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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 10, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK LARSEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

RECOGNIZING NORTH CAROLINA SENATOR TOM MCINNIS, CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, North Carolina State Senator Tom McInnis of Rockingham has been named "Citizen of the Year" by the Richmond Community College Foundation, and I rise to comment on this well-deserved honor for my friend. Tom is an alumnus of RCC, and I know this distinction is meaningful to him.

I was privileged to serve with Tom in the North Carolina Senate and have worked closely with him to learn and

serve the needs of Richmond County in the time leading to and since my election in the House. That experience deepened my appreciation for Tom's love for Rockingham and Hamlet and the rest of Richmond County and his personal force in advocating for the needs and advancement of his people—and I mean everybody.

The citizenship award specifically recognizes Tom's effort and success in promoting workforce training for rural North Carolina. And Tom has devoted much of his adult life to improving educational opportunity, especially.

Tom grew up on a Richmond County farm. He put himself through school and started multiple businesses. In 1983, he founded Iron Horse Auction Company, which, in 2013, was named one of the top 10 auction companies in the United States. He was elected to the North Carolina Auctioneers Association Hall of Fame in 1994.

Tom's public life began with 8 years' service on the Richmond County Board of Education. Tom is now in his third term in the Senate, where he serves as chairman of the Transportation Committee.

Tom played a key role in securing funding for workforce training at Richmond Community College, including programs for truck driver training and electrical linemen. Since just the fall of 2016, the trucking program has graduated 50 new drivers into the workforce with highly marketable skills. The lineman program started last fall and already has a waitlist.

Tom will never forget his rural roots, and his people will never forget his hard work and service on their behalf. I am proud to call him a colleague, mentor, and friend.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

As we meditate on all the blessing of life, we especially pray for the blessing of peace in our lives and in our world.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly as they return from a weekend in their home districts. Give them wisdom and charity, that they might work together for the common good.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

□ 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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H979

CIVILITY IN CONGRESS

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, it is a fresh week in Washington. Last week, division infected this Capitol, both sides, Republicans and Democrats.

The State of the Union is supposed to be a time of coming together as Americans, coming together to improve jobs, healthcare, the environment, and the lives of hardworking men and women, seniors, and their families.

On Friday, I couldn't wait to get home. I went home and spent time with people in my district.

People donned costumes in the Michigan Law Enforcement Polar Plunge for Special Olympics. I didn't jump, but I laughed.

The University of Michigan won a hard-fought game against Michigan State. Yes, go Blue. And now, we come together as one Michigan.

We had serious, important conversations about the division in this country and how we must come together.

As we work on the people's business this week, I hope we remember we can disagree agreeably and respect others' opinions and the need to listen to each other and understand different perspectives. We are all Americans.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS MAY

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Thomas May on receiving the University of Arkansas System President's Medal for Service.

This award is given by the school's president and cabinet to recognize those who have committed to helping the UA System through their time, knowledge, and philanthropy.

Tommy May has long been a resident of the Fourth Congressional District and was previously the president and CEO of Simmons Bank. Mr. May is also the only person in Arkansas history to have served as both chairman of the board and acting president of the University of Arkansas System.

His contributions to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff have led to growth, development, and successes at both institutions.

Mr. May is a dedicated leader, and his service shows how much wise stewardship can accomplish in the lives of others. Tommy has been an inspiration to many as he continues to serve others and make a difference in many lives, all while dealing with ALS in his own life.

I take this time to congratulate Tommy May once again on this tremendous honor and thank him for his tremendous courage and service to our district and our State.

CELEBRATING MARGIE GARVIN

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

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to celebrate a remarkable woman and a fierce advocate for Staten Island's African American community, Ms. Margie Garvin.

Sadly, Margie's unyielding commitment to increasing voter awareness was spurred by her own experience with racism after she moved to Staten Island's Park Hill Houses in 1979. When Margie went to borough hall to try to update her voter registration a man there mockingly told Margie: "You people don't vote."

"Well, if my people don't vote," she said, "where can I go get some voter registration forms?"

Ever since, she has been an unstoppable force on Staten Island, registering voters and getting people out to the polls.

In between election days, she is out there in the community, demanding better playgrounds for kids, holding her elected officials accountable, cooking meals for seniors, and so much more.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Ms. Margie Garvin, who is on the ground in the community, putting in the hard work to make New York City's Staten Island and the United States of America a better place.

RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SERVICE OF CARMEN GUTIERREZ

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

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tremendous public service of Mrs. Carmen Gutierrez.

Carmen has served for 5 years as my Del Rio district representative, delivering the gold standard in constituent services to the people of Terrell, Val Verde, Kinney, and Uvalde Counties.

Carmen was born and raised in Texas and has made it her life's work to give back to her community. Before working for my office, Carmen served as district equipment superintendent at the Texas Department of Transportation, becoming the first female in history to serve in that role.

Carmen has played an integral role in her community and is beloved by those who call her friend and neighbor. When you walk through Del Rio, everyone knows her name.

At the end of February, Carmen will retire from public service. It is a retirement that is well earned: scores of constituent cases closed, hundreds of lives touched, and now a loving family eagerly awaits more time with Carmen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Carmen on her distinguished career and upcoming retirement.

ILLUMINATING THE LEGACY OF CURT FLOOD

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, this Black History Month, I ask my colleagues to join efforts to illuminate the legacy of a true American hero, the late Major League Baseball All-Star center fielder Curt Flood.

In addition to 12 stellar seasons with the St. Louis Cardinals, Curt Flood struck a blow for dignity and civil rights by challenging a rule which allowed players to be traded against their will.

He noted in his refusal: "After 12 years in the major leagues, I do not feel I am a piece of property to be bought and sold irrespective of my wishes. I believe that any system which produces that result violates my basic rights as a citizen and is inconsistent with the laws of the United States."

My great friend Congressman TRONE and I are asking Members to join in a letter supporting the induction of Curt Flood into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Flood's struggles might have ended his career, but he blazed a trail for the rights enjoyed by players today. It is this type of leadership and lasting contribution we recognize this Black History Month.

RECOGNIZING PAUL GRASSEY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Paul Grassey, who received the French Legion of Honor by the Consul General of France on January 28 for his role in liberating France during World War II.

During the war, Paul flew B-24 bombers for the Eighth Air Force in 13 missions. After the war, Mr. Grassey returned to Savannah and became heavily involved with the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, helping to educate people in the area about the Eighth Air Force's role in the war.

Paul gives tours at the museum and often goes into local schools to talk about the importance of World War II and freeing Europe from Nazi Germany.

In 2013, Paul wrote a book outlining his story before, during, and after the war while discussing the six pillars of having good character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

The French Legion of Honor is the highest military honor in France, and I could not be more proud that the Consul General has awarded it to Mr. Grassey of the First Congressional District of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Grassey on his award. I thank him for

his experience, knowledge, and passion with people of all ages in Savannah.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHERMAN). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1533

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SCHRADER) at 3 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Miss Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs) HOMELAND SECURITY PARTNERSHIPS ACT

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1494) to strengthen partnerships between historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions and the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1494

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 “Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Homeland Security Partnerships Act”.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT-WIDE STRATEGY FOR ENHANCED PARTNERSHIPS WITH HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans of the Department, shall—

(1) issue a Department-wide strategy to enhance partnerships with historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions that includes yearly goals,

including goals related to improving recruitment and hiring, research and development, and acquisition opportunities at such institutions, through fiscal year 2025; and

(2) require the head of each component of the Department to—

(A) not later than 150 days after the date of the issuance under paragraph (1) of the Department-wide strategy, develop a component-specific action plan to implement such strategy;

(B) monitor progress on such implementation; and

(C) not later than one year after the date of such issuance, report to the Secretary regarding progress on such implementation.

SEC. 3. ENHANCEMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS.

The Secretary shall seek to enhance partnerships with historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions with respect to administering the research and development activities of the Department by, among other things—

(1) encouraging the participation of such colleges, universities, and institutions in the research, development, testing, and evaluation programs and activities of the Department;

(2) facilitating partnerships between such colleges, universities, and institutions and private sector stakeholders, national laboratories, and other academic institutions in areas important to homeland security, including cybersecurity, emergency management, and counterterrorism; and

(3) distributing funds through Science and Technology Directorate grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to such colleges, universities, and institutions for enhancements in areas important to homeland security, including cybersecurity, emergency management, and counterterrorism.

SEC. 4. CAREER OPPORTUNITIES PARTNERSHIPS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Chief Human Capital Officer of the Department, shall make available to historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions a current list of internship, fellowship, scholarship, and recruitment opportunities within the Department for students and recent graduates of such colleges, universities, and institutions.

SEC. 5. ACQUISITION PARTNERSHIPS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Chief Procurement Officer of the Department, shall—

(1) identify how to increase the participation of historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions in Department acquisitions, including identifying existing opportunities for historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions to participate in the contracting program of the Small Business Administration for minorities; and

(2) disseminate to such colleges, universities, and institutions—

(A) information identified in accordance with paragraph (1); and

(B) current and future opportunities to participate in Department acquisitions.

SEC. 6. ANNUAL REPORT.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2020, and annually thereafter through 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the efforts of the Department to partner with historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions to carry out this Act.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The annual reports required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A list of awards, including the corresponding monetary value for each such award, to historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions, disaggregated by grant, contract, cooperative agreement, and other research development test and evaluation activity, initiative, and program.

(2) A description of how the Department is partnering with historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions under the programs referred to in sections 3 and 5, and how such programs have helped such colleges, universities, and institutions participate in acquisitions with the Department.

(3) A summary of outreach efforts to historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions, and an identification of any Department programs and initiatives in which such colleges, universities, and institutions are under-represented among institutions of higher education.

(4) A description of the status of efforts made by the Department pursuant to sections 2 and 4, including—

(A) for section 2, Department-wide goals pursuant to the Department-wide strategy to enhance partnerships with historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions under such section, and the status of efforts to implement action plans throughout the Department to carry out such strategy; and

(B) for section 4, participation rates in each internship, fellowship, scholarship, and recruitment opportunity referred to in such section, listed by historically Black college and university and minority-serving institution so participating.

(5) A list of memoranda of understanding entered into by the Department with historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions and information on the parties and scope of each such memorandum of understanding.

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—The term “historically Black colleges and universities” means a part B institution described in section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)).

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

(4) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.—The term “minority-serving institutions” means an institution of higher education described in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means Secretary of Homeland Security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 1494, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Homeland Security Partnerships Act.

Mr. Speaker, historically Black colleges and universities, HBCUs, and minority-serving institutions, MSIs, play a pivotal role in American society. HBCUs, which make up only 3 percent of the United States' institutions of higher education, produce nearly 30 percent of all bachelor's degrees earned by African Americans in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM fields.

My State, New Mexico, is home to 18 Hispanic-serving institutions, which, like HBCUs, produce a large percentage of underrepresented minorities who study and work in STEM. Nationwide, Hispanic-serving institutions account for 66 percent of the more than 3.5 million undergraduate Hispanics enrolled in higher education.

The contributions of HBCUs, HSIs, and other minority-serving institutions prove that, when these institutions have equitable opportunities, it drives our economy and improves outcomes within minority communities.

It is also true of these institutions' ability to do work for the Federal Government. The Department of Homeland Security, DHS, specifically has always understood the value of working with such institutions. However, the partnership is nowhere near its full potential. DHS has even acknowledged that its existing programs for engaging with HBCUs are being underutilized.

H.R. 1494 would require DHS to issue a strategy with yearly goals to enhance these partnerships. This strategy will include specific measurable goals to ensure the Department's progress in working with HBCUs and HSIs.

Mr. Speaker, Federal investment in and partnership with HBCUs and MSIs is vital for the strength of our economy and the advancement of our society. I urge my colleagues to support this bill to ensure effective partnership between DHS and HBCUs and MSIs.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, January 30, 2020.

Hon. BENNIE THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I am writing with respect to H.R. 1494, the "Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Homeland Security Partnerships Act." Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Small Business regarding the matters in H.R. 1494 that fall within the Committee's jurisdiction.

As a result of your consultation with us on this measure and in order to expeditiously move the bill to the floor, I forego further consideration of H.R. 1494. The Committee

on Small Business takes this action with our mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our jurisdiction. Further, I request your support for the appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from the Committee on Small Business during any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming our understanding regarding H.R. 1494 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the measure. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Chairwoman.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 30, 2020.

Hon. NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ,
Chairwoman, Committee on Small Business,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN VELÁZQUEZ: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1494, the "Historically Black Colleges and Universities Homeland Security Partnerships Act." I recognize that the Committee on Small Business has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 1494, and appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

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

I will include our letters on H.R. 1494 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1494, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Homeland Security Partnerships Act.

H.R. 1494 seeks to increase partnerships and opportunities between historically Black colleges and universities, or HBCUs, and the Department of Homeland Security.

The bill requires DHS to develop a departmentwide strategy to enhance partnerships with HBCUs and minority-serving institutions and seeks to further such partnerships, specifically in relation to the research and development activities of DHS.

I applaud my colleague, the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, for his efforts to bring this bill forward. I think this is an important undertaking that will improve the work of DHS.

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

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 1494, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Homeland Security Partnerships Act.

As a two-time HBCU graduate, I have long been an advocate of these important institutions and creating more opportunities for them to work with the Federal Government. Throughout the 15 years that I have served on the Committee on Homeland Security, I have made it a priority to facilitate dialogue between the HBCUs and the Department of Homeland Security on how to build meaningful partnerships.

As the gentlewoman from New Mexico has already mentioned, HBCUs and minority-serving institutions have and continue to make great contributions to American society. That is why it is critical that we encourage DHS to strengthen partnerships between HBCUs and MSIs.

After Hurricanes Katrina and Maria, it became clear how the absence of individuals from minority communities in homeland security decisionmaking, such as emergency management and planning, hinders our ability to serve all affected communities equally.

Minority communities are disproportionately impacted by natural hazards and disasters. It is imperative that the students of those communities—HBCU and MSI students—are not left on the sidelines and are encouraged to contribute to such planning and equipped to respond.

Enactment of my bill will take a step in this direction, as it requires DHS to develop a strategy to strengthen its capacity to provide research and development, contracting, and internships and career opportunities to HBCUs and MSIs and their students or recent graduates.

The bill also requires the Department to do more outreach and disseminate more information to these institutions. Such information includes internships and career opportunities and how HBCUs and MSIs may qualify to participate in Federal acquisitions.

I thank my colleague from Missouri, Representative LUETKEMEYER, for his support on this important measure.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on its passage.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1494 seeks to facilitate dialogue between the Department of Homeland Security and HBCUs and MSIs on how to find areas of opportunity to build more productive partnerships. Collaborating with these diverse institutions is not only economically and culturally beneficial, it is

necessary to effectively respond to current, emerging, and consistent homeland security threats.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1494 the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Homeland Security Partnerships Act. This legislation would require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to strengthen the partnerships between the Department and HBCU's. In turn, this would expose the talented students attending these institutions to more robust recruitment and hiring by the Department along with better cooperation by these institutions in DHS research and testing programs.

HBCU's and other Minority Serving Institutions have provided a quality education to millions of Americans seeking to gain knowledge and to better their career prospects. Many of the students who are attending these institutions come from diverse backgrounds and are the first in their families to pursue a postsecondary education. It is my strong belief that our federal workforce should be as diverse as possible so that the work our government does can impact all Americans. With the passage of this legislation today, the Department of Homeland Security will take a step towards a more diverse workforce. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1494, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ACT OF 2019

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2107) to increase the number of CBP Agriculture Specialists and support staff in the Office of Field Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2107

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 "Protecting America's Food and Agriculture Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. FINDING.

Congress finds that—

(1) it is in the national security interest of the United States to ensure that the Nation's food supply is sufficiently protected; and

(2) a vital part of such protection is the availability of adequate resources at the border to conduct inspections of incoming food and agricultural goods.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

(2) CBP.—The term "CBP" means U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION PERSONNEL.

(a) CBP AGRICULTURE SPECIALISTS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may hire, train, and assign 240 new CBP Agriculture Specialists above the current attrition level during every fiscal year until the total number of CBP Agriculture Specialists equals and sustains the requirements identified each year in the Agriculture Resource Allocation Model.

(b) MISSION AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may hire, train, and assign support staff to support CBP Agriculture Specialists.

(2) CBP AGRICULTURE TECHNICIANS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may hire, train, and assign 200 new CBP Agriculture Technicians during each fiscal year until the total number of CBP Agriculture Technicians equals and sustains the requirements identified each year in the Mission and Operational Support Resource Allocation Model.

(c) CBP AGRICULTURE CANINE TEAMS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may hire, train, and assign 20 new CBP agriculture canine teams during each of the first 3 fiscal years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) TRAFFIC FORECASTS.—In calculating the number of CBP Agriculture Specialists needed at each port of entry through the Agriculture Resource Allocation Model, the Office of Field Operations shall—

(1) rely on data collected regarding the inspections and other activities conducted at each such port of entry; and

(2) consider volume from seasonal surges, other projected changes in commercial and passenger volumes, the most current commercial forecasts, and other relevant information.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) CBP AGRICULTURE SPECIALISTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a)—

(A) \$29,900,000 for fiscal year 2020;

(B) \$36,100,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

(C) \$40,500,000 for fiscal year 2022.

(2) CBP AGRICULTURE TECHNICIANS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (b)—

(A) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;

(B) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

(C) \$38,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

(3) CBP AGRICULTURE CANINE TEAMS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (c)—

(A) \$3,500,000 for fiscal year 2020;

(B) \$7,400,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

(C) \$12,200,000 for fiscal year 2022.

(4) TRAINING.—There is authorized to be appropriated for training costs associated with the new CBP personnel and canine teams hired pursuant to subsections (a), (b), and (c) \$6,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022.

SEC. 5. GAO STUDY, BRIEFING, AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States, after consultation with the appropriate congressional committees,

shall conduct a review of the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Agriculture, and other Federal agencies to address risks to the agricultural supply that analyzes—

(1) interagency coordination and the distribution of responsibilities among Federal agencies with respect to the inspection of agricultural commodities entering the United States;

(2) the effectiveness of such inspection responsibilities among Federal agencies; and

(3) the training provided to, and working conditions of, CBP Agriculture Specialists.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding the results of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the briefing required under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall complete the study required under subsection (a) and make the results of the study available to the public.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senator PETERS' bill, the Protecting America's Food and Agriculture Act of 2019.

This bill comes at a time of crisis for America's agricultural industry. Threats from illnesses abroad endanger the domestic pork industry, while trade tensions have strained relationships with the international consumers our Nation's farmers supply.

The African swine flu, ASF, is a particular threat. A devastating illness that is still being studied, this flu has not made its way to the United States, and steps are being taken to ensure that it does not.

□ 1545

Agricultural inspectors within U.S. Customs and Border Protection are crucial in protecting our livestock and agricultural products from potential disease outbreaks. They are charged with scanning all incoming agricultural cargo and passengers to ensure that products are not coming into the United States that are diseased or contain pests.

S. 2107 provides for the hiring of additional inspectors to augment the workforce that is in place at our ports of entry. I commend Senator GARY PETERS for introducing this timely measure and also acknowledge my

House colleague, Representative FILEMON VELA, who introduced companion legislation.

