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No. 10

House of Representatives

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

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

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 CUELLAR 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 perdured 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.

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 led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests

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. He 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.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H303

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 refocus on the ability to recognize every person based on their character, their skills and abilities, and not based on race.

RECOGNIZING BRADEN 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 of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 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.

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.

I 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 all 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 and to revise and extend his remarks.)

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.

It is approximately 610 feet from the House desk to the Senate desk. It took 28 days for Speaker PELOSI to send the articles to the Senate at a rate of about 11 inches per hour.

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats never thought this was an urgent matter of national security, as was stated. Urgent matters don't move at 11 inches per hour. Indeed, there was time to use about a dozen different souvenir pens to sign the document one letter at a time yesterday.

The dishonesty, the misdirection of House Democrats surrounding this impeachment process—well, the American public has had 28-plus days to figure this out.

Thankfully, the Senate is going to take up the USMCA today before they get balled 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.

□ 0915

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 8 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 care 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 painfully 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 that 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 to go back home and tell 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 interest.

Any school that has taken advantage of students must be held accountable. Students who have been lied to and 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 regulation that was 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 forcing them to close leaving 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 59 in the first 20 years 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 for-profit colleges, accountable 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 not provided by 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 higher education 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 more than 40,000 of these students are from 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 servicemen 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 an honest attempt to address these grievances and give students their dignity back. Rather, we have here today a new rule that makes it nearly impossible for students to truly regain what has been lost due to this large-scale con job.

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.

□ 0930

Ms. 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 today 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 maligned 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 1½ minutes 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 on this issue.

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. From 2007 to 2011, I ran the workforce system 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.

SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT,

Alexandria, VA, January 15, 2020.

Hon. SUSAN DAVIS,

Chairman, 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 CHAIRMAN DAVIS AND RANKING MEMBER SMUCKER: Every new rule comes with the risk of unintended negative impact even when the best of intentions exists on both sides. This is particularly prevalent 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 provide perspective on 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, asserted that certain elements of the revisions had the potential to be “injurious and burdensome” and could cause many schools financial harm. These concerns referred mainly to the standard by which institutions would be judged to have misrepresented the conditions of a borrower’s loan, broadening of 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 committees to address, among other things, the concerns raised by HBCUs and other Minority Serving Institutions that primarily serve first-generation, low-income 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 made a commitment to consumer education for students and their families prior to them enrolling in college instead of having them litigate poor college choice decisions after-the-fact when they’ve poured significant amounts of time and money into earning a degree without any reasonable hope of achieving a fair return on their investment. I’m 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.

While the resulting new rules are not perfect, they go a long way toward addressing the challenges of students and colleges. The HBCU Community had major concerns about the initial 2016 revisions because they placed all of the accountability on the schools and

had a low threshold for punitive action. In addition, many college leaders disagreed with the “triggers” for administrative action. 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 only 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.

All 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.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share some quotes from the letter.

“This is particularly prevalent in higher education—a space I know well following 7 years as the president and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and having served as 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 provide perspective on the U.S. Department of Education’s updated rule governing borrower defense to repayment. . . .

“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. . . .

"All 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."

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

Mrs. 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.

Fortunately, the law provides relief, but instead of maintaining the Obama-era borrower defense rule, which provides a fair and streamlined process to provide debt relief to defrauded students, the Department of Education has finalized a new borrower defense rule that prevents an overwhelming majority of defrauded students from getting relief.

We should reject this new rule and provide meaningful relief to defrauded students. Making defrauded students whole is the right thing to do, but it is not the only thing we should do.

We must ensure that students and taxpayers are not defrauded in the first place. That is why we should pass the College Affordability Act, a comprehensive overhaul of our higher education system that cracks down on low-quality, predatory schools. The College Affordability Act holds schools accountable for students' success and cuts the cost of college for students and families across the country.

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. 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, must be held 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 categorizes the schools we call for-profits. 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 capitalistic system, yet 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.

Republicans care about all students, all institutions, and all taxpayers. It is a shame my friends across the aisle feel otherwise.

Back in 2016, the previous administration let "selective, regionally accredited liberal arts schools" off the hook from facing consequences for inflating data in marketing materials.

Students who filed a borrower defense claim in this situation would be denied relief. Why? Because President Obama's administration believed this theoretical school and the education the student subsequently received is somehow superior to other institutions. Justice was not served in this example.

Before my colleagues argue that this example is theoretical and rarely happens, let me list a few examples, without naming names.

A public flagship university gave U.S. News incorrect information about alumni contributions from 1999 to 2019.

Last year, five schools were unranked from U.S. News & World Report after all five of those schools—two public and three private not-for-profits—acknowledged they provided incorrect information.

In 2018, a public university admitted, over the course of several years, that it intentionally—intentionally—submitted false data to boost the rankings of its online MBA program.

Other examples in the past decade include prominent institutions fudging acceptance rates, SAT scores, high school GPAs, and graduation rates.

The Trump administration recognizes the borrower defense to repayment process must be fair to students, taxpayers, and institutions. I am glad they struck a balance that gives due process to all parties involved.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose H.J. Res. 76, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Nevada has 21 minutes remaining.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, before I yield, I would like to clarify for the record that this example that was just included by Ms. FOXX was an example that was included in the rule in 2016, and in fact, there were no claims filed under that example.

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

□ 0945

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.

According to the Department's own estimate, only about 3 percent of the loan debt held by defrauded borrowers would be dismissed under the new rule. That is not justice for victims of fraud.

We must also continue our work to update the Higher Education Act to prevent unscrupulous institutions from harming students and taxpayers in the first place. The College Affordability Act will hold institutions accountable and make college more affordable and equitable for everyone.

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).

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.

And let's just look at where we are. This is 20 years this has been on the books. For 20 years, 60 cases were filed—60. I will emphasize that. Since 2015, at the end of the previous administration, 287,000 cases have been filed.

So we all want to know if there is fraud. We don't want fraud. We don't want people harmed by fraud, individuals harmed by fraud to have to pay that back. And remember, the money is going to our hardworking taxpayers.

So that is all this rules says. It says that there is fraud; you are harmed by fraud; and you don't have to pay it back as an individual.

Let's just look at an example of that.

What if the fraud of a school is they advertise a work placement rate of 85 percent and it is only 50 percent. Well, that is fraud. But if you were one of the 50 percent who got a job, were you harmed? You got your education; you got a job; you moved forward. Should the taxpayers forgive your student loans when you got the education and got the job that you were moving for?

That is all. We are trying to make it reasonable. The 287,000 cases that are sitting before Secretary DeVos would be under the old rule. This is the new rule going forward, so people will know what it is and understand that, one, we are fighting fraud. If you were harmed by fraud and you can prove that as an individual, you still get your loans forgiven.

I think it is reasonable. I think that it sets a process in place that people can understand. It has it going forward. I support the rule, and I oppose this resolution.

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

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

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 a foothold in the middle class through higher education.

In what amounts to a giveaway to predatory, for-profit colleges, Secretary DeVos has dismantled a crucial protection for students who were defrauded by shady institutions that saddled them with student loan debt, provided them with subpar education, and issued them useless degrees.

Borrower defense to repayment was intended to provide full student loan debt forgiveness to defrauded students. But Secretary DeVos has issued a new rule which makes it harder for students to prove that they were defrauded and fails to provide students with the full student loan debt relief that they are legally entitled to.

Now, to make this even worse, she eliminated protections for students whose schools shut down, shut down before they completed their programs, 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 student debt unjustly accrued.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. 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. 76.

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, the majority of this Chamber seeks to turn back the clock on borrower defense, leading to dangerous consequences for students, those repaying their loans, and the American taxpayer.

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 bil-

lion. 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 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.

Mrs. 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 didn't understand they had the right to file those claims.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (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' 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, guilty, 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, and that is exactly why they are having problems. We have been pointing that out over and 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.

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 76, which was 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 students are her number one priority, 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 to deprive them of 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 would also like 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 any students who are being harmed are being harmed as a result of that.

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

□ 1000

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 taxpayers 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 streamlined process 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 district in 2016, 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 that 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 an act or omission which led the individual to borrow a loan. 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, students who suffer 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 concerned 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 small 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. Institutions like these would be on the hook for debt and could close due to financial pressures. This would deny students their education, act as an economic drain on the community benefiting from the institution's business, and harm taxpayers who may ultimately be responsible to pay off the loans.

It is reasonable to conclude that the Obama administration's borrower defense rule could be the deciding factor in colleges prematurely closing. In fact, the Obama administration estimated it would have the effect of closing 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.

Before coming 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 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 the 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 do agree 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, strengthened accountability on all institutions of higher education by ensuring that each and every school is held to the same standard, not just the taxpaying 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-era borrower defense rule, ignored 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 tax-

payers 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 gentlewoman from Nevada has 11½ 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.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I thank Representatives BOBBY SCOTT and SUSIE LEE for their leadership on this important resolution. I rise to support H.J. Res. 76 which blocks Secretary DeVos' attempts to undermine the much-needed borrower defense rule.

□ 1015

The original rule was implemented in 2016 to cancel the debt of those students defrauded by their colleges. The Secretary's replacement rule is shameful. It would cancel only 3 percent of the student loans that result from school misconduct.

While totally unacceptable, the Secretary's actions are nothing new. The for-profit college industry has been exploiting students for decades, and I have been fighting them back for just as long.

As an assemblywoman in California, I authored one of the Nation's first

laws regulating for-profit schools. As a Congresswoman, I passed the 85/15 rule, which limited the amount of Federal funding for-profit colleges receive from taxpayers.

In 2015, when the for-profit Corinthian Colleges closed down after years of fraud and misconduct, I was one of the Members of Congress to endorse and support the Corinthian 100, a group of former students who refused to pay back loans accrued while attending Corinthian.

This Congress, I continue fighting for students. Last year, the House Financial Services Committee held two hearings examining the student loan crisis. Last month, the committee approved three bills that will provide strong student borrower protections, including for those harmed by for-profit colleges.

Congress should not stand idly by while Secretary DeVos tries to make it easier for students to get defrauded by for-profit schools.

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

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 New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, Michele Kernizan 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.

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.

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 these students to receive the relief that 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, DeVos rewrote 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 much 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 gentlewoman from Nevada has 3 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 2 minutes remaining.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I have 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 exe-

cuting. 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 struggling 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 predispute 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 moving forward. 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,
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER,
Washington, DC, December 18, 2019.
Hon. RICHARD DURBIN,
Washington, DC.

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 right to group relief. 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 substantial 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 has been processed, we will continue to demand fair and timely decisions. The rule that the Department of Education has promulgated flagrantly denies defrauded veterans these dignities, and The American Legion calls on Congress to overturn this regulatory action.

Senator Durbin, The American Legion applauds your leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our nation's veterans and their families.

For God & Country,
JAMES W. "BILL" OXFORD,
National Commander.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Boston, Massachusetts, January 14, 2020.

Senator DICK DURBIN,
Washington, DC.
Representative SUSIE LEE,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DURBIN AND REPRESENTATIVE LEE: We, the undersigned Attorneys General of Massachusetts, California, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawai'i, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington write to

express our support for the resolution of disapproval that you have introduced regarding the U.S. Department of Education's ("Department") 2019 Borrower Defense Rule ("2019 Rule") pursuant to the Congressional Review Act. In issuing the 2019 Rule, the Department has abdicated its Congressionally-mandated responsibility to protect students and taxpayers from the misconduct of unscrupulous schools. The rule provides no realistic prospect for borrowers to discharge their loans when they have been defrauded by predatory for-profit schools, and it eliminates financial responsibility requirements for those same institutions. If this rule goes into effect, the result will be disastrous for students while providing a windfall to abusive schools.

The 2019 Rule squanders and reverses recent progress the Department has made in protecting students from fraud and abuse. Three years ago, the Department completed a thorough rulemaking process addressing borrower defense and financial responsibility, in which the views of numerous schools, stakeholders, and public commenters were considered and incorporated into a comprehensive set of regulations. The regulations, promulgated by the Department in November 2016 ("2016 Rule"), made substantial progress toward achieving the Department's then-stated goal of providing defrauded borrowers with a consistent, clear, fair, and transparent process to seek debt relief. At the same time, the 2016 Rule protected taxpayers by holding schools accountable that engage in misconduct and ensuring that financially troubled schools provide the government with protection against the risks they create.

