senate can receive House messages and executive matters, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters, and Senators be allowed to submit statements for the Record, bills and resolutions and cosponsor requests, and where applicable the Secretary of the Senate, on behalf of the Presiding Officer, be permitted to refer such matters.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:

Enrolled Bills Presented:

Executive Communications:

Petitions and Memorials:

Executive Reports of Committees:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Quorum Calls: One quorum call was taken today. (Total—1)

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—14)
Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:45 a.m. and adjourned at 4:01 p.m. on Friday, January 17, 2020. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S282.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of James E. McPherson, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army, and Charles Williams, of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, who was introduced by Senator Blunt, both of the Department of Defense, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 157 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Joshua M. Kindred, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, Scott H. Rash, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, 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.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 27 public bills, H.R. 5625–5651; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 801–803, were introduced. Pages H324–25

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H326–27

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows: H.J. Res. 79, removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–378). Pages H324

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H303

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by voice vote. Pages H303, H315

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability”: The House passed H.J. Res. 76, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability”, by a yea-and-nay vote of 231 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 22. Pages H305–15

H. Res. 790, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1230) and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 76) was agreed to Tuesday, January 14th. Page H315

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 801, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. Page H315

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, January 17th. Page H315

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Herrera Beutler wherein she resigned from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Page H318

Joint Economic Committee—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee: Representative Carolyn B. Maloney (NY), to rank after Representative Beyer. Pages H322–23

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H315.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H314–15.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 12:30 p.m.
Committee Meetings
No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
2 p.m., Friday, January 17
Senate Chamber
Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10:30 a.m., Friday, January 17
House Chamber
Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10:30 a.m.

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