The need for greater agricultural inspection resources at the border is critical. That is why stakeholders and leaders from across the Nation have spoken out in support of S. 2107. The message from over 150 organizations that either produce pork or are involved in the industry and the Governors from Utah, North Dakota, Ohio, Arkansas, Tennessee, Idaho, South Carolina, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Oklahoma is loud and clear: Get this bill to the President so it can be enacted into law.

This level of support demonstrates the vital need to pass this legislation with all possible haste. We must provide CBP with the resources needed to ensure a continued vitality of the American agricultural industry.

Today, we are protecting American pork. Tomorrow, it may be New Mexican chiles. That is why this is so important.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, February 3, 2020.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding S. 2107, the "Protecting America's Food and Agriculture Act of 2019". Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within its jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. We request that our committee be consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and ask that you support any such request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to S. 2107, and request that a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

COLLIN C. PETERSON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 3, 2020.

Hon. COLLIN PETERSON,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Thank you for your letter regarding S. 2107, the "Protecting America's Food and Agriculture Act of 2019." I recognize that the Committee on Agriculture has a jurisdictional interest in S. 2107, and appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

I concur with you that forgoing action on the bill does not in any way prejudice the

Committee on Agriculture with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on S. 2107 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

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

I rise in support of S. 2107, the Protecting America's Food and Agriculture Act of 2019.

As we know, much of the food and agricultural goods we consume come from all over the world, whether it be fruit, vegetables, herbs, or cut flowers.

As food and other agricultural goods arrive at our ports of entry, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agricultural specialists have a tremendous responsibility. They inspect those products to safeguard the U.S. food supply, the economy, and agriculture from potentially harmful or dangerous pests, pathogens, invasive plants, and agroterrorism.

CBP has advised Congress that there are hundreds of agriculture-related position vacancies at the agency on top of thousands of Border Patrol, customs officer, and other law enforcement vacancies. S. 2107 encourages CBP to hire, train, and assign agriculture specialists and associated support staff, technicians, and K-9 teams, and authorizes appropriations to do so.

The bill requires CBP to consider quantifiable inspection data, seasonal surge volumes, and projected changes in commercial forecasts at each port of entry when determining staffing needs.

The bill also directs the Comptroller General to conduct a review of Federal efforts to address risks to the agricultural supply that analyzes interagency coordination, effectiveness of inspections, and training and working conditions.

While I support this bill, I also encourage my colleagues to work across the aisle to provide CBP with the resources necessary to fill all of their sensitive position vacancies, including those at Border Patrol.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support S. 2107, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I rise in strong support of S. 2107, the Protecting America's Food and Agriculture Act of 2019.

Americans are blessed to live in a country where, in most communities, we can find healthy, fresh foods at our grocery stores. That does not just hap-

pen. Our Nation's food supply and agricultural industry make it happen.

As such, the agricultural industry is an indispensable sector of our national economy. Every year, millions and millions of pounds of fresh fruits, vegetables, cheeses, and meats enter the United States via commercial shipments from other countries.

While this flow of agricultural trade is fundamental to our economy and way of life, it does carry with it risk of importation diseases, pests, and compromised products.

To address this risk, agricultural inspectors in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspect incoming food and agricultural goods at our land, air, and sea ports.

Additionally, these inspectors interview passengers on incoming international flights to determine whether they are carrying prohibited agricultural items, because even an accidental transmission of a foreign pest or disease into our country could potentially devastate our agricultural system.

With African swine flu rampant in Asia, accounting for the deaths of millions of pigs as a result of disease, or to control this deadly disease, it is critical that the U.S. have adequate inspection resources in place.

S. 2107 would help ensure that we have agriculture inspectors in place to perform this critical mission.

I commend my counterpart in the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator GARY PETERS, and my former committee colleague Representative FILEMON VELA for their leadership on this timely effort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure and send this bill to the President's desk.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST).

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today in support of S. 2107, which will help ensure the safety and security of our agricultural imports.

The U.S. agriculture sector is a vitally important component of the American economy. In my district alone, agriculture is responsible for over 30,000 jobs and adds \$2 billion to the economy.

In China, African swine fever has killed more hogs than the entire U.S. herd combined. We must do everything we can to protect our domestic herds against the same fate.

In authorizing more CBP agriculture specialists and K-9 teams at our ports of entry, we can ensure the safety of our livestock while preserving billions of dollars in potential losses to American agriculture.

On behalf of thousands of livestock producers in my district, I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA).

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

I rise in support of S. 2107, the Protecting America's Food and Agriculture Act of 2019. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this crucial bill.

I introduced this important legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives with support from Members of both sides of the aisle. This bipartisan bill authorizes the hiring of additional agricultural specialists, agricultural technicians, and agricultural K-9 teams at our international ports of entry and has the support of nearly one dozen Governors and over 150 agriculture and trade stakeholders across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters from Governors and industry groups addressing their support for this bill.

STATE OF UTAH,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Salt Lake City, UT, January 31, 2020.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. MIKE ROGERS,
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON AND RANKING MEMBER ROGERS: I appreciate your work leading the House Committee on Homeland Security. I write today in support of H.R. 4482, Protecting America's Food & Agriculture Act of 2019. The bill would authorize funding to hire additional Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel to help conduct Agriculture Quarantine Inspection services at the United States' ports of entry.

Utah has a robust agricultural sector, including a pork industry that is an important part of our state's economy. We are genuinely concerned about the potential impact of agricultural pests and diseases, including African Swine Fever. The Fever has not yet impacted the United States, but is wreaking havoc in other parts of the world and would pose a significant threat to the U.S. pork industry.

Through regional and national partnerships, we spend considerable effort as a state to detect and combat diseases and prevent outbreaks. However we need the federal government's support to prevent disease transmissions from foreign sources.

Thank you again for your work, and please let me know if can be helpful.

Sincerely,
GARY R. HERBERT,
Governor.

FEBRUARY 5, 2020.
Chairman BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
House of Representatives, House Committee on
Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

Ranking Member MIKE ROGERS,
House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON AND RANKING MEMBER ROGERS: We the undersigned Governors request that the Committee on Homeland Security swiftly report out without amendment H.R. 4482, Protecting America's Food & Agriculture Act of 2019. This bill authorizes funding to hire additional Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel which are critically needed to conduct Agriculture Quarantine Inspection services at the United States' ports of entry. The Senate version of this bill, S. 2107, has been approved by the Senate by unanimous consent

and we are hopeful that it will be placed on the House suspension calendar.

The U.S. agriculture sector is vital to the American economy, generating over \$1 trillion in annual economic activity. Threats to the vitality of American agriculture present a danger to economic security at the local and state level across our nation. Indeed, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has calculated that foreign agricultural pests and diseases already cost the American economy tens of billions of dollars annually. We must vigilantly protect our borders against diseases such as African Swine Fever (ASF), which has killed more than one out of every four pigs on the planet and would have a devastating impact on U.S. livestock producers, their communities, and the economy if it were to reach the USA.

CBP employees perform critically important agricultural inspections every day at our nation's ports of entry. CBP Agricultural Specialists play a vital role in both trade and travel safety and preventing the introduction of harmful foreign animal diseases such as ASF and exotic plant pests into the U.S. CBP has been chronically understaffed at the ports of entry and currently reports a deficit of 721 Agriculture Specialists. Passage of the Protecting America's Food and Agriculture Act of 2019 will help close this gap by authorizing the hiring of 240 CBP Agriculture Specialists and 200 CBP Agriculture Technicians each year until the staffing shortage is closed.

The bill also authorizes the training and assignment each year of 20 new Agricultural Canine Teams, which are valuable assets in the detection of illicit fruits, vegetables and animal products that otherwise may be missed during inspections. These specially trained dogs have already demonstrated their ability to sniff out agricultural products that pose a danger. Finally, the bill authorizes supplemental appropriations each year to pay for the activities of the agriculture specialists, technicians and canine teams.

We ask that Congress authorize and fund the needed CBP Agriculture Specialists, Canine Teams and support staff to fully staff our international ports of entry. This investment will significantly enhance mitigation of national security threats, address public safety risks and grow the economy. We urge you to quickly discharge S. 2107/H.R. 4482 without amendments and advocate for its swift passage on the House suspension calendar.

Sincerely,

Hon. Doug Burgum, Governor of North Dakota;
Hon. Mike DeWine, Governor of Ohio;
Hon. Gary Herbert, Governor of Utah; Hon. Asa Hutchinson, Governor of Arkansas; Hon. Bill Lee, Governor of Tennessee; Hon. Brad Little, Governor of Idaho; Hon. Henry McMaster, Governor of South Carolina; Hon. Kristi Noem, Governor of South Dakota; Hon. Kim Reynolds, Governor of Iowa; Hon. Pete Ricketts, Governor of Nebraska; Hon. Kevin Stitt, Governor of Oklahoma.

JANUARY 22, 2020.
Chairman BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
House of Representatives, House Committee on
Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

Ranking Member MIKE ROGERS,
House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON AND RANKING MEMBER ROGERS: The undersigned groups request that the Committee on Homeland Security expeditiously report out, without amendment, H.R. 4482, Protecting America's Food & Agriculture Act of 2019, a bill authorizing funding to hire additional Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel needed to conduct Agriculture Quarantine Inspection

at the international ports of entry. The Senate version of this bill, S. 2107, was recently approved by the Senate by unanimous consent.

The U.S. agriculture sector is a crucial component of the American economy, generating over \$1 trillion in annual economic activity. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, foreign pests and diseases cost the American economy tens of billions of dollars annually. CBP employees perform critically important agricultural inspections every day at the nation's ports of entry. CBP Agricultural Specialists play a vital role in both trade and travel safety and prevent the introduction of harmful foreign animal diseases and exotic plant pests into the U.S. Diseases such as African Swine Fever, which has killed more than one out of every four pigs on the planet, would have a devastating impact on U.S. livestock producers, their communities, and the economy if introduced into the U.S.

For years, CBP has been chronically understaffed at U.S. ports of entry. The most recent results of CBP's Agriculture Specialist Resource Allocation Model (AgRAM) shows a need for an additional 721 Agriculture Specialists. Passage of the Protecting America's Food and Agriculture Act of 2019 would authorize CBP to hire 240 Agriculture Specialists and 200 Agriculture Technicians each year until the staffing shortage determined by AgRAM is remedied. The bill also authorizes the training and assignment each year of 20 new Agricultural Canine Teams, which have proven valuable in detecting illicit fruits, vegetables, and animal products that may have otherwise been missed in initial inspections. These specially trained dogs are already being utilized by CBP to sniff out potentially contaminated products. Finally, the bill authorizes supplemental appropriations each year to pay for the activities of agriculture specialists, technicians, and canine teams.

We ask Congress to authorize and fund the needed CBP Agriculture Specialists, Canine Teams, and support staff at the international ports of entry to guard against national security threats, address public safety risks, and grow the economy. To achieve this goal, we urge you to quickly discharge S. 2107/H.R. 4482 without amendment and push for its swift passage in the House.

Respectfully submitted,

Agri-Mark Dairy Cooperative, Airports Council International-North America, Alabama Pork Producers, American Dairy Coalition, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Feed Industry Association, American Kennel Club, American Sheep Industry Association, American Veterinary Medical Association, AmericanHort, Border Trade Alliance, California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, California Citrus Mutual, California Farm Bureau Federation, California Pork Producers Association, California Poultry Federation, Colorado Pork Producers Council, Dairy Producers of New Mexico, Dairy Producers of Utah, Fresh Produce Association of the Americas, Hawaii Pork Producers, Idaho Pork Producers Association.

Illinois Pork Producers Association, Indiana Pork Producers Association, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Kansas Pork Association, Kentucky Pork Producers Association, Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Louisiana Pork Producers Association, Louisiana Rice Producers Group, Michigan Agribusiness, Michigan Pork Producers Association, Minnesota Pork Producers Association, Mississippi Farm Bureau, Mississippi Pork Producers Association, Missouri Pork Association, Montana Pork Producers Council, National Animal Interest Alliance, National

Association of State Departments of Agriculture, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Christmas Tree Association, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America.

National Grain and Feed Association, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers Council, National Potato Council, National Sorghum Producers, National Treasury Employees Union, National Turkey Federation, Nebraska Pork Producers Association, Inc., North American Meat Institute, North American Renderers Association, North Carolina Pork Council, North Dakota Pork Council, Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives, Northwest Chicken Council, Oklahoma Pork Council, Oregon Dairy Farmers Association, Oregon Pork Producers, Oregon Women for Agriculture, Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council, Pet Food Institute.

Rural & Agriculture Council of America, South Dakota Pork Producers Council, Tennessee Pork Producers Association, Texas Broiler Council, Texas Citrus Mutual, Texas Egg Council, Texas International Produce Association, Texas Pork Producers Association, Texas Poultry Federation, Texas Rice Producers Legislative Group, Texas Turkey Federation, United Egg Producers, United Fresh Produce Association, United States Cattlemen's Association, United States Chamber of Commerce, USA Rice Federation, Utah Pork Producers, Virginia Pork Council, Inc., Washington State Dairy Federation, Washington State Potato Commission, Wisconsin Pork Association.

Mr. VELA. The U.S. agriculture sector is crucial to our economy and generates more than \$1 trillion in annual economic activity.

In 2017, Texas farms sold \$24.9 billion in agricultural products, a significant contribution to the State's economy. However, with increasing levels of trade, threats to the United States' agricultural sector are growing. Foreign pests and diseases cost our economy tens of billions of dollars per year.

Agricultural specialists at our ports of entry intercept thousands of invasive pests and prevent the introduction of foreign animal diseases, such as the African swine fever, into the United States, protecting our natural resources and our economy.

Unfortunately, a shortage of agricultural specialists exists at our U.S. ports of entry, which is why this legislation is so important. This bill would ensure that we have enough agricultural specialists, technicians, and K-9 teams to adequately perform agricultural quarantine inspections at our international ports of entry.

I ask my colleagues to support swift passage of the Protecting America's Food and Agriculture Act of 2019. I thank my colleague, Senator PETERS, for his collaboration on this crucial bill and our Texas colleagues in the Senate, Senators CORNYN and CRUZ, and Representative CRENSHAW for their leadership in this effort.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. HAGEDORN).

Mr. HAGEDORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Protecting America's Food and

Agriculture Act. I think this bill is a great example of how the House can work together, particularly across committee lines. Here, we have Homeland Security Committee and Agriculture Committee folks working together in the House and the Senate.

This is a critical piece of legislation in order to make sure we do everything possible to protect our food supply, our farmers, and agribusiness.

I have been focused very intently on this whole African swine fever threat for many months. When you look at it in China, it has ravaged their hog supply. Literally, over 50 percent of the hogs in China have had to be slaughtered because of it.

That disease has moved to Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines. It is in Poland, moving toward Germany and the European Union. It is an incredible threat, and it has caused a lot of destruction.

In my district in southern Minnesota, I happen to represent some of the finest agricultural producers in all the world, including livestock producers and many in pork production. Our district is number two in the whole country for pork production.

When you look at what is going on with African swine fever, it is obviously both an opportunity and a challenge. The opportunity is that there is going to be a need for our products—our pork supply, poultry, and other things. Our producers are going to have a chance to export around the world, perhaps even enhance and expand their operations.

Of course, the challenge is: What happens if the African swine fever gets in the United States? If African swine fever enters the United States, it is not going to hurt just our pork producers. It is going to hurt our corn and soybean growers, and the people who pack the meat, transport the meat, all the people down the line to Main Street. It is going to drive up the prices for our consumers, and we can't let that happen.

That is why this bill is so important, to enhance the inspectors at these ports of entry and to make sure that the Beagle Brigades, as they are called, are upgraded. They do a terrific job of sniffing out the pork.

I completely support this legislation, and I would ask my colleagues to consider this thought in the future, of perhaps putting together a task force between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Homeland Security to make sure that they are working in cooperation.

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

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. HAGEDORN. Mr. Speaker, I think a task force would be great, in order to make sure that these Departments are coordinating and working together. Then we in the Congress can interact with them in a better fashion.

We have to do every last thing we can to protect our food production and our American agricultural producers from this and other infectious diseases. I encourage everyone to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Protecting America's Food and Agriculture Act.

Agriculture is key to southern Minnesota's economy, but a shortage of Agricultural inspectors at America's ports of entries puts our production at risk from infectious diseases.

African Swine Fever has torn through China's hog population and is currently spreading throughout Europe and Asia—with recent outbreaks reported in the Philippines and Greece.

Foreign Ag Diseases like the High Path Avian Influenza outbreak in 2014 cost the poultry industry \$1.6 billion. Foreign Ag Diseases affect the whole food supply chain, reducing demand and prices for crops like corn and soybeans, and increasing the price of food at the supermarket.

With the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus, it is critical that we protect our American food and agriculture from pests and foreign-born diseases, so that we can continue to supply high quality products around the world.

Our farmers are ready to meet this challenge. Minnesota's agriculture exports skyrocketed by 263 percent in the past ten years. And pork products alone account for 10 percent of all Minnesota Ag exports, therefore an outbreak of the ASF would have a significant impact on our economy.

This legislation will help CBP acquire the necessary resources to hire, train and assign agricultural specialists and support staff for canine teams that will detect and prevent the spread of ASF and other foreign-born diseases at our ports of entry. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill in the name of protecting our food supply.

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

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, agricultural inspectors at our ports of entry play a vital role in protecting one of the most important things there is: the food we eat.

This bill will help protect every American as they sit down at the dinner table. I commend my colleagues, Congressman VELA and Senator PETERS, for their work on this important bipartisan legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2107.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURING AMERICA'S PORTS ACT

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5273) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to increase to 100

percent the rates of scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems to enhance border security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5273

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 “Securing America’s Ports Act”.

SEC. 2. LARGE-SCALE NON-INTRUSIVE INSPECTION SCANNING PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a plan to increase to 100 percent the rates of expeditious scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems or similar technology to enhance border security.

(b) **BASILINE INFORMATION.**—At a minimum, the plan required under subsection (a) shall include the following information regarding large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems or similar technology operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at land ports of entry as of the date of the enactment of this Act:

(1) An inventory of large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems or similar technology in use at each land port of entry.

(2) For each system or technology identified in the inventory required under paragraph (1), the following information:

(A) The scanning method of such system or technology.

(B) The location of such system or technology at each land port of entry that specifies whether in use in pre-primary, primary, or secondary inspection area, or some combination thereof.

(C) The percentage of commercial and passenger vehicles scanned by such system or technology.

(D) Seizure data directly attributed to scanned commercial and passenger vehicles.

(c) **ELEMENTS.**—The plan required under subsection (a) shall include the following information:

(1) Benchmarks for achieving incremental progress towards 100 percent expeditious scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border with corresponding projected incremental improvements in scanning rates by fiscal year and rationales for the specified timeframes for each land port of entry.

(2) Estimated costs, together with an acquisition plan, for achieving the 100 expeditious percent scanning rate within the timeframes specified in paragraph (1), including acquisition, operations, and maintenance costs for large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems or similar technology, as well as associated costs for any necessary infrastructure enhancements or configuration changes at each port of entry. To the extent practicable, such acquisition plan shall promote opportunities for entities that qualify as small business concerns (as such term is described under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

(3) Any projected impacts, as identified by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, on the total number of commercial and passenger vehicles entering at land ports of entry where such systems are in use, and average wait times at peak and non-peak travel times, by lane type if applicable, as scanning rates are increased.

(4) Any projected impacts, as identified by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, on land ports of entry border security operations as a result of implementation actions, including any changes to the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers or their duties and assignments.