The Department's new rule would simply rescind and replace its 2016 Rule, reversing all of its enhanced protections for students and its accountability measures for for-profit schools. The Department's 2019 Rule provides an entirely unfair and unworkable process for defrauded students to obtain loan relief and will do nothing to deter and hold accountable schools that cheat their students. Among its numerous flaws, the Department's new rule places insurmountable evidentiary burdens on student borrowers with meritorious claims. The rule requires student borrowers to prove intentional or reckless misconduct on the part of their schools, an extraordinarily demanding standard not consistent with state laws governing liability for unfair and deceptive conduct. Moreover, even where a school has intentionally or recklessly harmed its students, it is difficult to imagine how students would be able to obtain the evidence necessary to prove intent or recklessness for an administrative application to the Department. The rule also inappropriately requires student borrowers to prove financial harm beyond the intrinsic harm caused by incurring federal student loan debt as a result of fraud, and establishes a three-year time bar on borrower defense claims, even though students typically do not learn until years later that they were defrauded by their schools. Compounding these obstacles, the rule arbitrarily eliminates the process by which relief can be sought on a group level, permitting those schools that have committed the most egregious and systemic misconduct to benefit from their wrongdoing at the expense of borrowers with meritorious claims who are unaware of or unable to access relief.

We are uniquely well-situated to understand the devastating effects that the 2019 Rule would have on the lives of student borrowers and their families. State attorneys general serve an important role in the regulation of private, postsecondary institutions. Our investigations and enforcement actions have repeatedly revealed that numerous for-

profit schools have deceived and defrauded students, and employed other unlawful tactics to line their coffers with federal student-loan funds. We have witnessed firsthand the heartbreaking devastation to borrowers and their families. Recently, for example, state attorneys general played a critical role in uncovering widespread misconduct at Career Education Corporation, Education Management Corporation, the Art Institute and Argosy schools operated by the Dream Center, ITT Technical Institute, Corinthian Colleges, American Career Institute and others, and then working with the Department to secure borrower-defense relief for tens of thousands of defrauded students. Though this work, we have spoken with numerous students who, while seeking new opportunities for themselves and their families, were lured into programs with the promise of employment opportunities and higher earnings, only to be left with little to show for their efforts aside from unaffordable debt.

A robust and fair borrower defense rule is critical for ensuring that student borrowers and taxpayers are not left bearing the costs of institutional misconduct. The Department's new rule instead empowers predatory for-profit schools and cuts off relief to victimized students. During the comment period on the 2019 Rule, we submitted these and other objections to the Department. Rather than engaging with our offices, the Department ignored our comments and left our concerns unaddressed. We commend and support your efforts to disapprove the 2019 Rule to protect students and taxpayers. Congress must hold predatory institutions accountable for their misconduct and provide relief to defrauded student borrowers and, by enacting your resolution of disapproval, ensure that the 2016 Rule remains the operative borrower defense regulation.

Sincerely,
Maura Healey, Massachusetts Attorney General; Kathleen Jennings, Delaware Attorney General; Clare E. Connors, Hawai'i Attorney General; Tom Miller, Iowa Attorney General; Brian E. Frosh, Maryland Attorney General; Keith Ellison, Minnesota Attorney General; Hector Balderas, New Mexico Attorney General; Xavier Becerra, California Attorney General; Karl A. Racine, District of Columbia Attorney General; Kwame Raoul, Illinois Attorney General; Aaron M. Frey, Maine Attorney General; Dana Nessel, Michigan Attorney General; Gurbir S. Grewal, New Jersey Attorney General; Letitia James, New York Attorney General; Joshua H. Stein, North Carolina Attorney General; Josh Shapiro, Pennsylvania Attorney General; Mark R. Herring, Virginia Attorney General; Ellen F. Rosenblum, Oregon Attorney General; Thomas J. Donovan, Jr., Vermont Attorney General; Bob Ferguson, Washington State Attorney General.

DECEMBER 9, 2019.

Senator DICK DURBIN,
Washington, DC.
Representative SUSIE LEE,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DURBIN AND REPRESENTATIVE LEE: As 57 organizations representing and advocating for students, families, 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 and taxpayers 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 estimates that only 3 percent of the loans that result 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 student borrowers who have been deceived and misled by their schools. It requires applicants to meet thresholds that make it almost 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 intended to deceive them or acted recklessly, although students have no ability to access evidence that might show this intent. And the rule stipulates that student loans taken by students under false pretenses are insufficient evidence of financial harm to allow the loans to be cancelled.

Additionally, the 2019 rule eliminates the promise of automatic loan relief to eligible students whose school closed before they could graduate. 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.

Many of us wrote to the Department in August 2018 in response to the notice of proposed rulemaking and offered carefully considered recommendations. However, the Department rejected our recommendations that would have provided a fair process that protects students and taxpayer dollars. Instead, the new rule would do little to provide relief to students who have been lied to, and even less to dissuade colleges from systematically engaging in deceptive and illegal recruitment tactics. Moreover, a borrower defense rule that fails to adequately protect students harms the most vulnerable students, including first-generation college students, Black and Latino students, and military-connected students, who are targeted by and disproportionately enroll in predatory for-profit colleges.

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 took major steps to provide a path to loan forgiveness for the hundreds of thousands of students who attended schools where misconduct has already been well documented.

Signed,

AFL-CIO, AFSCME, Allied Progress, American Association of University Professors, American Federation of Teachers, Americans for Financial Reform, Association of Young Americans (AYA), Campaign for America's Future, Center for Public Interest Law, Center for Responsible Lending, Children's Advocacy Institute, CLASP, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues, Consumer Action, Consumer Advocacy and Protection Society (CAPS) at Berkeley Law, Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Federal of California.

Demos, Duke Consumer Rights Project, East Bay Community Law Center, Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath), The Education Trust, Empire Justice Center, Feminist Majority Foundation, Government Accountability Project, Higher Education Loan Coalition (HELCO), Hildreth Institute, Housing and Economic Rights Advocates, The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS), Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition, NAACP, National Association for College Admission Counseling.

National Association of Consumer Advocates, National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys (NACBA), National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients), National Education Association, National Urban League, New America Higher Education Program, New Jersey Citizen Action, One Wisconsin Now, PHENOM (Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts), Project on Predatory Student Lending, Public Citizen, Public Counsel.

Public Good Law Center, Public Law Center, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC), Student Debt Crisis, Student Defense, Student Veterans of America, Third Way, U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), UnidosUS, Veterans Education Success, Veterans for Common Sense, Young Invincibles.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 76 and to reject Secretary DeVos' 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. 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 included multiple 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.

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's 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 instructions to access the evidence provided the borrower so that they have an advantage when attempting to undermine these claims.

Simply put, Secretary DeVos' Borrowers Defense rule rigs 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 question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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]

YEAS—231

Adams	Davis, Rodney	Johnson (TX)
Aguilar	Dean	Kaptur
Allred	DeFazio	Katko
Axne	DeGette	Keating
Barragán	DeLauro	Kelly (IL)
Bass	DelBene	Kennedy
Beatty	Delgado	Khanna
Bera	Demings	Kildee
Beyer	DeSaulnier	Kilmer
Bishop (GA)	Deutch	Kim
Blumenauer	Dingell	Kind
Blunt Rochester	Doggett	Krishnamoorthi
Bonamici	Doyle, Michael	Kuster (NH)
Boyle, Brendan	F.	Lamb
Brindisi	Engel	Langevin
Brown (MD)	Escobar	Larsen (WA)
Brownley (CA)	Eshoo	Larson (CT)
Bustos	Espallat	Lawrence
Butterfield	Evans	Lawson (FL)
Carbajal	Finkenauer	Lee (CA)
Cárdenas	Fitzpatrick	Lee (NV)
Carson (IN)	Fletcher	Levin (CA)
Cartwright	Foster	Levin (MI)
Case	Frankel	Lieu, Ted
Casten (IL)	Fudge	Lipinski
Castor (FL)	Garamendi	Loeb
Castro (TX)	Garcia (IL)	Lofgren
Chu, Judy	Garcia (TX)	Lowenthal
Cicilline	Golden	Lowe
Cisneros	Gomez	Lujan
Clark (MA)	Gonzalez (TX)	Luria
Clarke (NY)	Gottheimer	Lynch
Cleaver	Green, Al (TX)	Malinowski
Clyburn	Grijalva	Maloney,
Cohen	Haaland	Carolyn B.
Connolly	Harder (CA)	Maloney, Sean
Cooper	Hastings	Matsui
Correa	Hayes	McAdams
Costa	Heck	McBath
Courtney	Higgins (NY)	McCollum
Cox (CA)	Himes	McEeachin
Craig	Horn, Kendra S.	McGovern
Crist	Horsford	McNerney
Crow	Houlahan	Meeks
Cuellar	Hoyer	Meng
Cunningham	Huffman	Moore
Davids (KS)	Jackson Lee	Morelle
Davis (CA)	Jayapal	Moulton
Davis, Danny K.	Jeffries	Mucarsel-Powell
	Johnson (GA)	Murphy (FL)

Nadler	Ruppersberger	Takano
Napolitano	Rush	Thompson (CA)
Neal	Ryan	Thompson (MS)
Neguse	Sánchez	Titus
Norcross	Sarbanes	Tlaib
O'Halleran	Scanlon	Tonko
Ocasio-Cortez	Schakowsky	Torres (CA)
Omar	Schiff	Torres Small
Pallone	Schneider	(NM)
Panetta	Schrader	Trahan
Pappas	Schrier	Trone
Payne	Scott (VA)	Underwood
Perlmutter	Scott, David	Van Drew
Peters	Serrano	Vargas
Peterson	Sewell (AL)	Veasey
Phillips	Shalala	Vela
Pingree	Sherman	Velázquez
Pocan	Sherrill	Visclosky
Porter	Sires	Wasserman
Pressley	Slotkin	Schultz
Price (NC)	Smith (NJ)	Waters
Quigley	Smith (WA)	Watson Coleman
Raskin	Soto	Welch
Rice (NY)	Spanberger	Wexton
Richmond	Speier	Wild
Rose (NY)	Stanton	Wilson (FL)
Rouda	Stevens	Yarmuth
Roybal-Allard	Suozzi	Young
Ruiz	Swalwell (CA)	

NAYS—180

Abraham	Gosar	Olson
Aderholt	Granger	Palazzo
Allen	Graves (GA)	Palmer
Amash	Graves (LA)	Pence
Amodei	Graves (MO)	Perry
Armstrong	Green (TN)	Posey
Arrington	Griffith	Ratcliffe
Babin	Grothman	Reed
Bacon	Guest	Reschenthaler
Baird	Guthrie	Rice (SC)
Balderson	Hagedorn	Riggleman
Banks	Harris	Roby
Barr	Hartzler	Rodgers (WA)
Bergman	Hern, Kevin	Roe, David P.
Biggs	Herrera Beutler	Rogers (AL)
Bilirakis	Hice (GA)	Rogers (KY)
Bishop (NC)	Higgins (LA)	Rooney (FL)
Bost	Hill (AR)	Rose, John W.
Brady	Hollingsworth	Rouzer
Brooks (AL)	Hudson	Rutherford
Brooks (IN)	Huizenga	Scalise
Buchanan	Hurd (TX)	Schweikert
Buck	Johnson (LA)	Scott, Austin
Bucshon	Johnson (OH)	Sensenbrenner
Budd	Johnson (SD)	Shimkus
Burchett	Jordan	Simpson
Burgess	Joyce (OH)	Smith (MO)
Calvert	Joyce (PA)	Smith (NE)
Carter (GA)	Keller	Smucker
Carter (TX)	Kelly (MS)	Stauber
Chabot	Kelly (PA)	Stefanik
Cheney	King (IA)	Steil
Cline	King (NY)	Steube
Cloud	Kinzinger	Stewart
Cole	Kustoff (TN)	Stivers
Collins (GA)	LaHood	Taylor
Comer	LaMalfa	Thompson (PA)
Conaway	Lamborn	Thornberry
Crenshaw	Latta	Timmons
Curtis	Long	Tipton
Davidson (OH)	Lucas	Turner
DesJarlais	Luetkemeyer	Upton
Diaz-Balart	Marshall	Wagner
Duncan	Massie	Walberg
Dunn	Mast	Walden
Emmer	McCarthy	Walorski
Estes	McCaul	Waltz
Ferguson	McHenry	Watkins
Fleischmann	McKinley	Weber (TX)
Flores	Meadows	Webster (FL)
Fortenberry	Meuser	Wenstrup
Fox (NC)	Miller	Westerman
Fulcher	Mitchell	Williams
Gaetz	Moolenaar	Wilson (SC)
Gallagher	Mooney (WV)	Wittman
Gianforte	Mullin	Womack
Gibbs	Murphy (NC)	Woodall
Gohmert	Newhouse	Wright
Gonzalez (OH)	Norman	Yoho
Gooden	Nunes	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—18

Bishop (UT)	Gallego	Marchant
Byrne	Holding	McClintock
Clay	Kirkpatrick	Pascrell
Cook	Lesko	Roy
Crawford	Lewis	Spano
Gabbard	Loudermilk	Walker

□ 1057

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. PASCRELL. 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 rollcall Vote 22, H.J. Res. 76.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was absent today due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: “yea” on rollcall No. 22.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I missed one vote on January 16, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 22.

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 Ms. 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.

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.

□ 1100

RECOGNIZING THE WEST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate some exceptional young people from my district, the cheerleaders from West Orange High School, known as the Mountaineers.

They have one dream this year. They wanted to compete in the National Cheerleading Championships. They knew it wouldn't be easy. It would require hours of practice. They would have to work and make every routine perfect, and they would have to defy expectations.

They went to the regional qualifier in Pennsylvania with one goal, and when the routines were done and the points were counted, they earned a trip to the national championships.

In February they are off to Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando to battle with the best high school cheerleading squads in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I hope they bring home that trophy to West Orange. But whether they do or not, they will always be champions to me and all of us in the 10th District of New Jersey.

CONGRATULATING PATTI PRICE ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mrs. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the hard work of Patricia Price, who has devoted the past 42 years to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Tri-State, an organization in Huntington, West Virginia, which provides volunteer mentors for children in adverse living situations.

Patti came to Big Brothers Big Sisters in 1978 fresh out of graduate school with a servant's heart. She started as a case worker, eventually rising to become the executive director. Throughout her career she committed herself to developing a consistent, encouraging, and safe environment for underprivileged children in our region.

Under her leadership, Patti organized hundreds of volunteers and staff, and created countless successful fundraising initiatives. Through these efforts, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Tri-State has grown to provide mentorship for over 160 children every year.

As she moves into the next phase of her life, Patti leaves behind a legacy of

compassion, selflessness, and perseverance. Patti Price has changed the lives of thousands, and we are all so grateful for her work.

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 CHAPARRALS 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 Chaparrals 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 in the fall we 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 25th 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 schools 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 benefiting 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 be announced next week, and we are all hoping all three will be on it.

I know I speak on behalf of all of us when I say we are so proud and so excited to see Daytona and Palm Coast represented so well in women's basketball.

RELIEF FOR DEFAUDED 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' shameful 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 consumer 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.

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 collection 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.

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

decades, the cost of insulin has risen 600 percent, a lifesaving drug that more than 350,000 Minnesotans rely on.

That is unacceptable and that is why I have introduced the Emergency Access to Insulin Act, to make insulin more affordable, and hold big drug companies accountable for jacking up insulin prices and making other lifesaving drugs unaffordable for Minnesota families.

Over the past 10 years, the cost of Canasa, a medicine for Crohn's disease, has increased by 150 percent. That is why I have cosponsored 61 bills to address skyrocketing healthcare costs.

We do not have the luxury of standing by any longer while 3 in 10 Minnesotans are rationing their medicine. It is time to sit down with my colleagues and lower the cost of healthcare.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MAYOR DEBBIE JOHNSON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Ms. Debbie Johnson, who passed away from complications due to an illness on Monday, January 13.

At the time of her passing, Ms. JOHNSON was serving as mayor pro tem of Port Wentworth in the First Congressional District of Georgia. Mayor pro tem Johnson's colleagues remember her as a larger-than-life figure, who served the city with the utmost dedication to the people she represented.

For 17 years she worked at Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department before becoming one of the first African American women ever elected to the Port Wentworth City Council.

While mayor pro tem, she fought for the voices of the unheard and made fundamental rights and equality a top priority. One of her most important projects included coordinating events to feed the hungry during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor pro tem Johnson's work and presence will be deeply missed in Port Wentworth. Her family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

□ 1115

MARKING ROE V. WADE 47TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 47th anniversary of Roe v. Wade on January 22, I rise for the 1-in-4 women in America who have had an abortion, and the 1-in-3 women living in a State where abortion would be banned if Roe was overturned.

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 impose waiting periods, 12 ban private insurance coverage, 18 mandate counseling, and 43 have abortion-ban laws ready to go.

Mr. Speaker, to those waging war on the rights of women, next week is the 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 banishing the issue from the political forum that gives all participants, even the losers, the satisfaction of 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 the Fashion Institute of Technology and the New York School of Interior Design. Jeanette came to the House from the Stenograph Com-

pany, 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 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 two baby 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 were 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. 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.

Mr. Belton was the first African American in Evangeline Parish to run for State representative in a predominantly white district. Even though he didn't end up winning that election, he made an enormous impact on the State of Louisiana by breaking down barriers, extinguishing fear, and paving the way for those who followed.

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.

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.

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 and 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.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 15, 2020.

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

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: I write to respectfully tender my resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space and Technology. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity.

Sincerely,

JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND MORAL AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 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 marks a critical step forward 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 mitigate contamination. 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, as well as my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their hard work in protecting our water and our communities.

□ 1130

Mr. GOHMERT. 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 been gone, and there would be tens of thousands of Americans still alive today. It is just very unfortunate.

But at least Soleimani is no longer around to kill Americans and to dream up new devices, whether improvised or exploding devices to kill and maim Americans.

It is one of the great ironies that the lead terrorist in the world, Soleimani, who ordered, directed, got the best architects to design instruments to inflict casualties on Americans—and there were more Americans killed or wounded on that road in from the airport in Iraq.

Some may remember, back in the early days of the war in Iraq, that the most dangerous place we kept hearing was on that road in from the airport. There were so many IEDs and explosive

devices that killed, maimed 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 keep finding ways 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 they have said before.

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 both say 180-degree opposite 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. In every one of 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 for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.

If we are going to continue to allow schools to teach relativity of right and wrong and that ends justify the means, you can be mean and evil and hateful so long as your hate and evil conduct is aimed at somebody that you call hateful.

So we have developed quite a quandary here in the United States where so many people—and I know some have said: Oh, I don't hate anybody. But President Trump obviously drives them crazy and spurs them to do and say things they wouldn't normally do and say, and they certainly didn't with President Clinton when he was caught actually lying under oath.

So we have got to get back to teaching right and wrong. There is a right; there is a wrong.

And I know some people say: Well, I am a Christian and, therefore, I know God is love, and, therefore, I love everybody, and that is just the way God is.

But I would direct attention to Psalm 6, beginning with verse 16. It points out that there are actually some things that God hates, and one is a lying tongue; one is a heart that devises wicked schemes; one is a person who stirs up conflict in the community. And, frankly, we had that 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 bribery; 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 the way they did something so 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 there were telling 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, of course, 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.

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.

□ 1145

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 prior year from 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 I have said repeatedly since I have 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. You have 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. We heard for 3 years all of this Russia collusion. As most of us know who have had legal training, collusion is not normally a crime, unless it is with regard to stocks. Normally the term is used as conspiracy, a criminal conspiracy. Somebody came up with a brilliant idea of using the word "collusion," and let's accuse Donald Trump of doing exactly what we have done.

Why else would the President of the United States 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 and then 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 turn around—and when 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 corruption—if you have got evidence of 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 contention 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 just run for President then we will defend you, saying, you can't go after that person, he is running for President. You are trying to use your office for political purposes. That way somebody that engages in corruption and keeps running for President can never be prosecuted because we will defend you because you shouldn't be prosecuted, you are running for President. So we can say your position is being used for political purposes, where actually if somebody is engaged in corruption it ought to be investigated.

Look what has happened as a result of this Ukraine hoax; it scared a lot of

people to death, including people that have worked with Ukraine in our National Security Council who were aware of some of the money passing back and forth with Americans. And what do they do: Oh, my gosh, what are we going to do? We are going the get caught up in this investigation. Oh, I know, we will claim that when the President asked for evidence of corruption by Americans that that is some kind of quid pro quo. And even though it is perfectly consistent with the President keeping his oath, we will allow that to just be hammered over and over again, so maybe we can convince the Ukrainian President if he provides the evidence of corruption by Americans then that means the President is guilty of some crime.

They have actually been very successful in backing President Zelensky and Ukraine off of investigating crimes of corruption by American individuals.

That is a real victory. No matter what happens on impeachment in the Senate, it is a real victory for those who were engaged, participated in potential corruption with Ukraine, because they have been able to turn 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 politically played out.

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. Since the 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 knew there were 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 in-articulable, it is so deranging 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 Lieutenant 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 wore one so 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 asked my staff to get 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 United States to some Russians. 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 in Ukraine 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 Judiciary 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, but real facts. 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 a high crime, you don't have a 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, mis-

demeanor, bribery, 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 the Founders said 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 straight down the hall. The Senate 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 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, which 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.

□ 1200

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.

Now 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 doing 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.

Even 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'etat. 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 protesting against a Muslim Brother, 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 protestors 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 the 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 submit questions 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 not be asked 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 and the DNC paid 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 in Russia 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 did 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 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 a male, but I haven't 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 reluctant 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 professors on some 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 under-

stand 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.

□ 1215

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 from being 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 honest, 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.

1024(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee:

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, to rank after Mr. BEYER of Virginia.

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 Iranian 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 soul of American democracy. Our Nation is wounded and it is a wound that our enemies will seek to further infect.

Sadly, I must give some frightening news to our Nation. This, I guess, is a matter of national security information. Russia has designed and advanced the most menacing, yet non-nuclear weapons on Earth. Every American should know that the blast from this bomb can do greater damage to our Nation than the combined marching armies of Hitler, Mussolini, and Tojo.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my fellow Americans: We are now threatened by the big mama of all weapons. It is called disinformation and the delivery system is called Facebook and other forms of social media.

In many ways, Congress has been complicit in this tribalistic way in

which we conduct business in our Nation. We have opened wide the door to a brazen alien incursion into our elections. Some Members of this august body are actually pushing disinformation into the delivery system.

In days gone by, kings and lords built their fortresses around deep wells to provide cool and clear water for those who lived inside the garrison. Strategically, these wells were inside the walls of forts so that at a time of an attack from the enemy, the water supply could never be blocked so that the life-saving water, in a time of war, would be controlled by those inside the fort. Therefore, the inhabitants would not be at the mercy of invaders.

Here is the point: If our great Republic could be led by our leaders into the babbling, cool waters of internal oneness and toleration, we will not be victims of the kind of vicious misinformation that has been flowing across this Nation now for a number of years. We would not be vulnerable to the whims of those who wish to do us harm.

Mr. Speaker, I close with an ominous note: Most of the great empires throughout the history of the world fell into decline not because of some new military juggernaut, but because of internal fighting and the failure to appreciate the amazing ethnic and racial mosaic that is uniquely ours as Americans.

Will that happen to us? Let me just say that we can only be saved by the well water of civility and decency inside our Nation. We control what is inside our Nation. What we need most is inside our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we please 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 "Bill" Graves Wofford, Jr., of Rockwall, Texas, who passed away on October 29, 2019, at the age of 95.

Bill was born on May 1, 1924, in Fort Worth, Texas to William Graves Wofford, Sr., and Margaret Melinda Wofford.

As a very young man, Bill left his family to fight in World War II and to defend our country. He proudly served in both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy. At the close of the war, at the age of 21, Bill returned to the States to pursue an education from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Following graduation, Bill returned home to Texas where he embarked on

his 27-year career alongside business partner, Bob Timberlake, to form Timberlake & Wofford, a manufacturing representative firm that served the north Texas area and experienced great success.

Bill is remembered for his great sense of humor and his gentle personality. His love of sailing and the outdoors led him to help found the Rush Creek Yacht Club.

Bill was not only a leader in his community, but a friend to all: a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Wofford family. We also lift up the family and friends of Bill Wofford in our prayers.

I have requested that the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor his life, legacy, and his service to our country.

As I close today, I ask all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for the brave men and women who serve in our military who protect us, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEPUTY SHERIFF MATTHEW RYAN JONES

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Matthew Ryan Jones of Waco, Texas.

Deputy Sheriff Jones was killed on October 11, 2019 in the line of duty as he assisted a motorist on the side of an area highway.

Matt was born on February 7, 1989, in Waco, Texas, to Ronnie and Debbie Coleman Jones. He graduated from Connally High School and the Texas State Technical College in Waco before joining the Falls County Sheriff's Office in August of 2015.