(d) **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**—In furtherance of the plan required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall conduct research and development, in coordination with the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, to enhance large-scale non-intrusive inspections systems or similar technology and refine the operational use or configuration of such systems or technology in pre-primary, primary, and secondary inspection areas of land ports of entry. Such research and development shall include consideration of emerging large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems or similar technology and modeling the use of such systems or technology that takes into account the variations in infrastructure, configurations, and sizes of land ports of entry.

(e) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the submission of the plan required under subsection (a) and annually thereafter until such time as U.S. Customs and Border Protection has achieved 100 percent expeditious scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems or similar technology in accordance with such plan, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on progress implementing the plan. Each such report at a minimum shall include the following information:

(1) An inventory of large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems or similar technology operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at each land port of entry.

(2) For each system or technology identified in the inventory required under paragraph (1), the following information:

(A) The scanning method of such system or technology.

(B) The location of such system or technology at each land port of entry that specifies whether in use in pre-primary, primary, or secondary inspection area, or some combination thereof.

(C) The percentage of commercial and passenger vehicles scanned by such system or technology.

(D) Seizure data directly attributed to scanned commercial and passenger vehicles.

(3) The total number of commercial and passenger vehicles entering at each land port of entry where each system or technology is in use, and information on average wait times at peak and non-peak travel times, by lane type if applicable.

(4) Progress with respect to the benchmarks specified in subsection (c)(1), and an explanation if any of such benchmarks are not achieved as planned.

(5) A comparison of actual costs (including information on any awards of associated contracts) to estimated costs set forth in subsection (c)(2).

(6) Any realized impacts, as identified by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, on land ports of entry operations as a result of implementation actions, including any changes to the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers or their duties and assignments.

(7) Any proposed changes to the plan and an explanation for such changes, including changes made in response to any Department of Homeland Security research and development findings, including findings resulting from the research and development conducted pursuant

to subsection (d), or changes in terrorist or transnational criminal organizations tactics, techniques, or procedures.

(8) Any challenges to implementing the plan or meeting the benchmarks, and plans to mitigate any such challenges.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **LARGE-SCALE NON-INTRUSIVE INSPECTION SYSTEM.**—The term “large-scale non-intrusive inspection system” means a technology, including x-ray and gamma-ray imaging systems, capable of producing an image of the contents of a commercial or passenger vehicle in one pass of such vehicle.

(2) **SCANNING.**—The term “scanning” means utilizing technology to produce an image of the contents of a commercial or passenger vehicle without engaging in a physical inspection of such vehicle.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5273 aims to improve border security by increasing the inspection rate of vehicles entering the United States with nonintrusive inspection systems or similar technology.

□ 1600

For years, Customs and Border Protection has used NII systems to “see” inside vehicles for potential contraband, such as drugs, without physically opening or unloading them.

This is critical since the majority of highly addictive and lethal drugs being smuggled into our country are being smuggled through our ports of entry, not between them.

According to the 2019 National Drug Threat Assessment released by the Drug Enforcement Administration, passenger vehicles and commercial trucks continue to be the primary method used by Mexican transnational criminal organizations to traffic drugs such as cocaine, heroin, and fentanyl into the United States.

However, CBP currently only scans about 15 percent of commercial trucks and just 1 percent of passenger vehicles with NII systems.

In fiscal year 2019, Congress provided \$570 million to CBP to install additional systems on the southwest border.

CBP has indicated that these additional systems will primarily be installed at large ports of entry.

CBP expects these additional systems to increase NII scanning rates of commercial trucks to 72 percent and passenger vehicles to 40 percent by fiscal year 2024.

While this will undoubtedly improve security, it will also increase the risk that transnational criminal organizations will shift their smuggling efforts to smaller ports of entry that lack NII equipment, such as those in my district.

This is a concern that I raised with CBP and port officials during a field hearing I held with my colleague, Congressman CRENSHAW, in my district in Santa Teresa, New Mexico, last December.

My legislation aims to ensure that all land ports of entry are appropriately equipped to combat smuggling.

Specifically, H.R. 5273 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to expeditiously scan 100 percent of vehicles with NII systems or other similar technology at each port of entry.

It will also require the Secretary to report annually on the Department's progress implementing the plan until 100 percent of commercial and passenger vehicles are scanned.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the bipartisan work that went into developing this legislation. Specifically, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. CRENSHAW, for his support on the bill.

H.R. 5273, if enacted, will help keep our communities more secure by ensuring that CBP has the tools in place to do a more effective job at interdicting dangerous narcotics and dangerous materials.

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

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 5273, the Securing America's Ports Act. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, and I thank my colleague from New Mexico for her work on this legislation.

Our ports of entry continue to be a preferred avenue for transnational criminal organizations and drug smugglers to transport narcotics and contraband into the United States.

In fact, U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized more than 455,000 pounds of narcotics at our ports in fiscal year 2019 alone.

The amount of fentanyl seized in 2019 was enough for more than 577 million lethal doses. That is more than the entire population of the United States.

H.R. 5273 forces the Department to act on securing the ports of entry by requiring the Secretary to develop a plan to scan all commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States through land ports using non-intrusive inspection systems or similar systems within 180 days.

This bill encourages continued research and development, including con-

sideration of emerging technology, to meet the inspection system plan requirements.

H.R. 5273 also requires the Secretary to establish benchmarks to evaluate progress toward 100 percent scanning, estimated costs, anticipated impacts on commerce, and anticipated impacts on border security operations, including staffing considerations.

Last year, Congress made a significant investment in funding nonintrusive inspection equipment for implementation across the land borders over a 5-year period, and this bill would ensure an appropriate plan is in place so that rollout runs smoothly, and taxpayer dollars are well spent.

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

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers and am prepared to close after the gentleman from Texas closes.

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

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

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, again, it is vital that all vehicles entering the United States are scanned with NII systems or similar technology to combat the smuggling of drugs and other contraband into the country.

My legislation would help do just that by requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to achieve 100 percent scanning rate of vehicles at each port of entry and reporting on progress annually until that goal is achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the Committee of Homeland Security for their unanimous support to favorably report my bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 5273, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5273, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DHS FIELD ENGAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 504) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY WITH FUSION CENTERS.

Section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

(2) inserting after subsection (i) the following:

"(j) **FUSION CENTER INFORMATION SHARING STRATEGY.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act, and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall develop or update a strategy for Department engagement with fusion centers. Such strategy shall be developed and updated in consultation with the heads of intelligence components of the Department, the Chief Privacy Officer, the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, officials of fusion centers, officers designated as Homeland Security Advisors, and the heads of other relevant agencies, as appropriate. Such strategy shall include the following:

"(1) Specific goals and objectives for sharing information and engaging with fusion centers—

"(A) through the direct deployment of personnel from intelligence components of the Department;

"(B) through the use of Department unclassified and classified information sharing systems, including the Homeland Security Information Network and the Homeland Secure Data Network, or any successor systems; and

"(C) through any additional means.

"(2) The performance metrics to be used to measure success in achieving the goals and objectives referred to in paragraph (1).

"(3) A 5-year plan for continued engagement with fusion centers."

SEC. 3. OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS FIELD PERSONNEL SUPPORT TO FUSION CENTERS.

(a) **PERFORMANCE METRICS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis shall—

(1) consider the effectiveness of existing processes to identify and prepare field personnel for deployment to support fusion centers and internal mechanisms to ensure oversight and accountability of such field personnel, including field personnel assigned to one center and field personnel assigned to multiple centers; and

(2) publish and disseminate performance metrics, taking into account, as appropriate, regional and threat diversity, for—

(A) field personnel from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis assigned to an individual fusion center;

(B) field personnel from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis assigned to multiple fusion centers; and

(C) Regional Directors of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis to ensure accountability for monitoring all field personnel under the supervision of such Regional Directors.

(b) **TRAINING.**—In consultation with the Chief Information Officer, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis shall develop and implement a formalized training module for fusion center personnel regarding the classified Homeland Secure Data Network, or any successor system.

(c) **FUSION CENTER DEFINED.**—In this section, the term "fusion center" has the meaning given such term in section 210A(k) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as so redesignated by section 2.

SEC. 4. DHS COMPONENT USAGE OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION NETWORK.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the

Chief Information Officer, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, and in accordance with the functions and responsibilities assigned to the Under Secretary under title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.), shall—

(1) develop policies and metrics to ensure effective use by components of the Department of the unclassified Homeland Security Information Network (referred to in this section as “HSIN”), or any successor system; and

(2) develop policies for posting unclassified products on HSIN, or any successor system.

(b) **TECHNICAL ENHANCEMENTS.**—The Chief Information Officer, in consultation with the Chief Intelligence Officer, shall assess and implement, as appropriate, technical enhancements to HSIN to improve usability, including search functionality, data analysis, and collaboration capabilities.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives that describes the implementation of—

(1) the fusion center information sharing strategy required under section 210A(j) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, based on performance metrics developed pursuant to such strategy;

(2) the deployment of field personnel to fusion centers (as such term is defined in section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h)), in accordance with section 3, based on performance metrics developed pursuant to such section; and

(3) policies that seek to ensure the effective use of the Homeland Security Information Network, in accordance with section 4, based on the metrics developed pursuant to such section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague on the other side of the aisle, Mr. BACON, for his leadership on the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act.

This bill was passed by the House of Representatives last January on a voice vote. It was also passed unanimously by the Senate in July after technical edits to the bill text.

The bill returns to the House floor today for us to consider the bill, as amended by the Senate, and send it to the President.

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

In the face of an evolving and increasingly complex threat landscape, it is critically important to ensure that there is collaboration and information sharing.

The Department of Homeland Security's 79 fusion centers, located across the country, help to connect the dots about possible terrorist plots, including domestic terrorist plots.

A 2016 review found that DHS does not have a strategic engagement plan for these 79 fusion centers.

H.R. 504 will help address this gap by requiring DHS to develop a Department-wide strategy for engaging with fusion centers. This includes the development of metrics that will help hold fusion center staff accountable for their performance.

This legislation also requires DHS to improve the classified and unclassified information-sharing systems that are used by fusion centers to ensure that information is shared properly and in accordance with Department standards.

In part, H.R. 504 would require that all information-sharing policies are developed and maintained by the Department's privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties officers.

Over the past year, as communities across the country suffered from acts of targeted violence and terrorism, we have been reminded of the importance of information sharing.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 504, the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act.

This legislation was introduced by my friend and colleague from Nebraska, Representative DON BACON. I applaud Congressman BACON's initiative in sponsoring H.R. 504, which requires the Department of Homeland Security to:

Develop an engagement strategy for the national network of fusion centers;

Performance metrics for DHS personnel deployed to support State and local fusion centers; and,

Training for fusion center personnel in the use of available DHS information-sharing systems.

Additionally, the bill ensures that DHS component agencies are sharing appropriate information, through secure channels, with fusion center personnel.

Representing a border State, I want to ensure that DHS agencies, including Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, have relevant criminal or terrorism information that is accessible to appropriate fusion center personnel. This will enhance coordination and situational awareness throughout the homeland.

This bill has already passed the House of Representatives and was passed in the Senate with minor amendments. Passage of the bill today

will send H.R. 504 to the President's desk.

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

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON).

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues and friends from New Mexico and Texas for their leadership today and guidance to the floor.

I rise in support of H.R. 504, the DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act, which will improve the management, integration, transparency, and overall mission performance of the 79 State and local fusion centers across our country.

Creating a robust and mature information-sharing relationship between the Department of Homeland Security and State and local law enforcement is vital for our Homeland Security.

Since the September 11, 2001, attacks, State and local fusion centers have become key stakeholders in the homeland security of our country, and it is an important mission. Yet, despite their importance, the Government Accountability Office has observed that a lack of standardization in manpower, data systems, and training has hurt their effectiveness.

H.R. 504 is focused on setting the conditions to better allow our fusion centers to accomplish the mission for which they were created and funded.

My home State fusion center, the Nebraska Information Analysis Center, or NIAC, is the information exchange gateway for State, local, and Federal authorities serving all of the 93 counties in Nebraska.

NIAC collects, analyzes, and shares information on crime and terrorism with Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement organizations and with other public and private entities as appropriate.

Recently, the NIAC was called upon to collect and analyze reports of suspicious drone activity in western Nebraska, for example.

Our Nation's fusion centers have a rapidly expanding range of missions that protect our citizens, and the Department of Homeland Security has a legal obligation to coordinate with and assist these State and local centers. So my legislation requires DHS to develop an engagement strategy to coordinate information sharing, technology, and personnel resources with these fusion centers.

Additionally, this bill requires DHS to develop clear and robust performance metrics for Federal personnel assigned to these centers. This will help both the headquarters and fusion center directors improve the effectiveness, while ensuring oversight and accountability.

In addition to personnel, DHS also provides fusion centers with access to classified and sensitive information.

H.R. 504 calls for improvements in training and technology to support this vital information exchange, including the requirement that DHS share intelligence products with fusion centers when appropriate.

Over the years, Congress has seen a vast improvement in DHS's support for these key stakeholders, including the NIAC. These improvements are vital to DHS sharing timely and relevant information with relevant stakeholders on the front lines of a constantly evolving threat landscape.

This bill will help those on the front lines defend against those who threaten or attack our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member ROGERS for bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank Chairman JOHNSON and Ranking Member PETERS in the Senate for moving this bill through the Senate.

This is a commonsense measure, and with another strong showing of bipartisan support from the House. I look forward to the bill quickly becoming law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 504.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers and am prepared to close after the gentleman from Texas closes.

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

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I, again, want to thank Representative BACON for his work on this legislation, as well as Chairman THOMPSON, Ranking Member ROGERS, Senator JOHNSON, and Senator PETERS for moving this bill through the House and Senate committees.

The sharing of counterterrorism and other homeland security information with State and local officials is vital in our efforts to protect the homeland. I am proud that we are able to support further enhancing these efforts in a bipartisan manner today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 504 passed the House on voice vote last Friday and passed the Senate on voice vote in July after technical edits were incorporated into the text.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill again so that it can be sent to the White House for the President's signature.

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

□ 1615

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 504.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOMELAND SECURITY FOR CHILDREN ACT

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2932) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2932

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 "Homeland Security for Children Act".

SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR STRATEGY, POLICY, AND PLANS.

Paragraph (6) of section 709(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 349(c)) is amended by inserting ", including feedback from organizations representing the needs of children," after "stakeholder feedback".

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL EXPERT AUTHORIZED.

Paragraph (2) of section 503(b) of the Homeland Security Act (6 U.S.C. 313(b)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(I) identify and integrate the needs of children into activities to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against the risk of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other manmade disasters, including catastrophic incidents, including by appointing a technical expert, who may consult with relevant outside organizations and experts, as necessary, to coordinate such integration, as necessary."

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report describing the efforts the Department has undertaken to review and incorporate feedback from organizations representing the needs of children into Department policy in accordance with paragraph (6) of section 709(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as amended by section 2 of this Act), including information on the following:

(1) The designation of any individual responsible for carrying out such paragraph (6).

(2) Any review, formal or informal, of Department policies, programs, or activities to assess the suitability of such policies, programs, or activities for children and where feedback from organizations representing the needs of children should be reviewed and incorporated.

(3) Any review, change, modification, or promulgation of Department policies, programs, or activities to ensure that such policies, programs, or activities are appropriate for children.

(4) Coordination with organizations or experts outside the Department pursuant to such paragraph (6) conducted to inform any such review, change, modification, or promulgation of such policies, programs, or activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2932, the Homeland Security for Children Act.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the Department of Homeland Security's policies and programs, it is important the children, the most vulnerable among us, are taken into consideration.

H.R. 2932, introduced by my fellow Subcommittee Chairman DONALD PAYNE, would, for the first time, authorize the children's technical expert position within FEMA to ensure the needs of children are incorporated in all disaster-related activities.

Importantly, the bill recognizes that, when it comes to DHS, the impacts of policies and programs go well beyond disaster response and recovery. It recognizes that, from screening protocols at TSA checkpoints to short-term detention standards to active-shooter training, DHS policy must incorporate the needs of children.

To that end, H.R. 2932 would direct the Department of Homeland Security's Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans to incorporate the needs of children in all departmental policies, programs, and activities. A similar measure passed by voice vote in the full House passed last Congress.

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

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, January 7, 2020.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I write concerning H.R. 2932, the Homeland Security for Children Act. There are certain provisions in this legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 2932, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure agrees to forgo action on the bill. However, this is conditional on our

mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill would not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I also request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the committee report on H.R. 2932 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFazio,
Chair.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 7, 2020.

Hon. PETER DEFazio,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DEFazio: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2932, the "Homeland Security for Children Act." The Committee on Homeland Security recognizes that the Committee on Transportation Infrastructure has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 2932, and I appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

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

I will include our letters on H.R. 2932 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2932, the Homeland Security for Children Act. This legislation seeks to ensure that the needs of children, one of our most vulnerable populations, are considered in Department of Homeland Security planning.

H.R. 2932 directs the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans to incorporate feedback from children's organizations into departmentwide activities.

Furthermore, this bill authorizes the technical expert position within the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, to identify and integrate the needs of children when preparing for, protecting against, responding to, and recovering from natural and man-made disasters.

It is imperative that we ensure that those who are unable to advocate for themselves are being represented when disaster strikes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, children make up nearly 23 percent of the Nation's population, and as the threats to our homeland continue to evolve, it is important that we be prepared to adequately assist every child at every age.

H.R. 2932 directs the Department of Homeland Security to include the needs of children, the most vulnerable among us, in all departmental activities.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter of support signed by several organizations representing the needs of children, including Save the Children, the Child Welfare League of America, Share Our Strength, and Zero to Three.

NATIONAL COALITION ON
CHILDREN AND DISASTERS,
Arlington, VA, July 12, 2019.

Hon. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PAYNE: As members of the National Coalition on Children and Disasters, which includes organizations that advocate for the well-being of children and their families in the preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural or man-made disasters, we endorse H.R. 2932, the "Homeland Security for Children Act of 2019."

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the nation learned how unprepared we were at the federal, state, and local levels of government in addressing and responding to the needs of children. As a result, in 2007, Congress established the National Commission on Children and Disasters, which produced a comprehensive book of recommendations in 2010. They included improved mental health services, pediatric and child welfare needs, and disaster management planning, response, and reunification for child care settings. Most importantly, the Commission strongly recommended that improved coordination of the needs of children among federal agencies was needed.

The Homeland Security for Children Act would help improve the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) response to the needs of children during disasters. Your bill would also increase accountability across government agencies in times of emergency and incorporate feedback from youth-serving organizations to prioritize and represent the needs of children into department-wide policies. In addition, it would mandate that DHS provide routine updates to Congress summarizing efforts undertaken to incorporate the needs of children in Department-wide policies, programs, and activities.

With natural disasters on the rise, the time is now for Congress to ensure that the necessary supports are in place to address needs of children and families following disasters. Children are not little adults. They have specialized needs that must be considered when planning for, responding to, and recovering from a disaster.