Matt bravely served his community for 4 years, most recently being named the department's canine deputy. Fellow first responders have sung the praises of their fallen brother stating that: Matt "never backed down from a challenge and understood the nature of policing in a small community."

Matt was not only a proud public servant, he was a friend to all, a loving husband, and an avid outdoorsman. Matt enjoyed spending time in nature, hunting, fishing, and riding his ATV.

Mr. Speaker, Matt's life was defined by his service to his community. He will be forever remembered by his community as a husband, a son, a brother, and a selfless public servant.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Jones family. We also lift up the family and friends of Matthew in our prayers.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor his life, legacy, and his service to our central Texas community.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue to pray for our country, for our military men and women who protect us overseas, and for our first responders who keep us safe here at home.

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 thereupon 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. 434. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Emancipation National Historic Trail, and for other purpose.

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:

3588. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's Policy Statement — Policy Statement on Compliance Aids received January 15, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3589. 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: 1557-AE72) received January 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3590. A letter from the Departmental Privacy Officer, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act Regulations; Exemptions for the Investigations Case Management System [BSEE-2016-0001; 201E1700D2 EECC000000 ETIEX0000.G40000] (RIN: 1014-AA41) received January 13, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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. 868); 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. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3593. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Trade Agreements Thresholds [FAC: 2020-04; FAR Case 2019-012; Docket No.: FAR-2019-0012; Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 9000-AN95) received January 15, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3595. A letter from the Director, General Counsel and Legal Policy Division, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's final rule — 2020 Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustments for Ethics in Government Act Violations (RIN: 3209-AA49) received January 15, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3596. A letter from the Secretary, Office of the General Counsel, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's notice — Adjustments to Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts [Release Nos.: 33-10740; 34-87905; IA-5428; IC-33740] received January 15, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. 868); 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 Tax on Certain U.S. Source Income Paid to Foreign Persons [TD 9890] (RIN: 1545-BN73, 1545-BN74, 1545-B023, 1545-BN79, 1545-B030) received January 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3599. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Update to Revenue Procedure 2019-4 (RP-120434-19) received January 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3600. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's Major rule — Investing in Qualified Opportunity Funds [TD 9889] (RIN: 1545-BP04) received January 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. House Joint Resolution 79. Resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; with an amendment (Rept. 116-378). 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. 5625. A bill to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to significant 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. 5626. 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. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 5627. A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 with respect to pre-agreement costs of emergency watershed protection measures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. WALTZ (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Maryland):

H.R. 5628. 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. BISHOP of North Carolina):

H.R. 5629. 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. 5630. A bill to provide that the Social Security Administration pay fees associated with obtaining birth certificate 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. SHERRILL):

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 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 for 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 of 1986 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. DEUTCH, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 5636. A bill to provide for the accurate reporting of fossil fuel extraction and emissions by entities with leases on public land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself, Mr. BACON, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COLE, Mr. MITCHELL, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

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, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. GIANFORTE):

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 furnish urns for the remains of certain veterans whose cremated remains are not interred in certain cemeteries; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

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

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 5641. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide 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, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. DEGETTE, 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 less than 5 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. WENSTRUP):

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. MEADOWS (for himself and Mr. KHANNA):

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

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. QUIGLEY, 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 Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PASCRELL (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. ZELDIN, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 5648. A bill to direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to furnish stellate ganglion block to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Ms. STEVENS, 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):

H.R. 5650. A bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to improve Federal energy and water performance requirements for Federal buildings and establish a Federal Energy Management Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

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 will provide pamphlets containing the contact information of adoption centers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CHENEY:

H. Res. 801. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COOK, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. RYAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H. Res. 802. A resolution affirming the United States vital interest in liberty in Europe and resolute 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. KHANNA, 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. SCHRADER, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COOK, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. KILMER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. STANTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. CORREA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. VELA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CASE, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. ROUDA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. BASS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TRONE, Mr. KIND, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Ms. WATERS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. HECK, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H. Res. 803. A resolution recognizing the longstanding partnership between the United States and Australia to share critical firefighting 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. 5625.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 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 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:

Article I, Section 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:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 5629.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CRIST:

H.R. 5630.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By 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. KIM:

H.R. 5633.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. BURCHETT:

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

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 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BRINDISI:

H.R. 5639.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, 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:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 5641.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 5642.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Impost and Excises; to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States"

and, 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"

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 5643.

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. 5644.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1

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 the 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 1, 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. RESCENTIALER.

H.R. 445: Mr. CARBAJAL 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. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. BALDERSON, and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 943: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 1133: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H.R. 1135: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 1255: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 1256: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 1346: Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 1355: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1400: Mr. ALLRED, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. GOMEZ.

H.R. 1549: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1688: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1707: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 1735: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 1748: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1816: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

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. COSTA.

H.R. 2117: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 2128: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 2148: Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mrs. MCBATH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 2195: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 2214: Mr. VEASEY and Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 2223: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 2260: Mr. YOHIO.

H.R. 2315: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 2434: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2466: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2482: Mr. O'HALLERAN.

H.R. 2651: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 2655: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2662: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 2679: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 2711: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2747: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 2771: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 2812: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 2818: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

- H.R. 2843: Ms. MENG.
 H.R. 2912: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H.R. 2931: Mr. SERRANO.
 H.R. 2952: Mr. WOMACK.
 H.R. 2953: Mr. WOMACK.
 H.R. 2991: Mr. LAMB and Mr. TRONE.
 H.R. 3077: Ms. JAYAPAL.
 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. 3654: Mr. SHIMKUS.
 H.R. 3742: Mr. KATKO.
 H.R. 3825: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. RUIZ.
 H.R. 3842: 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. 4228: 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. 4685: Mr. COOPER.
 H.R. 4764: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 4792: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
 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. 5104: 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. 5451: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
 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. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
 H.R. 5528: 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. 5589: 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. 789: Mr. YOHO.
 H. Res. 791: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. CLINE, Mr. ESTES, Mr. WALTZ, and Mrs. HARTZLER.
 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.



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No. 10

Senate

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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today is a very important day that we recognize once a year—National Religious Freedom Day. It is a day when

we celebrate America's longstanding commitment to religious freedom.

The First Amendment to the Constitution protects that right for Americans. Unfortunately, this fundamental right we have great respect for in the United States is under attack internationally in many autocratic countries.

Around the world, people are being persecuted for their faith by authoritarian dictatorships and terrorist groups. 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 and Russia that abuse religious freedoms.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, it took 4 weeks—4 weeks, but the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives is finally ready—fi-

nally 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.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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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 factualism 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 goals rather than long-term interests of the American people and their Republic, but, fortunately, they did something about it.

They did not give both the power to impeach and the power to remove to the House. They divided the power and placed the final decision on removal over here in the Senate.

This body, this Chamber, exists precisely—precisely so we can look past the daily dramas and understand how our actions will reverberate for generations; so we can put aside animal reflexes and animosity and coolly consider how to best serve our country in the long run; so we can break factional fevers before they jeopardize the core institutions of our government.

As Hamilton put it, only the Senate, with “confidence enough in its own situation,” can “preserve, unawed and uninfluenced, the necessary impartiality between an individual accused, and the representatives of the people, his accusers.”

The House’s hour is over. The Senate’s time is at hand. It is time for this proud body to honor our founding purpose.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on an entirely different matter, before we turn to the trial in earnest, the Senate has one more major accomplishment to deliver to the American people.

Yesterday we began floor consideration of the most significant update to the North American trade policy in

nearly 30 years. In just a couple of hours, we are going to pass the USMCA and send it to President Trump for his signature.

It was back in 2018 when the Trump administration finalized its talks with the Governments of Mexico and Canada. This has been a major priority for the President and for many of us in both Houses of Congress.

That is because American livelihoods in every corner of every State depend on these critical trading relationships. Farmers, growers, cattlemen, manufacturers, small businesses, big businesses—this is a major step for our whole country.

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. Our neighbors to the north and south purchase half a trillion dollars in American goods and services every single year. That includes more than a quarter of all the food and agricultural products we export. Take my home State of Kentucky as an example. Mexico and Canada buy \$300 million of agricultural exports from Kentucky growers and producers every year. They buy \$9.9 billion of our State’s manufacturing exports—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. 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 my 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 I now expect that kind of vote will repeat itself here in the Senate.

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 nimbly to get this done.

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

I would like 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 Nepola in my personal office; Erica Suares and my leadership policy advisers; and, of course, their 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. 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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this is a serious, solemn, and historic 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 as 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 Nation, 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 failed to say—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 powers 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—he 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 Fa-

thers 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, wounding injury to democracy itself, precisely the 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 solemnity 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, I 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, he said something 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 would be to retire partisan considerations 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, but, rather, a real and honest and 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—15, have all included witnesses. The majority leader claims to believe in precedent. That is the precedent: witnesses. There is no deviation. Let us hope we don't have one this time.

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—complained 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 con-

demns 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 through? At the very same time, out of the other side of his mouth, he condemns the House—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 charges against the President and why we shouldn't have witnesses and documents.

We are waiting. Rise to the occasion. Remember the history. That is what the leader 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 with 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 Mr. Giuliani is now the subject of an official probe by the Government of Ukraine.

My friends, this information is not extraneous; 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 where significant new evidence, further making the House case, hasn't come out as strong as the House case was to begin with.

Here is what Alexander Hamilton warned of 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, even before 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 through. 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. 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 appertaining 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—and don't 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 impeachment. 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 brought many cases to 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 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. I hope 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 will, and the President'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.

We have also heard repeatedly on the floor that there have been no allegations of anything that was illegal or criminal on the part of the President. The standard in the Constitution for impeachment does not require the violation of a Federal crime. Our Constitution was written before any statutes creating Federal crimes had been created. Rather, the phrase "high crimes and misdemeanors" was used as a standard to be imposed on the President.

But we just received information in the last 24 hours from the General Accountability Office, which does raise very serious concern about illegality of the President's action in withholding the funds appropriated by Congress to support the Ukrainian defense efforts against the invasion of Russian troops by Vladimir Putin and their country.

As a Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, ranking member of the Defense Subcommittee, I can recall when we, on a bipartisan basis, decided to provide additional assistance to Ukraine in the form of hundreds of millions of U.S. tax dollars so that

they could defend themselves against the invasion of Vladimir Putin. That money was appropriated and we believed would be sent in a timely way to the Ukrainians to defend their own country. Little did we know that money would become part of the bargaining between President Trump and the President of Ukraine as to this political investigation. It turns out that money was withheld until the very last moment. In fact, as I was offering an amendment in the Senate Appropriations Committee, and I was told that the night before—late the night before—the President finally released the funds.

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 withholding of funds to Ukraine violated Federal law. The Government Accountability Office has a sterling reputation as a nonpartisan watchdog with taxpayers' dollars. GAO's legal opinion today concludes that President Trump and his administration violated the law by putting a hold on military aid to Ukraine while that country was trying to defend itself against an invasion ordered by Vladimir Putin.

This is an important ruling that deserves 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.

In just 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.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

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 just a few remarks. I know 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 even been an effort by several 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 the floor about our effort. 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 package 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 300 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 that we drew on established 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 that use the internet as a tool to repress their own people, bully American businesses and workers, and med-

dle with the free speech rights of American citizens.

The bottom line here is that my colleague who sits right behind me, Senator BROWN, was key to producing a bill that had the provisions and the prerequisite to getting a law, frankly, with tough trade law enforcement that brought, literally, dozens of Members of both the Senate and the House over to support this. I want to thank him and wrap up by saying—I am not sure that he is with us today here in the Senate Gallery—that Ambassador Bob Lighthizer deserves a special thanks today. He may be off around the world somewhere talking to additional trade ministers, looking for other opportunities to come up with tough future-oriented trade agreements. Ambassador Lighthizer is the hardest working man in the trade agreement business. I want to thank him for all his work. I have a difference of opinion with my colleague from Pennsylvania on these issues. We may have some procedure, but I think you are going to see Senators handle these issues over the next 20 minutes in a way that reflects the seriousness of this issue.

I yield the floor.

I know the Senator from Pennsylvania will speak next.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I want to thank the ranking member of our committee for all of the work that he has put into this effort, even though I disagree in some important respects.

One thing I want to talk about this morning is the process under which we are going to consider and probably pass this legislation. We are considering this legislation under trade promotion authority. That refers to another bill—a law, actually—that we passed some time ago that expedites the process, forbids Senators from offering amendments, and allows passage 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, we are circumventing the 60-vote threshold, and we are abusing trade promotion authority.