Thank you for your sponsorship of this critical legislation, as well as your ongoing leadership on behalf of children and families. If we can be of any assistance on advancing this bill, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
National Coalition on Children and Disasters Members include: Child Care Aware® of America; Child Welfare League of America; Early Care and

Education Consortium; First Focus Campaign for Children; Institute for Child Success; National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University; 1,000 Days; Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies; Public Advocacy for Kids; Save the Children; Share Our Strength; Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights; Zero to Three.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2932, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2932, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH ACT

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4737) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to research and evaluate existing Federal research regarding approaches to mitigate climate change on homeland security to identify areas for further research within the Department, research and develop approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate change on homeland security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4737

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Homeland Security Climate Change Research Act".

SEC. 2. CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND PROTECTION AND PREPAREDNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 321. CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Science and Technology—

"(1) shall evaluate existing Federal research regarding approaches to mitigate the consequence of climate change on homeland security to identify areas for additional research and development pursuant to paragraph (2) with respect to—

"(A) any connection between climate change and homeland security, including

how the resulting competition for resources, economic distress, and social discontent has contributed to, among other outcomes, acts of terrorism;

“(B) the degree to which climate change is reflected in terrorism preparedness and emergency planning and policies, including with respect to preparedness, response to, and recovery from natural disasters; and

“(C) the degree to which the Federal funding structure to respond to major disaster declarations and emergency declarations is adequately structured to meet the demands of responding to and recovering from acts of terrorism and natural disasters that are aggravated by climate change; and

“(2) shall, to the extent practicable, conduct research and development on approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate change on homeland security in response to finding pursuant to paragraph (1).

“(b) SCOPE.—The scope of the research and development under subsection (a)(2) shall include the following:

“(1) Any connection between climate change and homeland security, including how the resulting competition for resources, economic distress, and social discontent can contribute to, among other outcomes, acts of terrorism.

“(2) The degree to which climate change is reflected in terrorism preparedness and emergency planning and policies, including with respect to preparedness, response to, and recovery from natural disasters.

“(3) The degree to which the Federal funding structure to respond to major disaster declarations and emergency declarations is adequately structured to meet the demands of responding to and recovering from acts of terrorism and natural disasters that are aggravated by climate change.

“(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall consult with the heads of other relevant agencies and departments of the Federal Government, first responders, and relevant owners and operators of critical infrastructure.

“(d) CLIMATE CHANGE DEFINED.—The term ‘climate change’ refers to detectable changes in one or more climate system components that is directly or indirectly attributed to—

“(1) human activity; and

“(2) altering the composition of the global atmosphere.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 320 the following new item:

“Sec. 321. Climate change research and development.”.

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for three years, the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on any research and development activities carried out pursuant to section 321 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4737, the Department of Homeland Security Climate Change Research Act.

Mr. Speaker, we know that climate change is happening, and it is affecting every country around the globe. Moreover, we know that climate change is leading to increased instability in developing countries.

Not only has the Department of Defense written about it, Congress acknowledged this in the fiscal year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, which included in its finding that “as global temperatures rise, droughts and famines can lead to more failed states, which are breeding grounds of extremist and terrorist organizations.”

While DOD has researched the implications of climate change on national security, DHS is best positioned to research and respond climate change on homeland security. There are already reports of extremist groups overseas using extreme weather events as a recruitment tool, targeting farmers whose crops were lost to drought or other weather events.

As these groups recruit more members, gaining strength, the threat they pose to homeland security increases. DHS must be proactive, not simply reactive in this threat.

H.R. 4737 will ensure that DHS is using its resources efficiently, evaluating what we already know about climate change’s effects on homeland security, and, where practical, developing tactics to mitigate those effects critical to the Department’s mission. With this knowledge, the good people at DHS will be able to better perform their job and keep our country safe.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, January 9, 2020.

Chairman BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON, I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4737, the “Department of Homeland Security Climate Change Research Act,” which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security on October 18, 2019.

I agree to work cooperatively on H.R. 4737 and in order to expedite consideration of the bill the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (“Science Committee”) will waive formal consideration of the bill. This is, however, not a waiver of future jurisdictional claims by the Science Committee over the subject matter contained in H.R. 4737 or similar legislation.

Thank you for agreeing to support the appointment of Science Committee conferees during any House–Senate conference convened on this legislation. Additionally, thank you for your assurances to include our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman, Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, January 8, 2020.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN JOHNSON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4737, the “Department of Homeland Security Climate Change Research Act.” I recognize that the Committee on Science, Space and Technology has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 4737, and appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

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

I will include our letters on H.R. 4737 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,
BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4737, the Department of Homeland Security Climate Change Research Act.

Numerous Federal studies have been conducted that summarize the impacts of climate change on the United States and discuss the nexus between climate change and terrorism.

This bill directs DHS’ Science and Technology Directorate to evaluate the current Federal research regarding the connection between climate change and homeland security to identify any research gaps and, to the extent practical, conduct additional research to fill those gaps.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, effectively combating terrorism is a bipartisan issue, and we have a duty to our constituents to support smart legislative proposals.

Passage of the DHS Climate Change Research Act would ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is proactively addressing and attempting to mitigate the risks that climate change poses to our homeland security.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues to support H.R. 4737, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4432, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGAINST DRONES AND EMERGING THREATS ACT

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4432) to require the Department of Homeland Security to prepare a terrorism threat assessment relating to unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4432

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 "Protecting Critical Infrastructure Against Drones and Emerging Threats Act".

SEC. 2. DRONE AND EMERGING THREAT ASSESSMENT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security shall—

(1) in consultation with other relevant officials of the Department, request additional information from other agencies of the Federal Government, State and local government agencies, and the private sector relating to threats of unmanned aircraft systems and other emerging threats associated with such new technologies;

(2) in consultation with relevant officials of the Department and other appropriate agencies of the Federal Government, develop and disseminate a security threat assessment regarding unmanned aircraft systems and other emerging threats associated with such new technologies; and

(3) establish and utilize, in conjunction with the Chief Information Officer of the Department and other relevant entities, a secure communications and information technology infrastructure, including data-mining and other advanced analytical tools, in order to access, receive, and analyze data and information in furtherance of the responsibilities under this section, including by establishing a voluntary mechanism whereby critical infrastructure owners and operators may report information on emerging threats, such as the threat posed by unmanned aircraft systems.

(b) *REPORT.*—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security shall prepare a threat assessment and report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the threat posed by unmanned aircraft systems, including information collected from critical infrastructure owners and operators and Federal, State, and local government agencies. Such assessment and report shall also include a classified plan to mitigate such threat, as appropriate.

(c) *DEFINITIONS.*—

(1) *CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.*—The term "critical infrastructure" has the meaning given such term in section 1016(e) of Public Law 107–56 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

(2) *UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.*—The term "unmanned aircraft system" has the meaning given such term in section 331 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note; Public Law 112–95).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4432, would require the Department of Homeland Security to take action and address an emerging threat to our Nation's security, the threat posed by unmanned aerial systems, or drones, to critical infrastructure.

Drone technology is far from new. However, as technology evolves, so do the capabilities of bad actors who may want to cause harm to the people of this country. We know the drones can be weaponized and used to carry out terrorist attacks, particularly on vulnerable, critical infrastructure. Earlier this fall, drones struck Saudi Arabian crude oil infrastructure, disrupting the production of 5.7 million barrels of oil per day and causing a spike in oil prices around the world.

In an evolving threat environment, understanding the threats that drones present to critical infrastructure here in the United States is critical to mitigating those threats.

Critical infrastructure owners and operators recognize the benefits of drone technology; many even put them to good use in their own businesses. Nevertheless, they do have concerns about the threats that unauthorized drones may pose to their facilities.

Currently, when a drone is detected in a facility's airspace, there is no DHS official agency to call. At the very least, owners and operators should be able to report unauthorized drone activity when they detect it.

H.R. 4432 would allow for information sharing between critical infrastructure owners and operators and DHS in several ways:

First, it would require DHS to establish a channel for the voluntary reporting information on drones, as well as other emerging threats, over a secure communications infrastructure developed in conjunction with the Department's Chief Information Officer.

Additionally, H.R. 4432, would mandate that the DHS' Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis develop and disseminate a threat assessment on unmanned aerial systems and other emerging threats associated with drone technology. This assessment would consider threat intelligence from Federal, State, local, and private-sector partners and would be prepared in consultation with other DHS components, like the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, that have relevant expertise.

Finally, H.R. 4432 would require DHS to report its findings to Congress within 1 year.

Collectively, this bill would require DHS to take the lead on understanding the threat that drones present to this Nation's critical infrastructure, while also creating an enduring mechanism for DHS to gather information on emerging threats, as they arise, from the owners and operators who stand on the front line of our defense.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4432, the Protecting Critical Infrastructure Against Drones and Emerging Threats Act.

In the wrong hands, unmanned aerial systems can pose a threat to the American people. At our borders, criminals are using drones to smuggle drugs and surveil law enforcement. Terrorists like ISIS have used them in the past to carry out attacks overseas.

We must do more to address this threat, and with this bill we do just that. H.R. 4432 protects the American people from the threat posed by these criminal drone operators.

□ 1630

This legislation requires the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis at DHS to prepare an assessment of the threat from drones with information gathered from Federal, State, local, and private-sector partners.

This bill also requires DHS to establish a secure communications network to receive and analyze information on the threat and a voluntary mechanism for reporting threat information from owners and operators of critical infrastructure.

During committee consideration of this bill, I proposed an amendment to allow DHS to produce this information in a classified form, as appropriate. I am pleased that language was included in this legislation.

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

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

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill that will position DHS to address the threat that drones pose to critical infrastructure. This measure was previously introduced by my colleague

from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) in the 115th Congress and passed the House by a voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will do the same today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4432, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DRONE ORIGIN SECURITY ENHANCEMENT ACT

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4753) to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from operating or procuring foreign-made unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4753

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 “Drone Origin Security Enhancement Act”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON OPERATION OR PROCUREMENT OF FOREIGN-MADE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

(a) PROHIBITION ON AGENCY OPERATION OR PROCUREMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not operate, provide financial assistance for, or enter into or renew a contract for the procurement of—

(1) an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) that—

(A) is manufactured in a covered foreign country or by a corporation domiciled in a covered foreign country;

(B) uses flight controllers, radios, data transmission devices, cameras, or gimbals manufactured in a covered foreign country or by a corporation domiciled in a covered foreign country;

(C) uses a ground control system or operating software developed in a covered foreign country or by a corporation domiciled in a covered foreign country; or

(D) uses network connectivity or data storage located in or administered by a corporation domiciled in a covered foreign country; or

(2) a system manufactured in a covered foreign country or by a corporation domiciled in a covered foreign country for the detection or identification of covered unmanned aircraft systems.

(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) on a case by case basis by certifying in writing to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate that the operation or procurement that is the subject of such a waiver is required—

(1) in the national interest of the United States;

(2) for counter-UAS surrogate testing and training; or

(3) for intelligence, electronic warfare, or information warfare operations, testing, analysis, and or training.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term “covered foreign country” means a country labeled as a strategic competitor in the “Summary of the 2018 National Defense Strategy of the United States of America: Sharpening the American Military’s Competitive Edge” issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to section 113 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term “unmanned aircraft system” has the meaning given such term in section 331 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–95; 49 U.S.C. 44802 note).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first, I want to thank my colleague, Congressman CRENSHAW, for introducing this important legislation.

To help carry out its many missions, the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, relies on drones to improve situational awareness. Drones can be used to survey damage from natural disasters or monitor remote locations along the border, including in my district. If data collected by a DHS drone was to be stolen by a foreign government, it could jeopardize the national or homeland security.

Recent reports suggest that Chinese-manufactured drones, otherwise known as unmanned aircraft systems, in the American market might be compromised and used to send sensitive information to the Chinese Government. In response to these cybersecurity concerns, the Department of the Interior recently grounded all of its foreign-made drones. The DOD similarly banned the purchase and use of all commercial off-the-shelf drones, except under limited circumstances.

It is time for the DHS to take similar protective measures. H.R. 4753 would prohibit DHS from purchasing or using drone technology manufactured in certain foreign countries designated as strategic competitors by the National Defense Strategy. The legislation permits the use of such drone technology only when DHS notifies Congress that the technology is being used in a limited manner, such as counter-drone testing and training.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bipartisan bill, grateful to

have joined Congressman CRENSHAW on this initiative, and pleased that it was reported out of committee by unanimous consent.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security is charged with protecting Americans here at home, and it is critical that the technologies used to carry out this mission are secure. The risk posed by certain foreign drone manufacturers is well documented and presents a national security threat.

Chinese-manufactured drones could provide a backdoor for the Chinese Government to access sensitive flight data from drones used by DHS. My bill, H.R. 4753, seeks to address this vulnerability.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has stated that these unmanned aircraft systems are a potential risk to an organization’s information and that drones could contain components that could compromise your data.

The potential for comprised data to fall into the hands of a foreign government should concern everyone. It threatens to disrupt the law enforcement and national security objectives of DHS.

My bill, the Drone Origin Security Enhancement Act, addresses the threat by prohibiting DHS from acquiring unmanned aircraft systems manufactured in a foreign country labeled a strategic competitor by the Department of Defense. This is similar to a prohibition included in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 for the military.

Simply put, my bill will ensure that DHS is not using drone equipment from a foreign government that our military already views as a threat.

Much like the Department of Defense, DHS and its components have a critical mission. The risk introduced into these missions by foreign-manufactured drones is not something that can be ignored. This legislation addresses this very real threat and will keep our adversaries from compromising the technology we use to keep Americans safe.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from New Mexico for her leadership on this bill. I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 4753, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4753 takes the much-needed step of protecting the Department of Homeland Security from cybersecurity threats associated with certain foreign-made drones.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House

suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4753.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DHS ACQUISITION REFORM ACT OF 2019

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3413) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for certain acquisition authorities for the Under Secretary of Management of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3413

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “DHS Acquisition Reform Act of 2019”.

SEC. 1. ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES FOR UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

Section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subsection (d), the first subsection (e) (relating to the system for award management consultation), and the second subsection (e) (relating to the definition of interoperable communications) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively; and

(2) inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(d) ACQUISITION AND RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1702(a) of title 41, United States Code, the Under Secretary for Management is the Chief Acquisition Officer of the Department. As Chief Acquisition Officer, the Under Secretary shall have the authorities and perform the functions specified in such section 1702(b), and perform all other functions and responsibilities delegated by the Secretary or described in this subsection.

“(2) FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the authorities and functions specified in section 1702(b) of title 41, United States Code, the functions and responsibilities of the Under Secretary for Management related to acquisition (as such term is defined in section 711) include the following:

“(A) Advising the Secretary regarding acquisition management activities, taking into account risks of failure to achieve cost, schedule, or performance parameters, to ensure that the Department achieves its mission through the adoption of widely accepted program management best practices (as such term is defined in section 711) and standards and, where appropriate, acquisition innovation best practices.

“(B) Leading the Department’s acquisition oversight body, the Acquisition Review Board.

“(C) Exercising the acquisition decision authority (as such term is defined in section 711) to approve, pause, modify (including the rescission of approvals of program milestones), or cancel major acquisition programs (as such term is defined in section 711), unless the Under Secretary delegates such authority to a Component Acquisition

Executive (as such term is defined in section 711) pursuant to paragraph (3).

“(D) Establishing policies for acquisition that implement an approach that takes into account risks of failure to achieve cost, schedule, or performance parameters that all components of the Department shall comply with, including outlining relevant authorities for program managers to effectively manage acquisition programs (as such term is defined in section 711).

“(E) Ensuring that each major acquisition program has a Department-approved acquisition program baseline (as such term is defined in section 711), pursuant to the Department’s acquisition management policy.

“(F) Assisting the heads of components and Component Acquisition Executives in efforts to comply with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and Department acquisition management directives.

“(G) Ensuring that grants and financial assistance are provided only to individuals and organizations that are not suspended or debarred.

“(H) Distributing guidance throughout the Department to ensure that contractors involved in acquisitions, particularly contractors that access the Department’s information systems and technologies, adhere to relevant Department policies related to physical and information security as identified by the Under Secretary for Management.

“(I) Overseeing the Component Acquisition Executive organizational structure to ensure Component Acquisition Executives have sufficient capabilities and comply with Department acquisition policies.

“(3) DELEGATION OF CERTAIN ACQUISITION DECISION AUTHORITY.—

“(A) LEVEL 3 ACQUISITIONS.—The Under Secretary for Management may delegate acquisition decision authority to the relevant Component Acquisition Executive for an acquisition program that has a life cycle cost estimate of less than \$300,000,000.

“(B) LEVEL 2 ACQUISITIONS.—The Under Secretary for Management may delegate acquisition decision authority in writing to the relevant Component Acquisition Executive for a major acquisition program that has a life cycle cost estimate of at least \$300,000,000 but not more than \$1,000,000,000 if all of the following requirements are met:

“(i) The component concerned possesses working policies, processes, and procedures that are consistent with Department-level acquisition policy.

“(ii) The Component Acquisition Executive concerned has adequate, experienced, and dedicated professional employees with program management training, as applicable, commensurate with the size of the acquisition programs and related activities delegated to such Component Acquisition Executive by the Under Secretary for Management.

“(iii) Each major acquisition program concerned has written documentation showing that it has a Department-approved acquisition program baseline and it is meeting agreed-upon cost, schedule, and performance thresholds.

“(C) LEVEL 1 ACQUISITIONS.—The Under Secretary for Management may delegate acquisition decision authority in writing to the relevant Component Acquisition Executive for a Level 1 major acquisition program that has a life cycle cost estimate of more than \$1,000,000,000 if all of the following requirements are met:

“(i) The Undersecretary for Management conducts a risk assessment of the planned acquisition and determines that it is appropriate to delegate authority for such major acquisition program.

“(ii) The component concerned possesses working policies, processes, and procedures

that are consistent with Department-level acquisition policy.

“(iii) The Component Acquisition Executive concerned has adequate, experienced, and dedicated professional employees with program management training, as applicable, commensurate with the size of the acquisition programs and related activities delegated to such Component Acquisition Executive by the Under Secretary for Management.

“(iv) Each Level 1 major acquisition program concerned has written documentation showing that it has a Department-approved acquisition program baseline and it is meeting agreed-upon cost, schedule, and performance thresholds.

“(v) The Under Secretary for Management provides written notification to the appropriate congressional committees of the decision to delegate the authority to the relevant Component Acquisition Executive.

“(4) RELATIONSHIP TO UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subsection shall diminish the authority granted to the Under Secretary for Science and Technology under this Act. The Under Secretary for Management and the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall cooperate in matters related to the coordination of acquisitions across the Department so that investments of the Directorate of Science and Technology are able to support current and future requirements of the components of the Department.

“(B) OPERATIONAL TESTING AND EVALUATION.—The Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall—

“(i) ensure, in coordination with relevant component heads, that major acquisition programs—

“(I) complete operational testing and evaluation of technologies and systems to be acquired or developed by major acquisition programs to assess operational effectiveness, suitability, and cybersecurity;

“(II) use independent verification and validation of operational test and evaluation implementation and results, as appropriate; and

“(III) document whether such programs meet all performance requirements included in their acquisition program baselines;

“(ii) ensure that such operational testing and evaluation includes all system components and incorporates operators into the testing to ensure that systems perform as intended in the appropriate operational setting; and

“(iii) determine if testing conducted by other Federal departments and agencies and private entities is relevant and sufficient in determining whether systems perform as intended in the operational setting.”.

SEC. 2. ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES FOR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

Paragraph (2) of section 702(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 342(b)) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (J); and

(2) inserting after subparagraph (H) the following new subparagraph:

“(I) Oversee the costs of acquisition programs (as such term is defined in section 711) and related activities to ensure that actual and planned costs are in accordance with budget estimates and are affordable, or can be adequately funded, over the life cycle of such programs and activities.”.

SEC. 3. ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES FOR CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

Section 703 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 343) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

“(b) **ACQUISITION RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In addition to the responsibilities specified in section 11315 of title 40, United States Code, the acquisition responsibilities of the Chief Information Officer, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Management, shall include the following:

“(1) Overseeing the management of the Homeland Security Enterprise Architecture and ensuring that, before each acquisition decision event (as such term is defined in section 711), approved information technology acquisitions comply with any departmental information technology management requirements, security protocols, and the Homeland Security Enterprise Architecture, and in any case in which information technology acquisitions do not comply with the Department's management directives, making recommendations to the Department's Acquisition Review Board regarding such noncompliance.

“(2) Providing recommendations to the Acquisition Review Board regarding information technology programs, and developing information technology acquisition strategic guidance.”.

SEC. 4. ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF STRATEGY, POLICY, AND PLANS.

Subsection (c) of section 709 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 349) is amended by—

(1) redesignating paragraphs (4) through (7) as (5) through (8), respectively; and

(2) inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(4) ensure acquisition programs (as such term is defined in section 711) support the DHS Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Report, the DHS Strategic Plan, the DHS Strategic Priorities, and other appropriate successor documents;”.

SEC. 5. ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES FOR PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT (PARM).

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 711. ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES FOR PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.**—Within the Management Directorate, there shall be a Program Accountability and Risk Management office to—

“(1) provide consistent accountability, standardization, and transparency of major acquisition programs of the Department;

“(2) serve as the central oversight function for all Department major acquisition programs; and

“(3) provide review and analysis of Department acquisition programs, as appropriate.

“(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The Program Accountability and Risk Management office shall be led by an Executive Director to oversee the requirements specified in subsection (a). The Executive Director shall report directly to the Under Secretary for Management, and shall carry out the following responsibilities:

“(1) Monitor regularly the performance of Department major acquisition programs between acquisition decision events to identify problems with cost, performance, or schedule that components may need to address to pre-

vent cost overruns, performance issues, or schedule delays.

“(2) Assist the Under Secretary for Management in managing the Department's acquisition programs and related activities.

“(3) Conduct oversight of individual acquisition programs to implement Department acquisition program policy, procedures, and guidance with a priority on ensuring the data the office collects and maintains from Department components is accurate and reliable.

“(4) Serve as the focal point and coordinator for the acquisition life cycle review process and as the executive secretariat for the Department's Acquisition Review Board.

“(5) Advise the persons having acquisition decision authority in making acquisition decisions consistent with all applicable laws and in establishing clear lines of authority, accountability, and responsibility for acquisition decisionmaking within the Department.

“(6) Assist the Chief Procurement Officer of the Department, as appropriate, in developing strategies and specific plans for hiring, training, and professional development to address any deficiency within the Department's acquisition workforce.

“(7) Develop standardized certification standards in consultation with the Component Acquisition Executives for all acquisition program managers.

“(8) Assess the results of major acquisition programs' post-implementation reviews and identify opportunities to improve performance throughout the acquisition process.

“(9) Provide technical support and assistance to Department acquisition programs and acquisition personnel and coordinate with the Chief Procurement Officer regarding workforce training and development activities.

“(10) Assist, as appropriate, with the preparation of the Future Years Homeland Security Program, and make such information available to the congressional homeland security committees.

“(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPONENTS.**—Each head of a component shall comply with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and Department acquisition management directives established by the Under Secretary for Management. For each major acquisition program, each head of a component shall—

“(1) define baseline requirements and document changes to such requirements, as appropriate;

“(2) establish a complete life cycle cost estimate with supporting documentation that is consistent with cost estimating best practices as identified by the Comptroller General of the United States;

“(3) verify each life cycle cost estimate against independent cost estimates or assessments, as appropriate, and reconcile any differences;

“(4) complete a cost-benefit analysis with supporting documentation;

“(5) develop and maintain a schedule that is consistent with scheduling best practices as identified by the Comptroller General of the United States, including, in appropriate cases, an integrated master schedule; and

“(6) ensure that all acquisition program information provided by the component is complete, accurate, timely, and valid.

“(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **ACQUISITION.**—The term ‘acquisition’ has the meaning given such term in section 131 of title 41, United States Code.

“(2) **ACQUISITION DECISION AUTHORITY.**—The term ‘acquisition decision authority’ means the authority, held by the Secretary acting through the Deputy Secretary or Under Secretary for Management to—

“(A) ensure compliance with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and Department acquisition management directives;

“(B) review (including approving, pausing, modifying, or canceling) an acquisition program through the life cycle of such program;

“(C) ensure that acquisition program managers have the resources necessary to successfully execute an approved acquisition program;

“(D) ensure good acquisition program management of cost, schedule, risk, and system performance of the acquisition program at issue, including assessing acquisition program baseline breaches and directing any corrective action for such breaches; and

“(E) ensure that acquisition program managers, on an ongoing basis, monitor cost, schedule, and performance against established baselines and use tools to assess risks to an acquisition program at all phases of the life cycle of such program to avoid and mitigate acquisition program baseline breaches.

“(3) **ACQUISITION DECISION EVENT.**—The term ‘acquisition decision event’, with respect to an acquisition program, means a predetermined point within each of the acquisition phases at which the acquisition decision authority determines whether such acquisition program shall proceed to the next acquisition phase.

“(4) **ACQUISITION PROGRAM.**—The term ‘acquisition program’ means the process by which the Department acquires, with any appropriated amounts or fee funding, by contract for purchase or lease, property or services (including construction) that support the missions and goals of the Department.

“(5) **ACQUISITION PROGRAM BASELINE.**—The term ‘acquisition program baseline’, with respect to an acquisition program, means a summary of the cost, schedule, and performance parameters, expressed in standard, measurable, quantitative terms, which must be met in order to accomplish the goals of such program.

“(6) **BEST PRACTICES.**—The term ‘best practices’, with respect to acquisition, means a knowledge-based approach to capability development that includes the following:

“(A) Identifying and validating needs.

“(B) Assessing alternatives to select the most appropriate solution.

“(C) Clearly establishing well-defined requirements.

“(D) Developing realistic cost assessments and schedules.

“(E) Securing stable funding that matches resources to requirements.

“(F) Demonstrating technology, design, and manufacturing maturity.

“(G) Using milestones and exit criteria or specific accomplishments that demonstrate progress.

“(H) Adopting and executing standardized processes with known success across programs.

“(I) Establishing an adequate workforce that is qualified and sufficient to perform necessary functions.

“(J) Integrating the capabilities described in subparagraphs (A) through (I) into the Department's mission and business operations.

“(7) **BREACH.**—The term ‘breach’, with respect to a major acquisition program, means a failure to meet any cost, schedule, or performance threshold specified in the most recently approved acquisition program baseline.

“(8) **CONGRESSIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEES.**—The term ‘congressional homeland security committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

“(9) COMPONENT ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE.—The term ‘Component Acquisition Executive’ means the senior acquisition official within a component who is designated in writing by the Under Secretary for Management, in consultation with the component head, with authority and responsibility for leading a process and staff to provide acquisition and program management oversight, policy, and guidance to ensure that statutory, regulatory, and higher level policy requirements are fulfilled, including compliance with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and Department acquisition management directives established by the Under Secretary for Management.

“(10) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘major acquisition program’ means a Department acquisition program that is estimated by the Secretary to require an eventual total expenditure of at least \$300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2019 constant dollars) over its life cycle cost or a program identified by the Chief Acquisition Officer as a program of special interest.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 710 the following new item:

“Sec. 711. Acquisition authorities for Program Accountability and Risk Management.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, invests billions of dollars in major acquisition programs annually to execute its critical missions. These programs acquire systems vital to homeland security, including ships for the U.S. Coast Guard and baggage screening systems for the Transportation Security Administration.

However, the Government Accountability Office and the DHS Office of Inspector General have reported on the longstanding challenges DHS faces in managing its major acquisitions program. Although DHS has taken steps to improve acquisition management, DHS struggles to ensure that major acquisition programs cost what was originally estimated, are delivered on schedule, and provide the capabilities originally intended.

H.R. 3413 clarifies responsibilities for acquisition management activities

within DHS to ensure that major acquisition programs have the appropriate support and oversight needed to succeed. It will also improve accountability when major acquisition programs do not perform as well as intended.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman CRENSHAW for yet another important DHS bill. I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security is tasked with some of the most critical national security functions in the Federal Government. The Department is responsible for securing our borders, defending our cyber networks, safeguarding air travel, and protecting our ports. To carry out these important missions, it is imperative that DHS acquire the proper tools and equipment and maintain proper oversight of such acquisitions.

Both the Government Accountability Office and the DHS Office of Inspector General have reported on the persistent challenges that DHS has faced for years in managing its major acquisition programs. The Department's shortcomings in the management of these programs come with a hefty price tag for American taxpayers, to the tune of billions of dollars annually.

GAO reviewed acquisitions at DHS in 2016 and found that 8 of 25 major acquisition programs experienced cost overruns, schedule slips, or both. On average, these programs' cost estimates ballooned by \$1.7 billion, and the key deadlines were missed by almost a year. Only 3 out of 25 major acquisition programs were on track to meet their original schedule and cost goals.

GAO has also found that DHS components have not implemented acquisition policy consistently. In 2012, GAO determined that only 4 out of 66 programs had all the required documents approved in accordance with DHS policy, and in 2015, GAO determined that DHS did not conduct needed operational testing on all acquisition programs.

Although DHS has taken steps in recent years to improve acquisition management, this process remains ripe for waste, fraud, and abuse. The Department continues to struggle to ensure that major acquisition programs adhere to their budgets, timelines, and capability goals.

To be clear, it is taxpayers who are on the hook for all of this. We must remember that every inefficiency in government spending results in an additional financial burden that must be covered by the citizens of this country.

As egregious as the cost overruns may be, the consequences of not providing the proper tools on time are even more dire. If DHS cannot provide proper oversight of its major acquisition programs, then the Department cannot provide the tools they need to execute their missions to keep Americans safe.

This bill goes a long way to correct some of the current shortfalls in the acquisition process, which will help ensure we are being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and protecting the integrity of these programs. It gives new authority over these billion-dollar programs to the Under Secretary for Management as the Chief Acquisition Officer. It fosters more thoughtful management of major acquisition programs using private-sector best practices and bolsters oversight and accountability measures.

These changes will help move the necessary tools into the hands of those protecting our homeland in a timely and efficient manner without foisting a financial burden on Americans.

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

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3413 is necessary to provide robust oversight of major acquisition programs to help ensure that these programs meet cost, schedule, and performance goals, and that taxpayer money is not wasted.

A previous version of this bill passed the House in the 115th Congress by a vote of 407-1.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to, once again, pass this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3413, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

THE BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-92)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Over the past 3 years, my Administration has worked tirelessly to restore America's economic strength. We have ended the war on American workers and stopped the assault on American industry, launching an economic boom the likes of which we have never seen before.

While our incredible economic turnaround came as a shock to most career

politicians in Washington, it is no surprise to millions of hard-working families across the Nation. Their natural talent, ingenuity, and strength simply needed an opportunity to flourish, free from the massive regulations and taxes heaped upon them by their Government.

As my Administration continues to remove these burdens, our economy continues to surpass expectations. We are growing faster than the experts thought possible. The unemployment rate is at 3.5 percent, the lowest it has been in 50 years. And more Americans are working today than at any point in our history.

Today's tremendous job market is leading employers to realize the vast potential of many individuals they previously overlooked. Over the past 3 years, the employment rate of our prime-age workers has skyrocketed, and wages are growing the fastest for historically disadvantaged workers, reversing trends under the previous administration.

With this 2021 Budget, my Administration is placing a special focus on these forgotten Americans, because every individual deserves to experience the dignity that comes through work. The truth is, jobs do not just provide paychecks: they give people purpose; allow them to engage with their communities; and help them reach their true potential. As we have shown, the right policies offer Americans paths to independence rather than trapping them in reliance on Government programs.

The era of putting American workers second and doubling down on the failed policies of the past is over. While job creation during my Presidency has surpassed expectations, the credit belongs to the job creators and workers who risk everything and devote themselves to building a better future for themselves, their families, and their Nation. The Federal Government does not create jobs; hardworking Americans create jobs. My Administration's role is to follow our foundational policy pillars and allow our job creators and workers to do what they do best.

To ensure this economic strength continues, I have called on the Government to reduce wasteful, unnecessary spending, and to fix mismanagement and redundancy across agencies. This includes prioritizing spending for programs that are a core function of the United States Government.

As we enter the 2020's, our Nation confronts new challenges and opportunities. The 21st century requires us to focus on great power rivals; prioritize artificial intelligence, 5G, and industries of the future; and to protect our research and environment from foreign government influence. To meet these challenges and seize these opportunities, we must shift the Government out of its old and outdated ways. This will require each and every Government agency to do more to prepare for the demands of tomorrow.

The following are key priorities of my Administration:

Better Trade Deals. Renegotiated or new trade deals with Canada and Mexico, China, South Korea, and Japan are modernizing international trade and creating freer, fairer, and more reciprocal trade between the United States and our largest economic partners. These deals will enable our country's manufacturing renaissance to continue. Trade deals are in development with the United Kingdom and the European Union, as well as other countries that desire access to the coveted American market. These deals will expand American markets abroad and keep businesses here in America, which means keeping jobs here at home.

Preserving Peace through Strength. To sustain security at home and promote American interests abroad, my Administration has rebuilt the military. A strong military, fully equipped and integrated with our allies and all our instruments of power, enables our Nation to deter war, preserve peace, and, if necessary, defeat aggression against the United States and her people. To that end, my Budget requests \$740.5 billion for national defense.

Overcoming the Opioid Crisis. Because of my Administration's aggressive tactics to fight over-prescription of opioids, promote effective treatment for addiction, and secure the border, we are turning the tide of the opioid crisis. Since my term began, we have seen a more than 30 percent decrease in the total amount of opioids prescribed, and deaths from drug overdose fell for the first time in nearly 30 years in 2018.

Failure is not an option when it comes to helping people avoid the pain, suffering, and death caused by addiction. Work must play an integral role in any solution. Research shows that holding a job is a key factor in helping people overcome drug addiction. For the duration of my Presidency, I will continue to promote policies that will beat back this deadly crisis and promote job training and employment opportunities for Americans who are rebuilding their lives after struggling with addiction.

Regulation Relief. Many pundits and Washington insiders laughed when I promised to cut two regulations for every new regulation. They were correct that two-for-one was the wrong goal. Instead, the Federal Government has cut more than seven regulations for every significant new regulation. After only 3 years, my Administration has cut a historic number of regulations, and we have put the brakes on an endless assault of new, costly actions by Federal agencies.

Our commitment to regulatory reform stems from the simple truth that the vast majority of business owners want to do the right thing, comply with the law, and treat their workers fairly. The Federal Government ignored this reality for far too long and abused its authority to go after businesses, especially small businesses and

entrepreneurs, in ways that can only be described as arbitrary and abusive.

At the same time, we are maintaining America's world-class standards of environmental protection. Emissions of all criteria pollutants dropped between 2016 and 2018. The United States environmental record is one of the strongest in the world and continues to have some of the cleanest air and water in the world.

American Energy Independence. American energy powers our cities and towns, empowers innovators, drives our economy, and protects our sovereignty. Energy companies across the world are ready to build in our Nation, and permitting reform that cuts red tape shows that we welcome their investments. My Administration continues to support growth in the energy sector by removing unnecessary regulations and unleashing America's vast natural and human resources. Through these actions, the United States is now on track to be a net exporter of crude oil and natural gas for all of 2020, a major milestone not achieved in nearly 70 years. In addition to being the world's largest natural gas producer, we also became the World's top crude oil producer in 2018.

The records of our energy boom are widespread. Energy production has created jobs in areas of the United States where job opportunities were scarce. It also provides enormous benefits to families across the Nation by lowering energy prices. And it further distances us from geopolitical foes who wish to cause us harm. More jobs, lower costs, and American dominance—these are predictable results of our pro-energy policies.

Today, there is hope throughout America. There is optimism that was not here before 63 million Americans asked me to work for them and drain the swamp. For decades, Washington elites told us that Americans had no choice but to accept stagnation, decay, and decline.

We proved them wrong. Our economy is strong once more, and America's role as leader of the Free World has been restored.

America is the single greatest country in the world. We must never believe for one moment that this great Nation is destined for a diminished future. When we take hold of our freedom, and take our destiny in our hands, we choose to reject a future of American decline. My 2021 Budget sets the course for a future of continued American dominance and prosperity.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 10, 2020.

□ 1645

ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR PAY ADJUSTMENTS FOR CIVILIAN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES COVERED BY GENERAL SCHEDULE AND OTHER PAY SYSTEMS IN JANUARY 2021—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-97)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am transmitting an alternative plan for pay adjustments for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2021.

Title 5, United States Code, authorizes me to implement alternative plans for pay adjustments for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems if, because of “national emergency or serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare,” I view the increases that would otherwise take effect as inappropriate.

Under current law, locality pay increases averaging 20.67 percent, costing \$21 billion in the first year alone, would go into effect in January 2021, in addition to a 2.5 percent across-the-board increase for the base General Schedule.

We must maintain efforts to put our Nation on a fiscally sustainable course; Federal agency budgets cannot sustain such increases. Accordingly, I have determined that it is appropriate to exercise my authority to set alternative pay adjustments for 2021 pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5303(b) and 5 U.S.C. 5304a.

Specifically, I have determined that for 2021 the across-the-board base pay increase will be limited to 1.0 percent and locality pay percentages will remain at their 2020 levels. This alternative pay plan decision will not materially affect our ability to attract and retain a well-qualified Federal workforce.

As noted in my Budget for Fiscal Year 2021, our pay system must reform to align with mission-critical recruitment and retention goals, and to reward employees whose performance provides value for the American people. For this purpose, my Budget further directs agencies to increase awards spending in FY 2021 by an amount equal to no less than 1 percent of total salary spending. My Administration will continue to support reforms that advance these aims.