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 trade and legislating.

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 going to zero in on a certain 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.

Not only that, but we have discretionary spending in this bill and this is the first time that any trade implementing legislation has ever spent money. Of the 17 trade bills that we have considered in recent decades under fast-track authority, none of them have ever contained any kind of appropriations, any kind of government spending. It is not that there is no spending necessary for the implementation of these other agreements. There was. Yet that spending always ran separately in a different bill, in a different piece of legislation, and that piece of legislation was subject to amendment and a 60-vote threshold.

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 trade implementing bill, which we have never 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 as an 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 in the 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 things like doubling the staffing 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 narrow. It is a 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 about the fact 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-thousandth of one penny for every dollar the Federal Government spends. 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 preclude 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 have this discussion. 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 this lightly because the privilege 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 recapitalization 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 and carry it out 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—and in a very 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 funds be 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 language is "strictly necessary or appropriate."

It is for Congress, then, to decide what is strictly necessary or appro-

priate. 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 significantly reduced 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 something. It doesn't cut spending 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.

AUTHORIZING 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 clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 474) to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Martin F. McMahon v. Senator TED CRUZ, et al.

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

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

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 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 and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (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 6, 2021.

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

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "fentanyl-related substance" has the meaning given the term 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, including—

(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, or 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, or 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 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; 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 by—

(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 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 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.

(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).

(f) 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 from—

(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.

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 the 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. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 3084) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, 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 7401(4) and 7306 of this title,” after “section 7457 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 treated as an adverse action and is not 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. I ask 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 non-violent 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 Veterans Treatment Court Program; or

(2) have filed a notice of intent to establish a Veterans 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 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. 5430

Mr. CRAWLEY. Mr. President, it is no secret around here that staff work is key to any Senator's success. It often goes unnoticed and unthanked, but today, as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act passes Congress, I would like to ex-

press my appreciation to the many Senate staff who work for the people of Iowa and the entire country.

Foremost among them are Kolan Davis, my Finance Committee staff director and longtime advisor of 35 years; Jeff Wrase, my deputy staff director; and Nasim Fussell, my chief international trade counsel on the committee. Their thoughtful, prudent advice, and hard work were crucial to helping create the conditions that allow for nearly-unanimous passage today.

Nasim led my trade staff on the Finance Committee. Her leadership of several other key staff, including Mayur Patel, Brian Bombassaro, Andrew Brandt, Rory Heslington, Grace Kim, and Michael Pinkerton, and all of their many late nights working at the office, are among the top reasons why this modernized trade agreement wasn't just negotiated with Canada and Mexico but will actually become law and soon take effect. Their diligent work with their Democratic counterparts, as well as the administration, is evidenced in the overwhelming vote USMCA received.

My chief of staff, Aaron Cummings, legislative director, James Rice, and director of scheduling, Jennifer Heins, provided consistent guidance and helpful input on USMCA throughout negotiations that helped me do the job I needed to do for us to get to this point. I am grateful for their standing by my side this past year and going above and beyond for the people of Iowa.

I would also like to thank my communications and press staff, including Michael Zona, Taylor Foy, George Hartmann, Nicole Tieman, Melissa Kearney, and Katelyn Schultz, for helping me communicate the many benefits of this trade deal to Iowans and all Americans. Their work to deliver that message to the grassroots of this country helped create the public pressure needed to encourage Congress to act and ratify USMCA.

We all know that no legislating happens in the Senate without bipartisanship. That is why today I say congratulations and thank you to Ranking Member WYDEN and his staff for all their hard work. They are Joshua Sheinkman, staff director; Mike Evans, deputy staff director; Jayme White, chief advisor on international competitiveness and innovation; and Greta Peisch, Sally Laing, Virginia Lenahan, and Rachel Lang.

Of course, also critical to the bill's passage 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 Nation's gratitude 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 is Canada. 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 promote clean 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.

This 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 op-

portunity 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 impacts in terms of trade, 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. They 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, as follows:

VERMONT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Montpelier, VT, January 14, 2020.
Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
Senator, U.S. Senate.
Washington, DC.

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 result 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 have otherwise occurred had it not been for unprecedented levels of volatility in our trade dependent markets.

Implementation of USMCA would greatly benefit Vermont businesses 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.

Sincerely,

VERMONT CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE.
BURTON SNOWBOARDS.
CABOT CREAMERY
COOPERATIVE.
AGRI-MARK INCORPORATED.
MBF BIOSCIENCE.
LIQUID MEASUREMENT

SYSTEMS.

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 dispute-resolution bodies, 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 addition to fighting pollution 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 for California and the Nation. 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 \$50 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 we 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. I oppose this version now, because it does not substantially improve on what was a bad deal all those years ago.

I appreciate the concessions my colleagues were able to force President Trump to accept that strengthen protections for workers, but at the end of the day, these changes don't go far enough. I am concerned that this trade agreement could continue NAFTA's suppression of wages here at home instead of lifting them. This agreement also doesn't prioritize protecting our environment and will contribute to environmental damage and degradation, and it will continue President Trump's failed economic priorities that primarily benefit the wealthy and well-connected at the expense of hard-working, middle-class, and blue collar taxpayers.

A well-crafted free trade deal should provide reciprocal benefits, contain sufficient labor standards that preserve and create jobs here at home, and include environmental and other protections to ensure that trade is conducted fairly.

If well-crafted, trade policy can be a vital part of our economic and security efforts. Ideally, it would serve to achieve our Nation's policy objectives. The simple fact is that there are winners and there are losers in any trade agreement. The loss of economic security as a result of trade agreement after trade agreement over decades stems from a frequent failure to provide guaranteed and significant assistance to dislocated workers and small businesses that are negatively impacted by increased trade. A little money for training in a massive economy just hasn't cut it.

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 later realized. 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 not adequate or enforced and 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 what is so confounding. Out of the very chaos that President Trump has sown, we could have emerged with a much better, stronger NAFTA but that is not where we find ourselves.

According to a report conducted by the U.S. International Trade Commission, USITC, released in April, the USITC forecasts that the new NAFTA “would raise U.S. real GDP by \$68.2 billion (0.35 percent) and U.S. employment by 176,000 jobs (0.12 percent)” 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 is essentially the same as the old NAFTA from an economic perspective. It is also not clear that jobs lost as a result of NAFTA will be recovered, as has been claimed by some of the new NAFTA's proponents.

Similarly, I believe that many of the concerns that I had with NAFTA and other trade agreements remain, particularly with respect to the protection of workers and our environment and ensuring tough enforcement mechanisms. I note the absence of a specific and robust Trade Adjustment Assistance Program to assist workers negatively impacted by increased trade in the implementing legislation—such assistance was at least included in 1993. The implementing legislation contains \$843 million dollars in new spending. This includes resources to enforce environmental and labor standards in Mexico. Yet it does not include funding to assist American workers and small businesses who are negatively impacted by trade. As a result of any trade agreement, there are those who benefit and those who are hurt. We should always insist that there are sufficient provisions to assist workers who will lose out.

Environmental standards and protections were inadequately accounted for in 1993, and the fact that they are not sufficiently stringent here is very dis-

appointing. Climate change is having a serious impact on our 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 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, Australia 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 that 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, re brand it as the United States-Mexico-Canada 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 main cause of uncertainty from our relationship with Canada and Mexico was created by President Trump through his erratic threats to our neighbors and trading partners. The arsonist is not a hero for putting out the blaze he intentionally set.

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 taxes 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 businesses and ensuring that our 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 53,000 jobs in our State.

In reviewing the text of the U.S.-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 exports 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 Collins' support and leadership on this trade agreement has been vital to ensure that our factories can 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.

Our agricultural producers also rely on a stable and predictable trading environment. U.S. agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico more than 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 impressive to see a trade agreement receive such strong bipartisan support.

VOTE ON MOTION TO WAIVE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to waive.

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.]

YEAS—78

Alexander	Gillibrand	Peters
Baldwin	Graham	Portman
Bennet	Grassley	Reed
Blumenthal	Harris	Risch
Blunt	Hassan	Roberts
Booker	Hawley	Rosen
Boozman	Heinrich	Rounds
Brown	Hirono	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Sanders
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Capito	Jones	Schumer
Cardin	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	King	Shelby
Casey	Klobuchar	Sinema
Collins	Leahy	Smith
Coons	Loeffler	Stabenow
Cornyn	Manchin	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tester
Cotton	McConnell	Thune
Cramer	McSally	Udall
Crapo	Menendez	Van Hollen
Daines	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murphy	Wicker
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—21

Barrasso	Gardner	Romney
Blackburn	Johnson	Sasse
Braun	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Enzi	Paul	Toomey
Fischer	Perdue	Young

NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

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 falls.

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 me and 1 minute 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 working to build successful companies 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:

[Rollcall Vote No. 14 Leg.]

YEAS—89

Alexander	Crapo	Klobuchar
Baldwin	Cruz	Lankford
Barrasso	Daines	Leahy
Bennet	Duckworth	Lee
Blackburn	Durbin	Loeffler
Blumenthal	Enzi	Manchin
Blunt	Ernst	McConnell
Boozman	Feinstein	McSally
Braun	Fischer	Menendez
Brown	Gardner	Merkley
Burr	Graham	Moran
Cantwell	Grassley	Murkowski
Capito	Hassan	Murphy
Cardin	Hawley	Murray
Carper	Heinrich	Paul
Casey	Hirono	Perdue
Cassidy	Hoeven	Peters
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Portman
Coons	Johnson	Risch
Cornyn	Jones	Roberts
Cortez Masto	Kaine	Romney
Cotton	Kennedy	Rosen
Cramer	King	Rounds

Rubio	Smith	Van Hollen
Sasse	Stabenow	Warner
Scott (FL)	Sullivan	Warren
Scott (SC)	Tester	Wicker
Shaheen	Thune	Wyden
Shelby	Tillis	Young
Sinema	Udall	

NAYS—10

Booker	Reed	Toomey
Gillibrand	Sanders	Whitehouse
Harris	Schatz	
Markey	Schumer	

NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

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:

Mr. President and Members of the Senate, I announce the presence of the managers on the part of the House of Representatives to conduct the proceedings on behalf of the House concerning the impeachment of Donald John Trump, President of the United States.

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 with permission of the Senate I will read.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 798

APPOINTING AND AUTHORIZING MANAGERS FOR THE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL OF DONALD JOHN TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Resolved, That Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. CROW, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas are appointed managers to conduct the 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 following:

(1) Employing legal, clerical, and other necessary assistants and incurring such other expenses as may be necessary, to be paid from amounts available to the Committee on the Judiciary under applicable expense resolutions or from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives.

(2) Sending for persons and papers, and filing with the Secretary of the Senate, on the part of the House of Representatives, any pleadings, in conjunction with or subsequent to, 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, 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 scheme or 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 take these steps by conditioning 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 powers 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 political opponent, former Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.; and

(B) a discredited theory promoted by Russia alleging that Ukraine—rather than Russia—interfered in the 2016 United States Presidential election.

(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 he 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 foreign power in corrupting democratic elections.

Wherefore President Trump, by such conduct, has demonstrated that he will remain a threat to national security and the Constitution if allowed to remain in office, and has acted in a manner grossly 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.

ARTICLE II: OBSTRUCTION OF CONGRESS

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, 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 directed the unprecedented, categorical, and indiscriminate defiance of subpoenas issued by the House of Representatives pursuant to its "sole Power of Impeachment". President Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency in a manner offensive to, and subversive of, the Constitution, in that:

The House of Representatives has engaged in an impeachment inquiry focused on President Trump's corrupt solicitation of the Government of Ukraine to interfere in the 2020 United States Presidential election. As part of this impeachment inquiry, the Committees undertaking the investigation served subpoenas seeking documents and testimony deemed vital to the inquiry from various Executive Branch agencies and offices, and current and former officials.

In response, without lawful cause or excuse, President Trump directed Executive Branch agencies, offices, and officials not to comply with those subpoenas. President Trump thus interposed the powers of the Presidency against the lawful subpoenas of the House of Representatives, and assumed to himself functions and judgments necessary to the exercise of the "sole Power of Impeachment" vested by the Constitution in the House of Representatives.

President Trump abused the powers of his high office through the following means:

(1) Directing the White House to defy a lawful subpoena by withholding the production of documents sought therein by the Committees.