The adjustment described above shall take effect on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2021.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 10, 2020.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETERS) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2932, and
H.R. 3413.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

HOMELAND SECURITY FOR CHILDREN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2932) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 374, nays 11, not voting 44, as follows:

[Roll No. 55]

YEAS—374

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)

Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bustos
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)

Carter (GA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly

Cook
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duncan
Dunn
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Estes
Evans
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
Gooden
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries

Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebach
Loebach
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marshall
Mast
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCaul
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meuser
Miller
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Olson
Omar
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarell
Payne
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree

Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Stanton
Staubert
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suozi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small
(NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Welch

Wenstrup Wilson (FL) Yoho
 Westernman Wittman Young
 Wexton Womack Zeldin
 Wild Woodall
 Williams Yarmuth

NAYS—11

Amash Harris Norman
 Biggs Hice (GA) Roy
 Brooks (AL) Massie Tlaib
 Gosar McClintock

NOT VOTING—44

Beyer Johnson (LA) Pence
 Butterfield Kennedy Pocan
 Byrne Kirkpatrick Rice (NY)
 Calvert Kuster (NH) Rooney (FL)
 Carter (TX) Lewis Rouda
 Cleaver Marchant
 Cooper McCarthy
 Cox (CA) Meadows
 Curtis Meng
 Emmer Mitchell
 Gabbard Mucarsel-Powell
 Gaetz Mullin
 Grijalva Neal
 Hayes Ocasio-Cortez
 Holding Palazzo Wright

□ 1859

Messrs. JOHNSON of Georgia and RUTHERFORD changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DHS ACQUISITION REFORM ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3413) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for certain acquisition authorities for the Under Secretary of Management of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 380, nays 4, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 56]

YEAS—380

Abraham Beatty Buchanan
 Adams Bera Buck
 Aderholt Bergman Burchon
 Aguilar Bilirakis Budd
 Allen Bishop (GA) Burchett
 Allred Bishop (NC) Burgess
 Amash Bishop (UT) Bustos
 Amodei Blumenauber Calvert
 Armstrong Blunt Rochester Carbajal
 Arrington Bonamici Cardenas
 Axne Bost Carson (IN)
 Babin Boyle, Brendan Carter (GA)
 Bacon F. Cartwright
 Baird Brady Case
 Balderson Brindisi Casten (IL)
 Banks Brooks (AL) Castor (FL)
 Barr Brooks (IN) Castro (TX)
 Barragán Brown (MD) Chabot
 Bass Brownley (CA) Cheney

Chu, Judy
 Cicilline
 Cisneros
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cline
 Cloud
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Cole
 Collins (GA)
 Comer
 Conaway
 Kennedy
 Cook
 Correa
 Costa
 Courtney
 Craig
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Crist
 Crow
 Cuellar
 Cunningham
 Davids (KS)
 Davidson (OH)
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny K.
 Davis, Rodney
 Dean
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Delgado
 Demings
 DeSaulnier
 DesJarlais
 Deutch
 Diaz-Balart
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Doyle, Michael F.

Duncan
 Dunn
 Engel
 Escobar
 Eshoo
 Espallat
 Estes
 Evans
 Ferguson
 Finkenauer
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Fletcher
 Flores
 Fortenberry
 Foster
 Foxx (NC)
 Frankel
 Fudge
 Fulcher
 Gallagher
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Garcia (IL)
 Garcia (TX)
 Gianforte
 Gibbs
 Gohmert
 Golden
 Gomez
 Gonzalez (OH)
 Gonzalez (TX)
 Gooden
 Gottheimer
 Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (LA)
 Graves (MO)
 Green (TN)
 Green, Al (TX)
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Haaland
 Hagedorn
 Harder (CA)
 Harris
 Hartzler
 Hastings
 Heck
 Hern, Kevin
 Herrera Beutler
 Hice (GA)

Higgins (LA)
 Higgins (NY)
 Hill (AR)
 Himes
 Hollingsworth
 Horn, Kendra S.
 Horsford
 Houlahan
 Hoyer
 Hudson
 Huffman
 Huizenga
 Hurd (TX)
 Jackson Lee
 Jayapal
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson (SD)
 Johnson (TX)
 Jordan
 Joyce (OH)
 Joyce (PA)
 Kaptur
 Katko
 Keating
 Keller
 Kelly (IL)
 Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 Khanna
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kim
 Kind
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kinzinger
 Krishnamoorthi
 Kustoff (TN)
 LaHood
 LaMalfa
 Lamb
 Lamborn
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latta
 Lawrence
 Lawson (FL)
 Lee (CA)
 Lee (NV)
 Lesko
 Levin (CA)
 Levin (MI)
 Lieu, Ted
 Lipinski
 Loebsack
 Lofgren
 Long
 Loudermilk
 Lowenthal
 Lowey
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lujan
 Luria
 Lynch
 Malinowski
 Maloney,
 Carolyn B.
 Maloney, Sean
 Marshall
 Mast
 Matsui
 McAdams
 McBath
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McCollum
 McEachin
 McGovern
 McKinley
 McNeerney
 Meeks
 Meuser
 Miller
 Moonenar
 Mooney (WV)
 Moore
 Morelle
 Moulton
 Murphy (FL)
 Murphy (NC)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neguse
 Newhouse
 Norcross

Norman
 Nunes
 O'Halleran
 Olson
 Omar
 Pallone
 Palmer
 Panetta
 Pappas
 Pascarell
 Payne
 Perlmutter
 Perry
 Peters
 Peterson
 Phillips
 Porter
 Posey
 Pressley
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Raskin
 Ratcliffe
 Reed
 Reschenthaler
 Rice (SC)
 Richmond
 Riggelman
 Roby
 Rodgers (WA)
 Roe, David P.
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rose (NY)
 Rose, John W.
 Rouzer
 Roy
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppersberger
 Rush
 Rutherford
 Ryan
 Sanchez
 Sarbanes
 Scanlon
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schrader
 Schrier
 Schweikert
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Scott, David
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Shalala
 Sherman
 Sherrill
 Shimkus
 Slotkin
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (WA)
 Smucker
 Soto
 Spanberger
 Spano
 Stanton
 Stauber
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Stevens
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Suozzi
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Taylor
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Timmons
 Tipton
 Titus
 Tonko
 Torres (CA)
 Torres Small
 (NM)
 Trahan
 Trone
 Turner
 Underwood
 Upton
 Van Drew
 Vargas

NAYS—4

Biggs
 Gosar
 Massie
 Tlaib

NOT VOTING—45

Beyer Johnson (LA) Palazzo
 Butterfield Kennedy Pence
 Byrne Kirkpatrick Pingree
 Carter (TX) Kuster (NH) Pocan
 Cleaver Lewis Rice (NY)
 Cooper Marchant Rooney (FL)
 Cox (CA) McCarthy Rouda
 Curtis McHenry Scalise
 Emmer Meadows Sewell (AL)
 Gabbard Meng Simpson
 Gaetz Mitchell Sires
 Griffith Mucarsel-Powell Speier
 Grijalva Mullin Steube
 Hayes Neal Webster (FL)
 Holding Ocasio-Cortez Wright

□ 1906

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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. 55 and “yea” on rollcall No. 56.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on February 10 due to unavoidable travel delays. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 55 and “yea” on rollcall No. 56.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes this evening. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall no. 55 and “yea” on rollcall no. 56.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2546, COLORADO WILDERNESS ACT OF 2019; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 79, REMOVING DEADLINE FOR RATIFICATION OF EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Ms. SCANLON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116–395) on the resolution (H. Res. 844) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2546) to designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 79) removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 51

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 51.

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

There was no objection.

PUERTO RICO'S ONGOING CRISIS THAT DEMANDS AN IMMEDIATE AND ROBUST RESPONSE

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

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of our ailing fellow Americans in Puerto Rico as they recover from the devastating earthquakes that hit the island this past month.

For weeks, we have heard horror stories from my constituents in the Puerto Rican communities about what they are seeing and hearing from their friends and families on the island: homes reduced to rubble; families living in flooded camps; children sleeping on the streets; and the earthquakes keep coming, one as recently as 2 days ago.

This is an ongoing crisis that demands an immediate and robust response. But right now, we are seeing critical aid delayed.

We in Florida know that, when we politicize disaster relief, we put people's lives at stake. The House passed a supplemental relief bill Friday. Now it is time for the Senate to act for our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH-JOHNSTOWN WRESTLING COACH PAT PECORA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown wrestling coach, Pat Pecora, on his recent record-breaking meet.

On Friday, February 7, Coach Pecora led the Panthers to victory with a 22-12 win over Mercyhurst. This win was Pecora's 617th, and it snapped nearly a five-decade-long record for most wins in college wrestling at any level or division. Pat Pecora has led his team to two Division II national championships over the years, as well as 22 NCAA regional titles.

Coach Pecora's commitment to the sport has not gone unnoticed. He has been named Coach of the Year by the National Wrestling Coaches Association three times, most recently in 2019.

Pennsylvania is a national leader in wrestling. It is a passion that is woven throughout the Commonwealth's history. Coach Pecora's leadership and

coaching record at Pitt-Johnstown is one to be proud of.

Congratulations, Coach, on this fantastic achievement.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Career and Technical Education Caucus, I rise to recognize National CTE Month.

CTE programs, like those at the Genesis Center in my home State of Rhode Island, show the promise of economic opportunities for CTE students of all ages.

Cindy's story is a great example. She was unemployed when she enrolled in the Genesis Center's Pharmacy Technician Pre-Apprenticeship Program at CVS, and before she completed her training, Cindy was offered a job. She then went on to get her Pharmacy 2 certificate, and she currently holds a full-time position in the Lifespan Health System.

Cindy's story is just one of many CTE successes, and I am so proud to honor her and the millions of other students and educators this month.

Madam Speaker, I am also pleased to recognize my good friend and CTE Caucus co-chair, GT THOMPSON, for his leadership in advancing CTE policy in Congress. GT's partnership has been absolutely invaluable, and I look forward to continuing our work together this month and beyond.

□ 1915

RECOGNIZING CLARENCE FORT

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Black History Month. This month is designed to celebrate the achievements of African Americans and the significant role that they have played in our Nation's history.

The State of Florida is home to one such leader, Hillsborough County's Clarence Fort. Mr. Fort organized and participated in Tampa's first lunch counter sit-in in the downtown Woolworth's department store. After a week of nonviolent sit-ins, Tampa's mayor appointed a biracial committee to discuss segregation. By September 1960, the city's lunch counters were integrated.

Mr. Fort also led the initiative to integrate the workforce of Tampa Transit Lines and later went on to serve 20 years as a Hillsborough County sheriff's deputy.

Strong men and women like Clarence Fort persevered during some of Amer-

ica's most divided periods. His strength and courage are part of what makes our Nation great.

Madam Speaker, I thank all the brave African Americans whose positive influence and impact inspire us this month and every month of the year.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOE VANDEVER, SR.

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

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Joe Vandever, Sr., who passed away recently at the age of 96.

Joe was a Navajo native code talker, a member of an elite group that used their native tongue to create unbreakable codes and transmit top-secret messages during World War II.

Joe bravely enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 20 and served in nine different locations until he was honorably discharged as a corporal in 1946.

Here is a great part of his story, besides all the work he did for our military. Joe is survived by his sister, his six children, 36 grandchildren, 55 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

We must never forget the immense bravery and sacrifices made by the Navajo code talkers. They saved countless lives and helped turn the tide of World War II.

Pat and I are keeping Joe's family and friends and the entire Navajo Nation community in our prayers as we mourn his passing.

There are very few code talkers left in our country today. I have gotten to know most of them, and it has been a great honor.

RECOGNIZING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as Career and Technical Education Month.

Our education system should always be tailored to prepare all students, not just those attending a 4-year college. CTE programs ensure graduates have the vocational and technical skills necessary to succeed in the future. In fact, there are 30 million jobs in the United States that pay an average of \$55,000 per year that don't require bachelor's degrees.

The U.S. Department of Education estimates there will be 68 percent more job openings for transportation occupational careers in the next 5 years than there are people training to fill those jobs. With opportunities like these, students shouldn't feel forced to attend one type of institution over another.

Not every student is bound for college, but every student should leave high school with the skills and knowledge necessary to join today's workforce.

CONGRESS MUST PROTECT COMMUNITIES ACROSS NATION

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, in the dark of night in January 2020, my constituents near the Watson Grinding and Manufacturing Company were awakened by a catastrophic explosion around 4 a.m. in the morning. Unbeknownst to these working families, this particular manufacturing building had propylene, and there was a leak, and there was a seismic explosion.

Four hundred homes have been damaged to the extent that people cannot return. Tragically, two employees were killed. Due to the fact that the shift had not started, there wasn't a catastrophic killing of employees, innocent employees. A truck was blown from one part of the street to the other.

We now cannot find the owner of this particular company. Homes are still destroyed. Businesses are destroyed. There is no one to call.

I will be introducing legislation that insists that companies have the responsibility to report to local jurisdictions the dangerous flammable and toxic materials that they are holding.

We are still fighting to get relief for these innocent victims, and we are asking Mr. Watson to stand up and do what he said he would, which is to take care of all of these persons. Well, he is doing it by filing bankruptcy.

We will not rest until all of these homes and homeowners find a way for relief. I ask Members to join me in the legislation that will protect communities across the Nation.

RECOGNIZING ARTHUR PARKER

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, upon his well-deserved retirement this month, I rise today to recognize Plano police officer Art Parker on his 34 years of dedicated service to the city of Plano, Texas.

During his tenure as a school resource officer, Art made headlines for his incredible ability to memorize the names of over 20,000 students.

A true public servant and a man of many talents, Officer Parker was often seen playing extravagant harmonica solos, making balloon animals, and, most impressively, making people laugh from their cars while stuck in school traffic.

In 2015, Officer Parker was the first ever school resource officer to be

named Plano Officer of the Year. This came as no surprise to so many inspired by his power to make others feel valued.

Officer Parker has made a lasting impact on the Plano community. Although he will be missed, we know his future has wonderful things in store for him. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Officer Art Parker on his successful career and wishing him luck as he begins his next chapter.

SUICIDE AMONG VETERANS IS PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, this is Damon Clayton, the son of my dear friend, Dearborn Heights City Councilwoman Lisa Hicks-Clayton. Today, I rise in honor of his precious life.

Thirteenth District Strong lost Damon to suicide last week at the young age of 28.

One friend wrote: "This man was a friend and a brother to me. We may not have shared DNA, but we shared a common desire to protect." He was a U.S. Army paratrooper in Afghanistan and a firefighter/EMT for the city of Ecorse. "When we lost Damon, we lost a very special blessing from God. This special soul spent his life protecting us."

He said: "I finish my EMT school in 3 weeks. I would like to finish in honor of him. Damon was a factor in my choice to pursue public safety. I want him to always be remembered."

For me, Damon was dearly loved by so many people, including his parents and his siblings.

Death by suicide among veterans represents a public health crisis in our country. In 2005, over 5,700 veterans died by suicide, a number that rose to over 6,100 in 2017.

In Damon's memory, I promise to do everything in my power to get our veterans the healthcare and help that they deserve.

HONORING DR. JIM FARHA

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

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Dr. S. Jim Farha.

On January 17, 2020, Dr. Farha passed away, leaving behind family, friends, and a legacy of making Wichita and our State a better place.

After leaving his native Lebanon in search of an opportunity in America, Dr. Farha worked hard to become a cardiothoracic surgeon. In 1963, Dr. Farha and his brother George began a surgical practice in Wichita to meet a critical need of surgeons in the region. Over time, the practice would eventually become the largest of its kind in the State of Kansas.

In addition to leading the practice for nearly 40 years with his brother, Dr. Farha also worked tirelessly to improve our community. From landmarks like the Wichita Art Museum to the YMCA, the philanthropy and service of Dr. Farha and his late wife, Darla, can be seen throughout Wichita and our region.

His dedication to serving others, whether in the operating room or in the community, has left an inspiring imprint, which will be felt for generations. Dr. Farha's life is a true testament to the American Dream, and he will be missed.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SUFFRAGE

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, 100 years ago, the great State of New Jersey became the 29th State to ratify the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote.

New Jerseyans of all ages are honoring this anniversary. On Sunday, the Kinnelon Girl Scouts held a women's vote celebration, inviting residents to learn about the suffrage movement and what it means today.

In towns across my district, like Morris Township, the municipal building will be lit purple this week, a nod to the purple of the suffragette sashes that symbolized dignity and loyalty.

I thank all our residents for recognizing this milestone and what it means in 2020.

New Jersey's most influential suffragette, Alice Paul, started the National Woman's Party. She said something that still resonates today: "There's nothing complicated about ordinary equality."

In our complicated world, women have made significant strides since 1920. As we celebrate 100 years of suffrage, let us remember all the work that lies ahead.

HONORING CHASE TOWNSEND

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I love to listen to music, modern country like Kenny Chesney, classic country like Johnny Cash, '90s grunge like Pearl Jam, and '80s rock like The Who with Pete Townshend doing windmills.

But there is another Townsend that does more than Pete to keep music alive. This past Saturday, I dropped by to meet Chase Townsend and to thank him for creating jobs. He runs The Music Factory in Pearland, Texas.

That small business was started 50 years ago by his dad, Steve. I was overwhelmed by the guitars, ukuleles, cellos, keyboards, and drums.

I asked him: Why do you do this? What keeps you going?

He said: It is a Harry Potter and the wand moment. There is that divine light coming down from somewhere. There is music out of nowhere.

Rock on, Chase. Rock on.

PRAISING OPPORTUNITY ZONES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Friday, I was grateful to travel on Air Force One to Charlotte with my colleagues from South Carolina, RALPH NORMAN and WILLIAM TIMMONS, along with our colleagues from North Carolina, VIRGINIA FOXX, PATRICK MCHENRY, RICHARD HUDSON, MARK MEADOWS, MARK WALKER, TED BUDD, DAN BISHOP, and GREG MURPHY.

WIS-TV News of Columbia reported the President spoke at the North Carolina Opportunity Now Summit at Central Piedmont Community College. President Trump highlighted the impact opportunity zones have made and announced a new nationwide initiative called Opportunity Now.

“Under my administration, we work to restore the American promise of upward mobility,” President Trump said. “We want everyone to get ahead and get ahead big league.”

Over the weekend, everywhere I went, citizens praised President Donald Trump with victory in the impeachment hoax as acquitted, exonerated, vindicated, not guilty, innocent, empowered, esteemed, and cleared.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate President Donald Trump.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

□ 1930

HONORING MAYOR RICH PALOMBO

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I honor Richard Palombo for an amazing 20 years of service as mayor of Upper Township in South Jersey.

Rich exemplifies leadership in his personal and his professional life.

His gentle leadership is welcome at a time, unfortunately, when we have bitter partisanship. I know firsthand of his ability after working with him for years in his capacity as mayor.

Rich listens to every side and makes informed decisions which are driven by his desire to have the best community possible, whether Republican or Democrat.

At any given time of year, 1,500 to 2,000 student-age children will be participating in sporting events at the area's sports complexes, this is thanks to the leadership of Rich Palombo. I know how proud he is, and should be, of this accomplishment.

Mayor Palombo has kept taxes and crime low without sacrificing services, and I know his community always thanks him for that.

Congratulations, Rich. I look forward to our continuing relationship. And thank you for all that you do for our great community and the communities around you.

May God always bless you, and the best of luck for the future.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. WEXTON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to anchor the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order hour, and I thank our chairwoman, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, for her tremendous leadership in organizing this effort.

Tonight, we are marking the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 15th Amendment, which prohibits the Federal Government and each State from denying a citizen the right to vote based on that citizen's race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

In the aftermath of the ratification of the 15th Amendment, well over 2,000 Black men were elected to local, State, and Federal offices, 16 of whom served in Congress. Those elected officials were able to stand up for their communities and to work for the resources and protections they needed.

Today, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus are continuing their legacy. So tonight, we have a number of Members who will speak on both the importance of the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment as well as the present dangers that exist in this body and the issues that we are continuing to address.

Today, we also received the President's budget. Every year, the President's budget shows that he does not reflect the values or the lives of the most vulnerable Americans or the success and security of hardworking families across this country.

This year, I am proud to, again, stand with my colleagues on the House Budget Committee under the guidance of Chairman JOHN YARMUTH to work to protect the programs that the President is seeking to destructively slash in his proposal.

Not only does his proposal threaten my constituents and their access to

Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act programs that protect my constituents with preexisting conditions, but it also hacks away at my State's and all of our States' dollars for affordable housing and nutrition assistance, just to name a few.

The White House proposes to cut spending by \$4.6 trillion over a decade. Medicaid will see a cut of about \$900 billion in funding. Medicare would see about \$500 billion in cuts over that same period. Funding for Federal disability programs, including Social Security Disability Insurance, would be cut \$63 billion. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, would be cut by \$182 billion over 10 years as a result of the proposed stringent work requirements proposed by this administration.

This, after they gave themselves the biggest tax cut proposal enacted by Congress in 2017, giving the top billionaires and big corporations the greatest benefit from a \$1.9 trillion tax cut.

We knew it then and it is now proving out today: those tax cuts are being balanced on the backs of everyday Americans who are depending upon this Congress to stand up and to fight for them.

So in the spirit of the 15th Amendment, we know that every voice matters regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. So today, my colleagues and I will raise both the commemoration of that important amendment as well as speak truth to power as it pertains to these horrendous budget cuts that are being proposed.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to yield to my colleague from the great State of California. She definitely speaks for me and so many other great Americans who are looking for strong advocates here in the United States Congress.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), my friend.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

First of all, I want to thank Congressman HORSFORD for those generous comments, but also for his leadership on so many fronts and for constantly really looking out for the most vulnerable and for those who oftentimes don't have a voice here.

I am really delighted that under the leadership of our fearless chair, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, who chairs the Congressional Black Caucus, she asked Mr. HORSFORD to chair this Special Order tonight, because it is so important that we talk about the budget cuts, and also in the context of commemorating this anniversary, the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 15th Amendment.

We continue to be the conscience of the Congress, and it is so important that we not only remember our history and educate those who may have forgotten about it, but also talk about how we got to where we are today.

With these budget cuts that are going to severely, disproportionately impact the African American community, how can we not make the connection between our history and what is taking place here with this administration.

Let me just lay out a few more of the budget cuts very quickly.

I do serve on the Budget Committee with Mr. HORSFORD, and so we are going to be dealing with this for the next few weeks and really lay out how horrendous these cuts are.

I also serve on the Appropriations Committee as an appropriator.

We have to do a deep dive on this tonight, so let me just lay out a few more of these horrific cuts.

There are cuts to lifesaving medical research. We're talking about that this administration wants to cut the National Institutes of Health by \$3.3 billion and reduce the funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by \$678 million.

Education: This administration wants to impose an 8.5 percent cut on the Department of Education, which is a total cut of \$6.2 billion, which includes cuts to after-school programs, which we, of course, know are extremely important in low-income communities and in the Black community.

Infrastructure: This budget reduces the funding for the Army Corps of Engineers, which fixes our Nation's crumbling water infrastructure, by \$1.7 billion.

There are cuts to community development. It eliminates the Community Development Block Grant, making it harder for communities to address needs like safe housing, economic opportunities, and public facilities improvements.

It eliminates the HOME Program. Here we are trying to increase access to affordable housing and eliminate homelessness, yet this administration's budget presents a cut in terms of just zeroing out the HOME Program. Of course, that is going to make it harder for low-income individuals to access affordable housing programs.

It reduces rural broadband, cuts funding—this is hard to believe—for small businesses. It cuts the funding for the Small Business Administration's Entrepreneurial Development grants by \$93 million, making it harder for small businesses to grow and compete.

We can go on and on and on, but we see this budget as a budget that we know is going to hurt those who don't have a lot of money, quite frankly, and who are striving to take care of their families and to live the quality of life that they so deserve as Americans.

So we are going to fight, and we are going to make sure that this budget is dead on arrival, but we think it is important to lay out what the values are that are in this budget.

It is an immoral budget, it is unethical, it is un-American, and I hope that tonight people will really understand

they need to sound the alarm. It really is a budget that requires designating this as a state of emergency.

With regard to 150 years ago: African American men were given the right to vote with the ratification of the 15th Amendment, that was in 1870, but it was ratified, though, to ensure the freedoms outlined in the 13th and 14th Amendments.

However, the promise of the 15th Amendment—going back now and right up to today—the integral promise of the right to vote for Black Americans was blocked, totally blocked until the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which I remember very well. I was in high school then.

It was just quite remarkable that in our lifetime, that the 15th Amendment still wasn't actualized. Almost a century now after, here we see still violence, racially charged State and local laws subjected Black men to the use of poll taxes and literacy tests to prevent them from voting.

Through these discriminatory tactics, we still kept fighting. These tactics attempted to stop Black Americans from voting for our rights, but we are still fighting.

It wasn't just Black men who were fighting for equality and fairness.

Black women were marching in the streets long after the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting White women the right to vote. Black women continued to face the same discrimination at the polls that Black men had faced since 1870.

What is worse, Black women faced the compounded prejudices of anti-blackness and anti-women, but they were not deterred. They, we, continued to fight for equality along with African American men.

Black women, like Mary Church Terrell, organized political organizations and participated in political meetings. Black women were involved in the U.S. political system long before they could legally cast a vote.

Ninety-five years later, after decades of pressure and activism in the midst of the civil rights movement, then in 1965 the Voting Rights Act made voting more accessible to Black men and women. Despite the protections that this law put into place, the Black vote is still suppressed.

Now we have new barriers such as gerrymandering, voter ID laws, voter purges, and the closing of polling locations in many minority communities.

Now, instead of a poll tax, communities of color, especially African American communities, are waiting in line for 7, 8, and even 10 hours to vote.

Instead of making it easier to participate in our democracy, we have States making it harder and pushing minorities out of reach.

So today, 150 years after the 15th Amendment passed, this fight for the right to vote is more important than ever.

Again, as I close, going back to these budget cuts, we have to let this admin-

istration know that there is power in the Black vote and that Black lives also do matter and that these budget cuts that we are talking about tonight, when you look at them, I am worried that they would take us back, take us way back to the days of Jim Crow and the days that we don't even want to remember.

So, Madam Speaker, to Congressman HORSFORD, this is very timely tonight. I thank the gentleman for this Special Order, because the 15th Amendment and what is taking place today are very, very connected, and we need to remind our constituents of the risks and the dangers that we face at this point in our history.

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Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from California again for her tremendous leadership and for reminding us about the history that brought us to this day, the fact that it was the 13th Amendment that abolished slavery; that it was the 14th Amendment that granted us citizenship and equal civil and legal rights to freedom; but it was the 15th Amendment, which was the last of the Reconstruction Amendments, which was designed to guarantee Black men the right to vote.

As the gentlewoman rightly noted, Black women were a significant part of that effort, despite the fact that they weren't included in those initial rights until the 19th Amendment was passed. The fact is that we have come so far and made so much progress with the Voting Rights Act and know that this body, we passed H.R. 4, but we can't get agreement with our colleagues on the other side and the colleagues in the Senate to pass the Voting Rights Act.

Fifty-five years after the initial Voting Rights Act was passed, to reauthorize that in this body shows just how much of a struggle we have, whether it is with our voting rights, whether it is with legal protections, or whether it is with the values that are reflected in the budget that we are deliberating this week that the President will submit.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much for her words of wisdom and know that, with the gentlewoman in this fight, we will continue to make progress and people will be heard.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my colleague who serves on the Budget Committee, as well as the Judiciary Committee and the Homeland Security Committee.

She has many roles in which she understands the impact of the budget, the budget proposal that has been submitted by the President, which makes tremendous cuts to vital social service and safety net programs, as well as the threat and the assault that is on the

voting rights that we are speaking about tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Nevada for his great leadership and the importance of this moment tonight to honor 150 years of the passage of the 15th Amendment, our right to vote, and to be joined by my colleagues, Congresswoman LEE and Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, and we thank our chair, Congresswoman BASS.

The Congressional Black Caucus is the conscience of this Nation and always stands in the gap for the very important leadership on this issue.

Might I also thank our colleague, whom we are so blessed to have amongst us. I think the gentleman takes the title of singularly being the conscience and the heart of the Congress. That is the Honorable JOHN LEWIS, who works with us and has always been our guide as relates to the question of the Voting Rights Act.

Many of you are reminded of the fact that, as that Voting Rights Act was fought for and rejected and thought it was too dangerous to pass in the 1960s, moving up to 1965, it took the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, when JOHN LEWIS, among others, was beaten almost to death and bloodied on that bridge by horsemen from the Alabama State Police. What a bloody and horrific scene. None of us can imagine what JOHN LEWIS went through.

He has continued in his service in the United States Congress to stand steadfast with us and to remind us that it is better to do the right thing, regardless of the consequences. When I think of him and this 150th year, I am reminded of how we should stand and fight and be reminded, again, that the precious right to vote can be one that can be quick and fade in the night and be taken away in the twinkle of an eye, as has been attempted over the years.

President Johnson addressed the Nation before signing the Voting Rights Act, and said: "The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men," and women, "because they are different from other men," and women.

It is important to remind the Nation of the history of African Americans, the descendants now of enslaved Africans, to remind this Congress that, for nearly 250 years, the peculiar institution of slavery fed into the Nation's booming industries and facilitated its boundless growth.

We were the economic engine of this Nation—slave, brutal labor. And as this country prospered, enslaved people were denied the fruits of their labor: no workers' compensation, no life insurance, no days off, no weekends. They were brutalized without vote, without presence, without even the dignity of being one person.

They were denied a voice in America's fledgling democracy and only began to see that change as the attempt came to make a difference by, in 1869, passing the 15th Amendment over impassioned opposition.

The 13th Amendment had been passed. As my recollection serves me, President Lincoln was not able to see the final passage of that, but that was passed—and how horrific that was—to be able to finally have slavery denied.

In 1869, the lameduck Congress passed the 15th Amendment over impassioned opposition, but, Madam Speaker, it did not last long.

In 1876, this thing call Reconstruction, the many African Americans who were in the Senate and House were stricken out because of the 1876 compromise to take the priority of the South over the rights of human beings. And then came the horrors of poll tax, literacy tests, violence, Jim Crowism, the brutality against anyone who wanted to vote.

Even when the 19th Amendment came in 1920, it was not Black women who received the right to vote. So this is a worthy honoring.

My predecessor, the Honorable Barbara Jordan, my mentor and someone who encouraged me in the position I am now in, indicated, with her leadership in 1975, she was wise enough to include the State of Texas by adding to the Voting Rights Act Mexican Americans. She said:

There are Mexican American people in the State of Texas who have been denied the right to vote, who have been impeded in their efforts to register and vote, who have not had encouragement from those election officials because they are brown people.

By adding the Mexican American population community, Texas was added to the Voting Rights Act, and, lo and behold, we have suffered even with that addition because we have had poll tax ourselves. We have had the onslaught of the voter ID bill. The purging has been enormous in the State of Texas: the moving of polls, lights being out, electricity being out, machines not working.

I recall in the 1940s, there were only 30,000 African American voters, and a small percentage of them throughout the South were registered to vote. We are back where we were.

The State of Texas, as we come up on this election, has taken away a tool that has been used for decades, and that is the right to push a straight ticket. They know that the success of the 2018 election came about through young voters and elderly voters and diverse voters who knew how to do that one vote with these long ballots, and they took away that very right.

The people could choose if they wanted to vote for one party or another. We are looking at whether or not that is violating the Voting Rights Act. It takes away a choice.

Let me conclude my remarks by indicating the importance of this legislation and, again, take some words from

President Lyndon Baines Johnson: "Presidents and Congresses, laws and lawsuits can open the doors to the polling places and open the doors to the wondrous rewards which await the wise use of the ballot. But only the individual Negro, and all others who have been denied the right to vote, can really walk through those doors, and can use that right, and can transform the vote into an instrument of justice and fulfillment."

Lyndon Baines Johnson didn't realize that counties and cities and States across America would find ways to stop those on the basis of race and color and some other form of discrimination. He didn't realize that his job had not ended with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and as we reauthorized it just a few years ago. He did not realize that people would still be stopped from voting, those who have been incarcerated, mostly people of color.

Today, I pay tribute to my colleague who is leading this and pay tribute to the colleagues who are bringing us to recognize the 150 years. It is good to recognize, but the fight still is maintained.

If their vote at the ballot box is going to be the change agent of this Nation so homeless persons will not still be homeless, people who are hungry will not still be hungry, small businesses that want to open their doors will not be denied because of the present leadership and administration, our vote counts, and the honor and tribute that we can give to those who were enslaved for 250 years is to use the precious right to vote.

As they do so, our colleagues on the floor of this House will pay tribute to them by passing, as well, H.R. 40, which is a commission to study reparations and proposals.

Use your vote for a reason to enhance and uplift.

Use your vote to save those who cannot speak for themselves: the hungry and those who need access to medical care.

Use your vote. That is the challenge for all of us.

Honor the 150th year by your action, by your vote, and by your commitment to this Nation.

Madam Speaker, 150 years ago this month, the 15th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified and because of that Amendment, and the Voting Rights Act it authorized and President Lyndon Johnson signed into law, I stand before you as Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, who in 2017 became the first African American woman to attain the position of Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Madam Speaker, I rise today not just to commemorate the landmark achievement of 150 years ago but to inform our colleagues and the nation of the need to redouble and rededicate our efforts to the work that remains to be done to protect the right of all Americans to vote free from discrimination and the injustices that prevent them from exercising this most fundamental right of citizenship.

On August 6, 1965, in the Rotunda of the Capitol and in the presence of such luminaries as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Roy Wilkins of the NAACP; Whitney Young of the National Urban League; James Foreman of the Congress of Racial Equality; A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; John Lewis of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee; Senators Robert Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey, and Everett Dirksen; President Johnson addressed the nation before signing the Voting Rights Act:

The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.

Madam Speaker, for nearly 250 years, "the peculiar institution" of slavery fed into the nation's booming industries and facilitated its boundless growth.

Even as the country prospered, enslaved people were denied the fruits of their own labor.

They were also denied a voice in America's fledgling democracy.

This only began to change in the middle of the 19th century.

At the close of the Civil War, the nation wrangled with the future of nearly 4 million Black people who, until the adoption of the 13th Amendment, had been held captive in the South.

On the heels of the 13th Amendment, which formally ended slavery, Congress passed the 14th Amendment to guarantee Black people citizenship and equality under the law.

But suffrage was an entirely separate question.

As lawmakers mapped out plans to reunify the country, extending the right to vote was hardly a priority in the North but in the South, however, Black people were voting.

In some states—Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina—the African-American electorate outnumbered its white counterpart because in 1867, when Congress passed the Reconstruction Acts, the new laws established, among other things, conditions for the former Confederate states' return to the Union.

Perhaps the most important stipulation was that the readmitted states had to draft new constitutions that guaranteed suffrage to citizens regardless of their race.

It didn't take long for Lincoln Republicans in Congress to recognize that for Reconstruction to have a chance, African Americans would have to be able to advocate for themselves in elections.

So in 1869, the lame-duck Congress passed the 15th Amendment over impassioned position.

The amendment, which was ratified in less than a year, made it illegal to "deny" or "abridge" the right to vote "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude" and gave Congress the power to enforce the new law.

Soon, Black people began voting not only in the South but throughout the country.

They were elected to statewide office and were even sent to Washington to represent Americans in both houses of Congress.

That it all ended in 1876 when the Hayes-Tilden Compromise resolving the 1876 presidential election ended Reconstruction.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was critical to preventing brazen voter discrimination violations that historically left millions of African Americans disenfranchised.

In 1940, for example, there were less than 30,000 African Americans registered to vote in Texas and only about 3 percent of African Americans living in the South were registered to vote.

Poll taxes, literacy tests, and threats of violence were the major causes of these racially discriminatory results.

After passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, which prohibited these discriminatory practices, registration and electoral participation steadily increased to the point that by 2012, more than 1.2 million African Americans living in Texas were registered to vote.

In 1964, the year before the Voting Rights Act became law, there were approximately 300 African Americans in public office, including just three in Congress.

Few, if any, African Americans held elective office anywhere in the South.

Because of the Voting Rights Act, today there are more than 9,100 black elected officials, including 46 members of Congress, the largest number ever.

The Voting Rights Act opened the political process for many of the approximately 6,000 Hispanic public officials that have been elected and appointed nationwide, including more than 275 at the state or federal level, 32 of whom serve in Congress.

Native Americans, Asians and others who have historically encountered harsh barriers to full political participation also have benefited greatly.

The crown jewel of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is Section 5, which requires that states and localities with a chronic record of discrimination in voting practices secure federal approval before making any changes to voting processes.

Section 5 protects minority voting rights where voter discrimination has historically been the worst.

Since 1982, Section 5 has stopped more than 1,000 discriminatory voting changes in their tracks, including 107 discriminatory changes right here in Texas.

And it is a source of eternal pride to all of us in Houston that in pursuit of extending the full measure of citizenship to all Americans, in 1975 Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who also represented this historic 18th Congressional District of Texas, introduced, and the Congress adopted, what are now Sections 4(f)(3) and 4(f)(4) of the Voting Rights Act, which extended the protections of Section 4(a) and Section 5 to language minorities.

During the floor debate on the 1975 reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, Congresswoman Jordan explained why this reform was needed:

There are Mexican-American people in the State of Texas who have been denied the right to vote; who have been impeded in their efforts to register and vote; who have not had encouragement from those election officials because they are brown people.

So, the state of Texas, if we approve this measure, would be brought within the coverage of this Act for the first time.

When it comes to extending and protecting the precious right vote, the Lone Star State—the home state of Lyndon Johnson and Barbara Jordan—can be the leading state in the Union, one that sets the example for the nation.

But to realize that future, we must turn from and not return to the dark days of the past.

We must remain ever vigilant and oppose all schemes that will abridge or dilute the precious right to vote.

Madam Speaker, I am here today to remind the nation that the right to vote—that "powerful instrument that can break down the walls of injustice"—is facing grave threats.

The threat stems from the decision issued in June 2013 by the Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 193 (2013), which invalidated Section 4(b) of the VRA, and paralyzed the application of the VRA's Section 5 preclearance requirements.

According to the Supreme Court majority, the reason for striking down Section 4(b) was that "times change."

Now, the Court was right; times have changed.

But what the Court did not fully appreciate is that the positive changes it cited are due almost entirely to the existence and vigorous enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.

And that is why the Voting Rights Act is still needed.

Let me put it this way: in the same way that the vaccine invented by Dr. Jonas Salk in 1953 eradicated the crippling effects but did not eliminate the cause of polio, the Voting Rights Act succeeded in stymieing the practices that resulted in the wholesale disenfranchisement of African Americans and language minorities but did eliminate them entirely.

The Voting Rights Act is needed as much today to prevent another epidemic of voting disenfranchisement as Dr. Salk's vaccine is still needed to prevent another polio epidemic.

However, officials in some states, notably Texas and North Carolina, seemed to regard the *Shelby* decision as a green light and rushed to implement election laws, policies, and practices that could never pass muster under the Section 5 preclearance regime.

My constituents remember very well the Voter ID law passed in Texas in 2011, which required every registered voter to present a valid government-issued photo ID on the day of polling in order to vote.

The Justice Department blocked the law in March of 2012, and it was Section 5 that prohibited it from going into effect.

At least it did until the *Shelby* decision, because on the very same day that *Shelby* was decided officials in Texas announced they would immediately implement the Photo ID law, and other election laws, policies, and practices that could never pass muster under the Section 5 preclearance regime.

The Texas Photo ID law was challenged in federal court and thankfully, just yesterday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld the decision of U.S. District Court Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos that Texas' strict voter identification law discriminated against blacks and Hispanics and violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

Madam Speaker, protecting voting rights and combating voter suppression schemes are two of the critical challenges facing our great democracy.