(2) Directing other Executive Branch agencies and offices to defy lawful subpoenas and withhold the production of documents and records from the Committees—in response to which the Department of State, Office of Management and Budget, Department of Energy, and Department of Defense refused to produce a single document or record.

(3) Directing current and former Executive Branch officials not to cooperate with the Committees—in response to which nine Administration officials defied subpoenas for testimony, namely John Michael "Mick" Mulvaney, Robert B. Blair, John A. Eisenberg, Michael Ellis, Preston Wells Griffith, Russell T. Vought, Michael Duffey, Brian McCormack, and T. Ulrich Brechbuhl.

These actions were consistent with President Trump's previous efforts to undermine United States Government investigations into foreign interference in United States elections.

Through these actions, President Trump sought to arrogate to himself the right to determine the propriety, scope, and nature of an impeachment inquiry into his own conduct, as well as the unilateral prerogative to deny any and all information to the House of Representatives in the exercise of its "sole Power of Impeachment". In the history of the Republic, no President has ever ordered the complete defiance of an impeachment inquiry or sought to obstruct and impede so comprehensively the ability of the House of Representatives to investigate "high Crimes and Misdemeanors". This abuse of office served to cover up the President's own repeated misconduct and to seize and control the power of impeachment and thus to nul-

lify 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 subversive of constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause of law and justice, and to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore, 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 grossly 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 name:

[Quorum No. 1]

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Reed
Bennet	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Harris	Roberts
Blumenthal	Hassan	Romney
Blunt	Hawley	Rosen
Booker	Heinrich	Rounds
Boozman	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	Markey	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	McSally	Toomey
Cruz	Menendez	Udall
Daines	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	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 G. 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 the Senate 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 present answered "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 Chair so that the oath may be administered as soon as possible.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. The Sergeant at Arms will make the 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 propound 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 have 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 President wishes to file a trial 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.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—AUTHORIZATION FOR EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. Chief Justice, I ask unanimous consent 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 the 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 I now send to the desk, and I ask that they be printed in the RECORD.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The documents follow:

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION FOR EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In recognition of the unique requirements raised by the impeachment trial of a President of the United States, the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate shall install appropriate equipment and furniture in the Senate chamber for use by the managers from the House of Representatives and counsel to the President in their presentations to the Senate during all times that the Senate is sitting for trial with the Chief Justice of the United States presiding.

(b) SCOPE.—The appropriate equipment and furniture referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

(1) A lectern, a witness table and chair if required, and tables and chairs to accommodate an equal number of managers from the House of Representatives and counsel for the President, which shall be placed in the well of the Senate.

(2) Such equipment as may be required to permit the display of video or audio evidence, including video monitors and microphones, which may be placed in the chamber for use by the managers from the House of Representatives or the counsel to the President.

(c) MANNER.—All equipment and furniture authorized by this resolution shall be placed in the chamber in a manner that provides the least practicable disruption to Senate proceedings.

SECTION 1. LAPTOP COMPUTER ACCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During impeachment proceedings against the President of the United States, laptop computers may be used on the floor of the Senate Chamber only in accordance with the following:

(1) Two laptop computers may be used by the impeachment managers and their assistants.

(2) Two laptop computers may be used by the counsel for the President of the United States and their assistants.

(3) Two laptop computer may be used by the Chief Justice of the United States and the assistants of the Chief Justice.

(4) Laptop computers available to employees and officers of the Senate on the floor of the Senate Chamber during a regular session of the Senate may be used by such employees and officers as necessary.

(b) USE OF LAPTOP COMPUTERS IN OTHER ROOMS OF THE SENATE FLOOR.—During impeachment proceedings against the President of the United States, laptop computers may be used in other areas of the floor of the Senate (not including the Senate Chamber)

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, sitting as a Court of Impeachment, 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. BRAUN). 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 Canada and Mexico, 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 tools in place. 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 Kentuckians 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)(1) 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

to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,

Lieutenant General, USA, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-66

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$50 billion.

Other \$1.00 billion.

Total \$1.50 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Australia has requested to buy long lead items, engineering development activities, and other defense services to support the Australian Surface Combatant Program, including the modernization of three Hobart Class Destroyers, and construction of the first three (of nine total) Hunter Class Frigates.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Three (3) Shipsets of the AEGIS Weapon System (AWS) in the MK 6 Mod 1 configuration to support the Modernization of the Hobart Class DDGs, including: AEGIS Combat System Support Equipment (ACSSE); Weapon Data Recording Cabinet (WDRC) equipment; Multi-Mission Signal Processor (MMSP-R) equipment; Network, Processing and Storage (NPS) equipment; Consoles Displays and Peripherals (CDP) equipment; Embedded Training System (ETS); Kill Assessment System (KAS); and Shipboard Gridlock System (SGS).

Three (3) Shipsets of the AEGIS Weapon System (AWS) in the MK 6 Mod I configuration to support the New Construction of the Hunter Class FFGs, including AEGIS Combat System Support Equipment (ACSSE); Electronic Equipment Fluid Cooler (EEFC) equipment; and Network, Processing and Storage (NPS) equipment; and Consoles Displays and Peripherals (CDP) equipment; Shipboard Gridlock System (SGS); Embedded Training System (ETS) and AN/SPQ-15 equipment.

Three (3) shipsets of the MK 41 Vertical Launching Systems (VLS) for installation on the Hunter Class Frigates;

Three (3) shipsets (2 mounts per ship) of the Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) for installation on the Hunter Class Frigates;

Two (2) Australia AEGIS Weapon System Computer Programs (one for Hobart Class, one for Hunter Class), and associated computer programs for AEGIS Combat System components for installation on both the Hobart and Hunter Class ships;

Six (6) shipsets of the Global Positioning System (GPS)—Based Positioning, Navigation and Timing Service (GPNTS) Navigation Systems and associated Advanced Digital Antenna Production (ADAP) antennas and support equipment for installation on the Hobart and Hunter Class ships;

Six (6) shipsets of upgraded Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) 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;

Eight (8) shipsets of Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Set (MIDS JTRS) terminals for installation on the Hobart and Hunter Class ships.

Non-MDE:

Also included are:

Three (3) shipsets of MK 34 Gun Weapon System (GWS) modification equipment to include the Electro Optical Sight System and

changes supporting Naval Fires Planner and associated TacLink Control System for installation on the Hobart Class Destroyers;

Three (3) shipsets of MK 34 Gun Weapon System components to include the MK 160 Gun Computing System and the MK 20 Electro Optical Sight System, and the Naval Fires Planner and associated TacLink Control System for installation on the Hunter Class Frigates;

Three (3) shipsets of: Mode 5/S capable Identification, Friend of Foe (IFF) Systems; Gigabit Ethernet Data Multiplexing System (GEDMS); AN/WSN-7 Ring Laser Gyrocompass Inertial Navigation Systems; WSN-9 Digital Hybrid Speed Log systems; Common Data Link Management System (CDLMS); and Global Command and Control System—Maritime (GCCS-M) systems 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, integration and testing support for installation of a AEGIS Combat System for installation on the Hunter Class FFG, a Global Combat Ship Type 26 (BAE) platform, including the integration of the indigenous CEAF AR 2 Phased Array Radar (CEA Industries) with the AEGIS Combat System (including Cooperative Engagement Capability) and the primary radar sensor and illuminator;

Integration of selected Australian provided combat system components including Undersea Warfare and Ship Self Defense for installation on the Hobart and Hunter Class ships;

Integration of the MH-60R helicopter into the AEGIS Combat System for installation on the Hobart and Hunter Class ships;

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 in the Hunter and Hobart class ship platforms;

Development of technical documentation to support both programs; provision of logistics and other support services to support the Hobart and Hunter Class ships;

Procurement, staging, delivery and installation support for AEGIS Combat System equipment for the Hobart and Hunter Class ships;

Provision 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.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (AT-P-LFZ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT-P-LCQ, AT-P-GSU, and AT-P-GSC.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: January 14, 2020.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—Australia Surface Combatant (ASC) Program

The Government of Australia has requested to buy long lead items, engineering

development activities, and other defense services to support the Australian Surface Combatant Program, including the modernization of three Hobart Class Destroyers, and construction of the first three (of nine total) Hunter Class Frigates which includes: three (3) Shipsets of the AEGIS Weapon System (AWS) in the MK 6 Mod 1 configuration to support the Modernization of the Hobart Class DDGs; three (3) Shipsets of the AEGIS Weapon System (AWS) in the MK 6 Mod 1 configuration to support the New Construction of the Hunter Class FFGs; three (3) shipsets of the MK 41 Vertical Launching Systems (VLS) for installation on the Hunter Class Frigates; three (3) shipsets (2 mounts per ship) of the Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) for installation on the Hunter Class Frigates; two (2) Australia AEGIS Weapon System Computer Programs (one for Hobart Class, one for Hunter Class), and associated computer programs for AEGIS Combat System components for installation on both the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; six (6) shipsets of the Global Positioning System (GPS)—Based Positioning, Navigation and Timing Service (GPNTS) Navigation Systems and associated Advanced Digital Antenna Production (ADAP) antennas and support equipment for installation on the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; six (6) shipsets of upgraded Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) 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; and eight (8) shipsets of Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Set (MIDS JTRS) terminals for installation on the Hobart and Hunter Class ships. Also included are: three (3) shipsets of MK 34 Gun Weapon System (GWS) modification equipment to include the Electro Optical Sight System and changes supporting Naval Fires Planner and associated TacLink Control System for installation on the Hobart Class Destroyers; three (3) shipsets of MK 34 Gun Weapon System components to include the MK 160 Gun Computing System and the MK 20 Electro Optical Sight System, and the Naval Fires Planner and associated TacLink Control System for installation on the Hunter Class Frigates; three (3) shipsets of: Mode 5/S capable Identification, Friend of Foe (IFF) Systems; Gigabit Ethernet Data Multiplexing System (GEDMS); AN/WSN-7 Ring Laser Gyrocompass Inertial Navigation Systems; WSN-9 Digital Hybrid Speed Log systems; Common Data Link Management System (CDLMS); and Global Command and Control System—Maritime (GCCS-M) systems 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, integration and testing support for installation of a AEGIS Combat System for installation on the Hunter Class FFG, a Global Combat Ship Type 26 (BAE) platform, including the integration of the indigenous CEAF AR 2 Phased Array Radar (CEA Industries) with the AEGIS Combat System (including Cooperative Engagement Capability) and the primary radar sensor and illuminator; integration of selected Australian provided combat system components including Undersea Warfare and Ship Self Defense for installation on the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; integration of the MH-60R helicopter into the AEGIS Combat System for installation on the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; 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 in the Hunter and Hobart class ship platforms; development of technical documentation to support both programs; provision of logistics and other support services to support the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; procurement, staging, delivery and installation support for AEGIS Combat System equipment for the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; provision 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. 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 power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region.

The proposed sale will enhance Australia's Surface Combatant capability by modernizing their existing three AEGIS capable Hobart Class Destroyers with the latest technology and capability, and delivering the first three (of nine) AEGIS capable Hunter Class Future 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 Capability (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 effort, with a significant portion of the effort to be performed by Lockheed Martin, Rotary 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/or 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.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-66

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. This sale involves the procurement of long lead material and services to support the Australian Surface Combatant Program. The AEGIS Combat System (ACS) to be procured to support the modernization of the Hobart Class Destroyers is a multi-mission combat system providing Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) and a growth path to Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) capability, derived from USN AEGIS Weapon System

Baseline 9 capability. In addition to shipboard AEGIS equipment, this proposed sale will provide software, documentation (including combat system capabilities and limitations), training devices and services, and other technical support to ensure the proper installation, testing and operation of the provided equipment.

2. AEGIS Weapon System simulation software, documentation, training and study material will be provided a classification levels up to and including SECRET. Delivery of sensitive technological information, up to and including SECRET, will be limited to the minimum level of information required to progress activities associated with the integration of indigenous combat system systems into the AEGIS Combat System. This consists primarily of AEGIS Combat System requirements and integration information to support early combat system development activities, in the form of documentation, simulation software, and technical specifications. This information is sensitive as it provides limited insight into AEGIS Combat System capabilities and requirements—as tailored to the Australian AEGIS Combat System configurations.

3. The Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) is a system that fuses tracking data from shipboard sensors and distributes radar measurement data to other platforms with CEC capability. This data is filtered and combined to create a common tactical picture, based on available sensor data from all platforms netted through the CEC system. The hardware is unclassified with the exception of a Communications Security (COMSEC) card which is classified SECRET. The software and documentation are classified SECRET. All manuals and technical documentation disclosure will be limited to those necessary for operational use and organizational maintenance.

4. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures, which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

5. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the enclosed Policy Justification. A determination has been made that Australia can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government.

6. All defense articles and services listed on this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Australia.

REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

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 inspired more change, touched more lives, and lifted up more voices than most of us could hope to in many lifetimes. With his message of compassion, he shepherded a civil rights movement defined by love and peacefulness, despite the violence and hatred raging all around. He bravely preached the equal value of every human soul, and he was killed for it. That day, we lost a champion for justice who can never be replaced.

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 legal prohibition of discrimination 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 vectors 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 disenfranchised at substantially higher rates and have to navigate sophisticated voter deception and intimidation practices in order to exercise their right to vote. And 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 injustice that Dr. King fought to eradicate 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, there are too many 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 also just one man, 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 sweeping and grand—it can be quiet; it can take root in small moments. The world that he envisioned can be planted 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 bond ourselves to one another, and then we come to see that none of us is striving alone for a better world. That togetherness, 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 where I make my plug for the census. The upcoming decennial census will be used to determine congressional representation and the fair distribution of

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 chairman 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 is “the central challenge to U.S. prosperity and security.” This is where DOD is rightly focusing its attention. But China’s and Russia’s growing influence isn’t restricted to Europe and the Indo-Pacific. Recent actions by China and Russia clearly demonstrate 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 last February and saw firsthand 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 funding, building, or operating at least 46 port projects in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to giving China a potential stranglehold on African prosperity, it also provides China access to critical maritime routes and chokepoints.

At the same time, Russia is using its armed forces, mercenaries, and the sale

of Russian arms to buy influence, exploit Africa’s natural resources, and to prop up leaders sympathetic to Russian interests and hostile to those of the West. And while the NDS states that competition with China and Russia should be DOD’s top priority, it makes clear that we cannot afford to lose sight of the continuing threat posed by radical terrorist groups like al-Qaida and ISIS.

Africa has been and must remain a key theater for our counterterrorism efforts. Today, more than a dozen terrorist groups with ties to al-Qaida and ISIS, like Al-Shabab, are operating across the continent. Many of these groups have ambition to attack Americans and our partners, as we saw last week when Al-Shabab militants in Kenya killed a U.S. servicemember and two DOD contractors. Without pressure the threat these groups pose to the United States will grow unchecked. And this isn’t a recent development—I have seen this come up time and time again on my visits to the continent. It is why I pushed the DOD for years to stand up an Africa command. People forget that we didn’t always have a dedicated military presence in Africa, despite its strategic importance. It was managed through three separate combatant commands. I worked with DOD and then-President Bush to change that, and in 2008 we officially stood up United States Africa Command AFRICOM.

Despite the breadth of security challenges we face on the African continent every day, AFRICOM has consistently suffered resource shortfalls. On any given day, there are about 7,000 DOD personnel serving in Africa. Africa is home to 1.3 billion people and is larger geographically than China, India, the United States, and most of Europe—combined. In light of these significant resource and geographical challenges, the men and women of AFRICOM perform critical missions every day to check Chinese and Russian influence, combat terrorism, and strengthen the capabilities of our partners. AFRICOM provides an enormous value to the Nation for an extremely modest level of investment—the very definition of “economy of force.” Despite this, I understand that DOD is reviewing our military presence in Africa and is considering significant cuts.

Given what is at stake for both U.S. national security and effective implementation of NDS, we must have a meaningful, albeit limited, U.S. presence in Africa. Any drawdown of our troops would be shortsighted, could cripple AFRICOM’s ability to execute its mission and, as a result, would harm national security. Rather than talking about drawing down troops in Africa, we should finally assign forces to AFRICOM on an enduring basis—including an SFAB—in order to provide the command with predictable resourcing so it can be most effective in defending U.S. national security.

I urge the Secretary of Defense to keep this in mind as he makes deci-

sions on the future of our presence and role in Africa.●

REMEMBERING CHRIS ALLEN

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Chris Allen, who worked as my senior economic policy adviser. It is fitting that I do so on the Senate floor because Chris Allen would be the first one to tell you he loved his job.

This statement was delivered so frequently and with such sincerity that one was compelled to look inward and remind 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—he had time for you. He rolled up 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 not 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 one smiling 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 who took delight in the things his daughters said and did, big and small. They were cherished. May they understand today and always that we loved Chris, and he loved them.

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 personalities that my other staff would have to research and look up. But he 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 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 strolls 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 millions of Americans. 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 punchline. 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 shocked—I am sure he 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. Now point at the paper I am holding—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 a privilege 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 share their "short 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 his 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. Chris was family; you will always be 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 Bixler, 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 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 cancer center.

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 in a big way 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 resources 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 to donate 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 want 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 furthering the ever-expanding missions of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, PNNL, as well as advancements in innovation and more tied to each of these in my home State of Washington.

Mr. Adrian, retiring president and CEO of Tri-Cities Development Council—TRIDEC—began his service to the Pasco, Richland, West Richland, and Kennewick cities, also known as the TriCities, on September 1, 2003. Mr. Adrian arrived in the Tri-Cities as a transplant, being born and raised in Omaha, NE, where he graduated from Westside High School. Mr. Adrian then obtained his bachelor of arts in political science, geography, and later a masters of administration in urban and economic geography from the University of Iowa.

Prior to Mr. Adrian's tenure with TRIDEC, he spent significant time supporting economic development throughout the central region of the United States through his work with multiple organizations. He served communities in Casper, WY, the Quad-City area of both Iowa and Illinois, and Cedar Valley located in Waterloo/Cedar Falls, IA, before embarking upon his last enterprise in the Tri-Cities.

Mr. Adrian has devoted his life to supporting commerce and new innovation in the region. In his role at

TRIDEC, Mr. Adrian 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 also helping to strengthen federal support for Central Washington priorities, including working to successfully expand Washington State'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, which led to significant job growth, population growth, and the development of several new business ventures 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 designations of the B Reactor as a 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 they come. Last August, when I had the good fortune to get one more visit 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 with others throughout 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' herds. Riders 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 riders 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, IA. 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 herders, who volunteer their horses for the competitors in the race at each stop. Robert presented each herder 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, LLC of Monticello, FL, as 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 refinishing a chest, Pat and 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 Heritage 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 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 purpose.

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 Wolff 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, Regulations Management Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rural Development Advance Biofuel Producer Payment" (RIN0570-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-AA68)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3774. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, 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-3775. 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.

EC-3776. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program (FEORP) for Fiscal Year 2017"; 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] products derived from the cannabis plant; and

Whereas, [Cannabidiol] Unlike tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is also prevalent in products derived from the cannabis 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 food additives and dietary supplements that contain cannabidiol are illegal under federal law; and

Whereas, Within the past three years, more than 1,500 cannabidiol products have come to the market without a clear approach for regulation or any plan from the FDA to balance consumer access and protect consumer health; and

Whereas, The lack of clear policy towards cannabidiol from the FDA and the patchwork regulation of the substance by the states [create] has created a complicated legal framework [for] in which cannabidiol companies [for their operations] 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 time; and

Whereas, As a result of this uncertain legal framework, it has become difficult for cannabidiol companies to participate in interstate commerce [for national cannabidiol companies is difficult] because banks, insurance companies, and merchant service companies are uneasy about providing services to cannabidiol companies, which may be at [the] 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 individuals to experience the [medical] holistic and therapeutic benefits of cannabidiol while ensuring consumer safety and [also generate] facilitate the participation of cannabidiol companies in interstate commerce, thereby generating increased economic activity [from all interstate commerce for cannabidiol companies] nationwide, now, therefore, be it

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] enact legislation establishing a safe daily consumption level [of] for 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 submitted:

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 save the expense of 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 L. Corbin and ending with Joshua D. Yanoviak, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2020.

Air Force nomination of Kraegen 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. 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 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. Wyatt, 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 Gundersen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 9, 2020.

Army nomination of Shauntill 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 C. 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 nomination of Jackie W. Morgan, Jr., to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Jacob R. Lewis, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

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 nomination of John A. Yukica, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with David S. Gersen and ending with Ambrosio V. Pantoja, 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. Coultres 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 Lara 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. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

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

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 3202. A bill to discourage speculative oil and gas leasing and to promote enhanced multiple use management of public land and National Forest System land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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 physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 3204. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to revise the policy of the Agency to address the threats of climate change, 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, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3206. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to increase voting accessibility for individuals with disabilities and older individuals, 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 in each State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 3208. A bill to improve agency rule-making, 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. SINEMA):

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. RUBIO (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 Ms. 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 preagreement costs of emergency watershed protection measures, and for other purpose; 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. SHAHEEN):

S. 3216. A bill to amend title XXVII 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 treatment limitations with respect to diagnostic examinations for breast cancer that are less favorable than such re-

quirements with respect to screening examinations for breast cancer; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. MARKEY):

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. Kaine:

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 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. LEE):

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. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

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, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, 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. BURR, 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 names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) 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. 237

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, 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. 670

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 670, a bill to make daylight savings time permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 780

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 780, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for current year inclusion of net CFC tested income, and for other purposes.

S. 1374

At the request of Ms. MCSALLY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1374, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1954

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. 1954, 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 names 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 Willie O'Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 2461

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2461, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2741

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.

S. 2779

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.

S. 2842

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, 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.

S. 2892

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.

S. 2931

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.

S. 2936

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 provide for the admission and protection of refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable individuals, to provide for the processing of refugees and asylum seekers in the Western Hemisphere, and to modify certain special immigrant visa programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2989

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 2989, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify the mailing requirement relating to social security account statements.

S. 3043

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3043, a bill to modernize training programs at aviation maintenance technician schools, and for other purposes.

S. 3173

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3173, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that amounts paid for an abortion are not taken into account for purposes of the deduction for medical expenses.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

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

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 6, 2021.

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

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "fentanyl-related substance" has the meaning given the term 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, including—

(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, or 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, or 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 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; 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 by—

(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 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 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.

(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).

(f) 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 from—

- (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 cosponsor 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 a staggering number of lives lost that we simply cannot accept.

To address the increasing deaths, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a temporary order to control fentanyl-related substances, or fentanyl analogues, as a class.

That order is set to expire on February 6th.

Based on the information my office has received from the DEA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is clear that 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.

Comparatively, 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 depend on 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 TMP 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 Physicists by allowing the Department to pay these professionals at rates competitive with the private sector. This bill would also improve the quality of care for veterans by reducing the turnover of Therapeutic Medical Physicists, and lead to lower total costs for the De-

partment by eliminating the use of expensive contractors. With these savings, the Department could raise salaries and hire more Therapeutic Medical Physicists.

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.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 474—TO AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL IN THE CASE OF MARTIN F. MCMAHON V. SENATOR TED CRUZ, ET AL

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 474

Whereas, Senators Ted Cruz, Lindsey Graham, Mitch McConnell, and Rand Paul have been named as defendants in the case of *Martin F. McMahon v. Senator Ted Cruz, et al.*, Case No. 1:19-cv-03774-TSC, currently pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend Members of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Senators Ted Cruz, Lindsey Graham, Mitch McConnell, and Rand Paul, and any other Member who may be named as a defendant in the case of *Martin F. McMahon v. Senator Ted Cruz, et al.*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send to the desk a resolution authorizing representation by the Senate Legal Counsel and ask for its immediate consideration.

Mr. President, this resolution concerns a pro se lawsuit recently filed in Federal court in the District of Columbia against Senators CRUZ, GRAHAM, MCCONNELL, and PAUL. In this lawsuit, plaintiff seeks to obtain judicial supervision over the upcoming impeachment trial of the President under the Ninth Amendment. Plaintiffs suit is subject to dismissal on jurisdictional grounds as the Constitution grants the Senate the sole power to try impeachments, and the Judicial Branch has no power to oversee the actions and participation of Senators in an impeachment trial. This resolution would authorize the Senate Legal Counsel to represent the named defendant Senators in order to seek dismissal of the claims against them.

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:

S. RES. 475

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 provision 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 rights and 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 all United States citizens with 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 2019 NCAA 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 player in the history of the NCAA 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 for—

(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, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. MERKLEY) 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 school counselors assist with and coordinate efforts to foster a positive school climate, resulting in a safer learning environment for all students;

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 students face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, bullying, mental health issues, the deployment of family members 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 in both education and social and emotional development;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood;

Whereas the school counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated to meet budgetary constraints;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school counselors is 442 to 1, almost twice the 250 to 1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the National Association for College Admission Counseling, and other organizations; and

Whereas the celebration of National School Counseling Week will increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 3 through 7, 2020, as "National School Counseling Week"; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National School Counseling Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role school counselors play in schools and the community at large in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

SENATE RESOLUTION 478—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 26 THROUGH FEBRUARY 1, 2020, AS "NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK"

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. PERDUE, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, 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. BURR, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LEE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. DAINES) submitted the

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 and strengths 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 talented 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 actively choose the best education for their children;

Whereas more public awareness of the issue of parental choice in education can inform 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 tenth annual National School Choice Week, held the week of January 26 through February 1, 2020: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of January 26 through February 1, 2020, as “National School Choice Week”;

(2) congratulates students, parents, teachers, and school leaders from K–12 education environments of all varieties for their persistence, 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. COONS, 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.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1283. Mr. MORAN (for Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. COONS, 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:

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 non-violent 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 coordina-

tion 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 Veterans 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 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.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 2 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

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 Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, John Charles Hinderaker, and Scott H. Rash, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Joshua M. Kindred, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, Matthew Thomas Schelp, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, 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, both to be

a Judge 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 Secretary's desk; that the nominations be 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

PN1351 AIR FORCE nomination of Lorelee L. Stock, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1352 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning SHANNAN L. CORBIN, and ending JOSHUA D. YANOVIK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1409 AIR FORCE nomination of Kraegen J. Bramer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN1410 AIR FORCE nomination of Lisa A. Nemeth, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN1411 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

PN1262 ARMY nomination of Shaun J. Arredondo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN1263 ARMY nomination of Steven K. Uhlman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 30, 2019.

PN1292 ARMY nomination of Christopher M. Feroli, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 19, 2019.

PN1353 ARMY nomination of Richard A. Malaga, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1354 ARMY nomination of Tad T. Tsuneyoshi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1355 ARMY nomination of John F. Lopez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1356 ARMY nomination of Diego L. Becerra, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1357 ARMY nomination of Timothy P. Behnke, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1359 ARMY nomination of Sandra L. Molteni, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1404 ARMY nominations (91) beginning BENJAMIN A. ACCINELLI, and ending MATTHEW G. WYATT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN1407 ARMY nomination of Justin D. Considine, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN1412 ARMY nominations (2) 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.

PN1413 ARMY nominations (2) beginning MICHAEL V. DOMENIC, and ending CHRISTOPHER GUNDERSEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN1414 ARMY nomination of Shauntill L. Baah, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN1415 ARMY nomination of LaJohnne A. W. Morris, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN1416 ARMY nomination of Paul Green, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN1417 ARMY nomination of Wanda L. Horton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

PN1418 ARMY nomination of Robert T. Sutter, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1367 MARINE CORPS nominations (8) beginning ENRIQUE BANDT, and ending GILBERT L. WOODS, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1368 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.

PN1369 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jackie W. Morgan, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1370 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jacob R. Lewis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1371 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning NATHANIEL W. BAKER, III, and ending JAMES R. STRAND, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1372 MARINE CORPS nomination of Robert W. Puckett, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1373 MARINE CORPS nomination of John A. Yukica, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1374 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning DAVID S. GERSEN, and ending AMBROSIO V. PANTOJA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1376 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning RYAN M. CLEVELAND, and ending CHRISTIAN D. GALBRAITH, which

nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1405 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.

PN1406 MARINE CORPS nomination of Matthew H. Hilton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2020.

IN THE NAVY

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.

PN1362 NAVY nomination of Warren L. Brookes, 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.

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 en bloc 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, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, 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 cosponsor requests, and, where applicable, the Secretary of the Senate, on behalf of the Presiding Officer, be permitted to refer such matters.

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.

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.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate January 16, 2020:

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF LORELEE L. STOCK, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SHANNAN L. CORBIN AND ENDING WITH JOSHUA D. YANOVIAK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF KRAEGEN 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.

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 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. WYATT, 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 GUNDERSEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 9, 2020.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SHAUNTILL 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.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

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 C. 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 NOMINATION OF JACKIE W. MORGAN, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JACOB R. LEWIS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

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 NOMINATION OF JOHN A. YUKICA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID S. GERSEN AND ENDING WITH AMEROSIO V. PANTOJA, 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. COULTES 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.

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.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LARA 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.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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 commending 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. BRENDA
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 Resource 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.

IN CELEBRATION OF VIETNAMESE
NEW YEAR TET 2020

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Tét, Vietnamese New Year, for 2020. The large Vietnamese community in Orange County will gather together in Little Saigon to celebrate the Year of the Rat. I am once again honored to join them in observing their traditions and rich culture.

Tét marks the beginning of a new spring where families can reunite with their ancestors, reconnect with their loved ones, and move beyond their troubles and difficulties from the past year. Furthermore, they cele-

brate and hope for a better year ahead of them. The celebration brings together the Vietnamese community in Little Saigon, the largest Vietnamese community outside of Vietnam. Fifty thousand participants and over sixty organizations will gather to celebrate with food, music, dance, and so much more. The theme for this year's parade is "With Profound Gratitude and Appreciation," where participants will express their gratitude to the ancestors who sacrificed to give forthcoming generations a brighter future. Another aspect of this year's celebration is an expression of the community's appreciation to the United States.

In the nearly fifty years since the fall of Saigon, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese refugees have resettled and built strong communities across the United States. The United States accepted and looked after the Vietnamese community and offered the opportunity to start a new life in this great country. Here in America, they have the freedom to celebrate their basic human rights and enjoy the communities they have built after resettling.

A shining star of the Vietnamese American community of Little Saigon is the vibrant group of media outlets—Nguoi Viet Daily News, Vien Dong Daily News, Viet Bao Daily News, Vietnam America TV (VNA-TV), Saigon Broadcasting Television Network (SBTN), Little Saigon Radio, Central Broadcasting Network (CBN), and many more. They are committed to providing reliable news, preserving the Vietnamese language and culture, and enriching the lives and experiences of the Vietnamese community in the United States.

Madam Speaker and fellow colleagues, please join me in celebration of the Vietnamese New Year, Tét 2020.

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 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 near 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 not 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 15, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1230, the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act. This bipartisan and commonsense legislation will level the playing field for older workers in Central New York and across the country by restoring the ability to combat 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 federal 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 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 Michiganders in all capacities, 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.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Mark Gaffney's career with Teamsters Local Union No. 214. Mark Gaffney's unrelenting commitment to our state is remarkable and I deeply appreciate his continued leadership in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK OF THE UNION OF THE VIETNAMESE STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (UVSA)

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California (UVSA) and the organization's tremendous contribution in organizing the highest-attended, longest-running annual Tét festival in the country.

UVSA is committed to fostering awareness of Vietnamese culture, civic engagement, and leadership development within the community. Since its founding, it has shown an unwavering dedication to community service and advocacy for social justice, both domestically and internationally.

UVSA's volunteers are students, alumni, professional, educators, and community leaders. When not organizing the Tét Festival, UVSA provides grants to other non-profits across Southern California, holds leadership development activities at high schools and colleges, participates in Black April commemorations, and holds inter-collegiate events with their respective Vietnamese student associations.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing the extraordinary work and contributions of the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California.

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 built a firepit at American Legion Post 58 in Smithville, Missouri, to be used for flag retirement ceremonies.

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 STEWARD

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 vested interest in the town enabled him to connect with everyone as his peer. 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 Station, a backbone of the current economy, was negotiating 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 Captain Arnie Holm, 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 facility will offer counseling rooms, an expanded food and necessities pantry, three kitchens, and laundry and shower facilities. Ozone House's new facility will positively impact 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 be an asset to the community. 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 naïve 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.

But 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 steadfast devotion 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 great pride in knowing 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 accessible 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 it as a competitor in the market of 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 commemorate 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.

Through his studies, 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 daydreamer.

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 that 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.

On 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 our 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 shareholders 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.

HONORING JACOB RAYMOND WORNSON

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 Jacob Raymond Wornson. Jacob 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.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob 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, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Raymond Wornson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING THE CENTRAL METHODIST UNIVERSITY MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, a year ago I stood on the House floor to pay tribute to the Central Methodist University Eagles Men's Soccer Team of Fayette, Missouri—located in Missouri's Fourth Congressional District—for winning the NAIA Men's Soccer National Championship.

I have the distinct honor of sharing with you the news of a truly outstanding accomplishment: the Eagles have won the NAIA Men's Soccer Championship for a second consecutive year.

Head Coach Alex Nichols and the Eagles defeated Hastings College of Nebraska 3-1 in the championship finale in Irvine, California. The win capped a 25-1 season for the Eagles as they set school records for most wins in a season and fewest losses in a season.

This second-straight soccer national championship is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and determination that defines this team's work ethic. Congratulations to the Central Methodist University Eagles—Missouri's two-time national champs.

OBSERVING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK JANUARY

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the innocent lives lost in the massacre of Black January at the hands of 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 is fixed 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.

Following the events of Black January, popular sentiment drove Azerbaijan to break away from the Soviet Union and declare independence. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the Constitutional Act on the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan was approved.

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. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Ms. STEFANK. 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 not finished serving the region, 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 Prohibition 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 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's 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. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Ms. STEFANK. 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; his son, 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 third congressional district. The House of Prayer provides 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.

Madam Speaker, the 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, 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 another 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 motto of "Honor First".

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 will make him 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 answered the call of history, helping to finally open the doors of democracy, equality, and opportunity to Hoosier women.

Not long after the landmark Seneca Falls Convention and subsequent Declaration of Sentiments in 1848, female leaders in Indiana began to organize their own women's rights initiatives. Led by Randolph County native Amanda Way, Indiana's first convention for women's rights took place in 1851. Building on the energy generated from this first convention, participants went on to form the Indiana Woman's Rights Association in 1852. As the movement began to take hold the organization transformed into the Indiana Woman's Suffrage Association. In 1859, Richmond physician Dr. Mary F. Thomas spoke in favor of

women's suffrage in front of the Indiana General Assembly in Indianapolis. As the leader of the Indiana Woman's Suffrage Association, she was the first female to address the Indiana General Assembly.

Soon thereafter the scourge of the Civil War dominated political and social life throughout the country. However, the dream of women's suffrage did not wither in the shadow of this national calamity. After the surrender of Confederate forces in 1865, the states went on to ratify the 14th Amendment guaranteeing citizens equal protection under the law, in 1868. The states then ratified the 15th Amendment in 1870, guaranteeing the right to vote to all males regardless of race. These new guarantees reinvigorated the push for women's suffrage.

Pressure for passage of statewide women's suffrage was first and foremost on the mind of May Wright Sewall's Equal Suffrage Society, which during the early 1880's, organized massive letter writing campaigns aimed at influencing the members of the Indiana General Assembly. Activists such as Helen Gougar of Lafayette, went even a step further, actively attempting to vote in an election in 1894. Having been barred from her attempt to vote, she filed a court case against the Tippecanoe County Election Board. After initial successes in lower courts, the case went to the Indiana Supreme Court which ultimately ruled against Mrs. Gougar. Later in 1897, American icon and women's suffrage leader Susan B. Anthony spoke before the Indiana General Assembly, advocating the swift passage of statewide women's suffrage.

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 Barnes Ross, along with Ida Husted Harper of Terre Haute, Marie Stuart Edwards of Peru, and many others, recruited Hoosier women from all ethnic, socioeconomic, 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 certain state and 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 Representatives was predicted to be so narrow that supporters of women's suffrage helped carry Hoosier Representative Henry Barnhart 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 did finally convene, 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 would 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 alumnus 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 physical setting.

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 responsibly 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 supporting nature-based play and exploration, 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 post-graduate 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.

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: **Page S262**

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: **Pages S266–69**

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. **Pages S266–67**

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. **Page S267**

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. **Page S268**

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. **Page S268**

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. **Page S268**

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. **Page S268**

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. **Page S269**

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. **Page S269**

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. **Page S282**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S281–82, S282–83**

Messages from the House: **Page S275**

Measures Referred: **Page S275**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S275**

Executive Communications: **Page S275**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S275–76**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S276**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S277–78**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S278–81**

Additional Statements: **Pages S273–75**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S281**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S281**

Quorum Calls: One quorum call was taken today. (Total—1) **Page S268**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—14) **Pages S265–66**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:45 a.m. and adjourned at 4:01 p.m., until 2 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.

BUSINESS MEETING

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). **Page 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.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Friday, January 17

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Friday, January 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10:30 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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