Without safeguards to ensure that all citizens have equal access to the polls, more injustices are likely to occur and the voices of millions silenced.

Those of us who cherish the right to vote justifiably are skeptical of Voter ID laws because we understand how these laws, like poll

taxes and literacy tests, can be used to impede or negate the ability of seniors, racial and language minorities, and young people to cast their votes.

Consider the demographic groups who lack a government issued ID:

1. African Americans: 25 percent;
 2. Asian Americans: 20 percent;
 3. Hispanic Americans: 19 percent;
 4. Young people, aged 18–24: 18 percent;
- and
5. Persons with incomes less than \$35,000: 15 percent.

And there are other ways abridging or suppressing the right to vote, including:

1. Curtailing or eliminating early voting;
2. Ending same-day registration;
3. Not counting provisional ballots cast in the wrong precinct on Election Day will not count;
4. Eliminating adolescent pre-registration;
5. Shortening poll hours; and
6. Lessening the standards governing voter challenges thus allowing self-proclaimed “ballot security vigilantes” like the King Street Patriots to cause trouble at the polls.

Specifically, I call for the passage of H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, of which I am an original co-sponsor, which repairs the damage done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court’s Shelby decision.

This legislation replaces the old “static” coverage formula with a new dynamic coverage formula, or “rolling trigger,” which effectively gives the legislation nationwide reach because any state and any jurisdiction in any state potentially is subject to being covered if the requisite number of violations are found to have been committed.

Madam Speaker, before concluding there is one other point I would like to stress.

In his address to the nation before signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, President Johnson said:

Presidents and Congresses, laws and lawsuits can open the doors to the polling places and open the doors to the wondrous rewards which await the wise use of the ballot.

But only the individual Negro, and all others who have been denied the right to vote, can really walk through those doors, and can use that right, and can transform the vote into an instrument of justice and fulfillment.

In other words, political power—and the justice, opportunity, inclusion, and fulfillment it provides—comes not from the right to vote but in the exercise of that right.

And that means it is the civic obligation of every citizen to both register and vote in every election, state and local as well as federal.

Because if we can register and vote, but fail to do so, we are guilty of voluntary voter suppression, the most effective method of disenfranchisement ever devised.

And in recent years, Americans have not been doing a very good job of exercising our civic responsibility to register, vote, and make their voices heard.

Madam Speaker, for millions of Americans, the right to vote made possible by the 15th Amendment and protected by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is sacred treasure, earned by the sweat and toil and tears and blood of ordinary Americans who showed the world it was possible to accomplish extraordinary things.

So on this 150th anniversary of that landmark amendment, let us rededicate ourselves to honoring those who won for us this pre-

cious right by remaining vigilant and fighting against both the efforts of others to abridge or suppress the right to vote and our own apathy in exercising this sacred right.

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas for her tremendous leadership and for bringing such concise points to both the budget realities that we are faced with in this current budget proposal by the administration, as well as what is at stake with the 150th anniversary of the passage of the 15th Amendment.

The fact that so many people have worked so hard for prior generations, we now, in this generation and those Members here in this body who have been duly elected by our constituents, have a solemn responsibility to respect that Amendment and the protections that come with it.

Too many times in this body, we have had an opportunity for our colleagues on the other side to work with us in a bipartisan manner to pass the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act. Fortunately, the House Democrats have moved it as part of the For the People Agenda. It is sitting on Senator MITCH MCCONNELL’s desk. We are asking them to take that bill up and to vote on it in honor of the passage of the 15th Amendment and its 150th Anniversary.

I thank the gentlewoman for bringing that perspective to the floor tonight. We are calling on all of our colleagues to work with us on this important legislation, as well as H.R. 40 and the other measures that the gentlewoman spoke about.

I thank the gentlewoman for her time tonight.

I now yield to a great leader in this body. She serves as the chair of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. She is also a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

As the chair of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, she is one of five chairs for the Congressional Black Caucus. That is a tremendous accomplishment in its own right, but it reflects the legacy on which we stand as Members of this body.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON).

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand with the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus tonight to celebrate the ratification of the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted African American men the right to vote.

The 15th Amendment of the United States Constitution prohibits the Federal Government and each State from denying a citizen the right to vote based upon the citizen’s race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

We are still fighting for that right; although, we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of that right.

In Texas and throughout our country, we are still fighting for the right

to vote and the right to have our voices heard without ridiculous impediments and barriers that you have heard about tonight. The memories of the poll tax and jelly bean jars to be counted are still with us.

I am old enough to remember that, when I became 21, at that time, to vote, I had to pay a poll tax. So it was important to be able to just vote. But I say to young people today that we still have to fight equally as hard for our right to vote.

I have lived through the periods in American history when the fundamental right to vote has been continuously challenged for people of color, where discrimination was the law of the land and separate but equal was the norm. These rights guaranteeing the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution are sacred and continue to be protected so we may live in freedom. But the fight for freedom is daily.

The 15th Amendment is part of the Reconstruction Amendments. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery. The 14th Amendment granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States and guaranteed all citizens equal protection under the laws. And the 15th Amendment protected the right to vote.

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The 13th and 14th Amendments were intended to establish equal rights for former slaves, and here we are, celebrating the 150th anniversary and still being treated as if slavery is the law of the land.

Reconstruction, a period in American history that lasted more than a decade, from 1863 to 1877, was devastating for African Americans and denied us the basic freedoms promised by the Constitution. This led to mass segregation in the South.

Clearly, our young people of color today did not live through much of this, and many of us didn’t. Yet, we continue to live it every day.

Madam Speaker, you have heard remarks on the budget, and you have heard remarks that specifically single out people who are least able to look out for themselves because of segregation and racism. They are also the ones who are first to be punished.

We will not be silenced, however. We will use our right to stand for all the people who have been guaranteed the right to be full Americans until we become full Americans.

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for her strong leadership, for sharing her perspective tonight, and for reminding us about the reality of the poll tax, the literacy tests, and the grandfather clauses that were once common mechanisms used to disadvantage minority voters, particularly African American voters.

Tonight, Madam Speaker, again, we are recognizing the 150th anniversary after the ratification of the 15th Amendment. Tremendous gains were

made during that Reconstruction period, where well over 2,000 Black men were elected to local, State, and Federal office, 16 of whom served in Congress.

For instance, Hiram Rhodes Revels, the first African American Senator representing Mississippi, was elected to Congress in 1870. Senator Revels was sometimes called the 15th Amendment in flesh and blood.

Senator Revels and his colleagues were only part of the story. All told, about 2,000 African Americans held public office at some level of government during Reconstruction.

But, sadly, this happened in the face of literacy tests, poll taxes, and grandfather clauses, once the most common mechanisms used for disadvantaging minority voters.

After the end of Reconstruction, these amendments were rarely enforced for nearly 100 years after their ratification. So even despite the fact that these gains were made, they were not enforced. That is why we need to have laws that are enforced, and we need to remind this administration that they are not above the law and that they have to follow the law and enforce the law.

Black families were separated from their White counterparts and forced to use lesser facilities. They were maligned, tormented, and treated without respect. Black children were forced to attend rundown schools without the necessary books to succeed.

This rampant segregation thrived across the country until the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which struck down the inherently flawed concept of separate but equal. Sadly, we are still trying to ensure that separate-but-equal concept no longer applies.

It is 150 years on from the ratification of the Black men's right to vote, however, and we are still fighting to protect those rights in the face of voter suppression efforts across this country.

Each election cycle, untold numbers of eligible Americans are prevented from voting due to barriers in the voter registration process and restrictions on casting ballots. Just since the 2010 elections, 24 States have implemented new restrictions on voting.

Alabama now requires a photo ID to cast a ballot.

Other States, such as Ohio and Georgia, have enacted use-it-or-lose-it laws, which strike voters from registration rolls if they have not participated in an election within a prescribed period of time.

In Georgia, in 2018, 53,000 voter registrants, 70 percent of whom were Black, were unable to vote because of minor misspellings or missing hyphens on their registration forms.

That is why we must draw attention to the suppression of the Black vote on this day that we honor the ratification of the 15th Amendment. Our ancestors require it.

While today we mark the ratification of the 15th Amendment and the Black

men's right to vote as my colleague, Representative BARBARA LEE, indicated, we must also acknowledge that Black women were denied that right for nearly another 100 years.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, Black women played an active role in the struggle for universal suffrage. We will be recognizing the 100-year anniversary of the 19th Amendment this August, and it is important that we remember that Black women attended political conventions at their local churches where they planned strategies to gain the right to vote.

In the late 1800s, Black women across the country worked for churches, newspapers, secondary schools, and colleges, which gave them a larger platform to promote their ideas. They participated in political meetings and organized political societies.

In spite of their hard work, many people didn't listen to them. Black men and White women usually led civil rights organizations and set the agenda, and they often excluded Black women from their organizations and activities.

In 1896, reformers like Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin and Charlotte Forten Grimke founded the National Association of Colored Women to discuss ways of attaining women's rights and women's suffrage. Their motto was: Lifting as We Climb.

In 1913, Ida B. Wells founded the Alpha Suffrage Club of Chicago, the Nation's first Black women's club focused specifically on suffrage. Seven years after the founding of the Alpha Suffrage Club, the 19th Amendment was ratified.

The 19th Amendment technically granted women in the United States the right vote, but Black women were excluded from those rights due to the ever-present racism still pervading every corner of society in this country at that time. It wasn't until the Voting Rights Act was passed nearly a half-century later on August 6, 1965, that Black women were officially allowed to exercise their right to vote—Madam Speaker, 1965.

Yet, Black women today are the strongest in our families. They are strong in our communities, and they are strong civically. They understand how much has been fought and has been sacrificed in order for them to have that right.

So when I talk to young people and they ask me: Why should I vote? Why does this matter? What do I have to lose?

We need to be reminded tonight that people had a lot to lose. Some lost and some gave their very life, Members like our esteemed civil rights icon JOHN LEWIS gave blood so that we would have the right to vote.

It is important for us to remember that right. That right is based on this premise that the Federal Government and each State may not deny a citizen the right to vote based on that citizen's race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

That last piece I really want to underscore because the massive incarceration that has occurred over the last few decades and the number of formerly incarcerated citizens who still to this day in some States do not have their right to vote, the 15th Amendment guarantees them that right.

As we recognize this 150th anniversary, we need to challenge policies like the one in Florida where the people of Florida decided to restore those formerly incarcerated citizens and give them the ability to vote, and then the Republicans in the legislature imposed a fee for them to be able to vote. That is not what this says under the 15th Amendment.

Those in Georgia being denied the right to vote by having their name stricken from the voting rolls, that is not what the protections under the 15th Amendment provide for.

This is something that, to me, is very alarming because it speaks to the very essence of who we are as a people and the democracy that we uphold in this institution. So, tonight, I want to commend my colleagues, the entire Congressional Black Caucus; our chairwoman, KAREN BASS; and every single Member who will stand with us to pass H.R. 4, which we have done out of this House to call on Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL and to ask him to bring that bill to a vote, for the President to sign it, to ensure that every single person's vote is protected in this country and that we end these tactics where we are intimidating people from participating in this process.

This goes to the civic engagement of this country. People should participate by registering to vote. They should participate in the Census, which is occurring this year. They should participate by making sure their voice is heard at the ballot box every election.

Madam Speaker, again, I thank my colleagues for joining me for this Special Order hour. As we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment, we remind ourselves what is at stake. As we deliberate on the President's budget tomorrow and in the coming weeks, let us be reminded of what is at stake.

I know for me and the people whom I represent in Nevada's Fourth District, my job is to never forget where I come from, what I am fighting for, or whom I am fighting for, and it is the people of my district.

I am proud that Nevada was the first State of the 28 States to ratify the 15th Amendment. We did so on March 1, 1869. We are battle born in Nevada. We come from a strong history, and one of the things that we will always do is protect the rights of our fellow citizens to have their voice heard.

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

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, this month, we mark the 150th Anniversary of the ratification of the 15th Amendment, granting African American men the right to vote. Later this year, we will also celebrate the centennial of

the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which granted women, and therefore African American women, the right to vote.

These important anniversaries give special meaning to Black History Month this year, reflected in the 2020 theme, “African Americans and the Vote.” This theme speaks to the long struggle on the part of Black men and women to secure their place in American democracy, through the Constitution and its guarantee of an unfettered and unabridged right to vote.

The 15th Amendment was the third and final amendment adopted in the aftermath of the Civil War. Together, the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments abolished slavery, granted citizenship to African Americans and etched the right to vote into the Constitution.

While these amendments protected and expanded the rights of African Americans, too often throughout our history these rights existed on paper only. For the first century following ratification of the 15th Amendment, racial violence, poll taxes, and other forms of voter discrimination and disenfranchisement prevented African Americans from making their voices heard at the ballot box.

Progress was slow. For every one step forward, we were often pushed two steps back. But the Civil Rights movement and, most importantly, the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 brought America closer to its promise of all Americans receiving equal protection under the law.

This struggle continues today. A century and a half after receiving the right to vote and more than 50 years after passage of the Voting Rights Act, African Americans continue to face discrimination and barriers at the ballot box. Voter purges, early voting cutbacks, strict ID requirements, and discriminatory gerrymandering of legislative districts are just some of the modern-day tactics that prevent African Americans from making their voices heard.

As we celebrate this important anniversary, may we work to fulfill the text of the 15th amendment, which said the right to vote “shall not be denied or abridged by the United

States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution.

The right to vote freely and fairly is the foundation of our democracy. And yet, 150 years ago, this great nation prohibited an entire group of citizens from voting by law. 150 years seems so long ago but at the same time so near to us now.

We know that even though, 150 years ago, our lawmakers said you cannot deny voters based on the color of their skin, that states were still allowed to functionally discriminate against African Americans. Back then it was literacy tests, when they knew the people who could not read were by and large former slaves. Poll taxes for black people. Threats of having your house burned down, being beaten, or even murdered if you dared to try and exercise your Constitutional right to vote.

These practices persisted for a long time, until the Civil Rights Movement of the 50s and 60s. The brave actions of these peaceful protesters put them directly into harms way. Many were beaten, like our colleague JOHN LEWIS, and tragically some were murdered, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Their leadership directly paved the way to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This landmark legislation finally prohibited any voting law that intentionally or not, resulted in the discrimination against racial minorities. Section 5 closely monitored states that had previously used such laws in the past, so they could not slip under the radar.

Unfortunately, Section 5 enforcement was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2013. The rationale was this fight was so long ago that such monitoring was not needed anymore. I can assure you it was not that long ago to me nor anyone else who lived through it. 48 years is not even a lifetime for most Americans, and yet it was supposed to be long enough to correct nearly 400 years of op-

pression and disenfranchisement for African Americans.

Of course, the predictable has now happened because 48 years was not long enough to right the wrongs. We are seeing new voting laws that will harm people of color, the poor, and the elderly disproportionately: new photo ID requirements, registration restrictions, and even mass purging of the voter rolls. Voter suppression is happening in 2020 in the same states Section 5 watched closely from 1965 to 2013.

We have indeed come a long way from codifying voter suppression explicitly by race. We have come a long way from the physical violence that was a real threat when heading to the polls. However, we still have so far to go. It is too easy to get complacent—to think what we have won cannot be taken back. But it can be, it already was in 2013. Now we have to get back to work—protect what we have and push for what we don’t.

I rise today appreciating how far we have come in the last 150 years and remembering how far we must go in the next 150 years.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. COOPER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. MULLIN (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and the balance of the week on account of supporting his son’s continuing recovery.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o’clock and 12 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third and fourth quarters of 2019, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Glenn Thompson	11/2	11/3	Japan		146.00						146.00
Hon. Glenn Thompson	11/3	11/5	Australia		999.00						999.00
Hon. Glenn Thompson	11/6	11/8	New Zealand		962.91						962.91
Committee total					2,107.91						2,107.91

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON, Jan. 27, 2020.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Andy Harris, MD	9/28	10/1	Tunisia		570.03				908.93		1,478.96
	10/1	10/3	Israel		1,040.00				701.19		1,741.19
	10/3	10/6	Morocco		2,111.60				1,622.23		3,733.83

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019—

Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Tom Graves	9/29	9/30	Singapore		665.64		6,520.20				7,185.84
	9/30	10/2	Malaysia		522.50		812.70				1,335.20
	10/2	10/4	Philippines		954.00		4,852.99				5,806.99
Hon. Debbie Wasserman Schultz	9/30	10/01	Bahamas		432.00		2,229.43		163.00		2,824.43
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart	9/30	10/1	Bahamas		432.00		2,229.43		167.00		2,828.43
Craig Higgins	10/1	10/1	Bahamas		293.00		2,403.03		440.00		3,136.03
Hon. Kay Granger	9/29	10/2	Morocco		930.12				1,121.78		2,051.90
	10/2	10/6	Spain		1,597.25		6,532.93		691.88		8,822.06
Anne Marie Chotvacs	9/29	10/2	Morocco		930.12				1,121.77		2,051.89
	10/2	10/6	Spain		1,597.25				691.88		2,289.13
	10/6	10/8	Portugal						515.46		1,348.46
Hon. Rosa DeLauro	10/1	10/3	Cuba		502.00		1,763.53				2,265.53
Hon. Pete Aguilar	10/6	10/11	France		2,712.00		8,092.75				10,804.75
Hon. Martha Roby	10/6	10/11	France		2,712.00		9,161.77				11,873.77
Hon. Will Hurd	10/6	10/10	France		2,195.00		8,935.37				11,130.37
Hon. Brenda Lawrence	10/6	10/10	France		2,195.00		9,045.17				11,240.17
Steve Marchese	10/6	10/10	France		2,195.00		14,875.57				17,070.57
Susan Adams	10/6	10/11	France		2,712.00		15,702.57				18,414.57
Erin Kolodjeski	10/6	10/11	France		2,712.00		4,340.57				7,052.57
Hon. Ed Case	10/19	10/19	Germany		260.00		3,581.65		26.67		3,868.32
	10/19	10/21	France		316.00				219.00		1,624.00
Nicole Cohen	10/19	10/19	Germany		260.00		2,184.85		26.67		2,471.52
	10/19	10/21	France		316.00				1,089.00		1,624.00
Hon. Derek Kilmer	11/1	11/2	Turkey		404.66		9,097.84				9,502.50
	11/2	11/4	Iraq		22.00						22.00
	11/4	11/6	United Arab Emirates		1,108.21						1,108.21
	11/6	11/8	Jordan		625.00						625.00
Hon. Betty McCollum	11/2	11/7	Malawi		950.00		\$17,011.77				\$17,961.77
Donna Shahbaz	11/2	11/7	Malawi		950.00		17,082.55				18,032.55
Shalanda Young	11/3	11/5	Afghanistan		234.00		10,839.35				11,073.35
Christopher Begelow	11/6	11/9	Saudi Arabia		1,523.04		5,401.81		260.65		7,185.50
Rebecca Leggieri	11/4	11/6	Afghanistan		156.00		9,672.41				9,828.41
	11/6	11/9	Saudi Arabia		1,523.04		119.00		260.65		1,902.69
David Bortnick	11/3	11/6	Afghanistan		234.00		9,672.41				9,906.41
	11/6	11/9	Saudi Arabia		1,523.04		36.42		260.65		1,820.11
Jacquelynn Ripke	11/4	11/6	Afghanistan		156.00		9,672.41				9,828.41
	11/6	11/9	Saudi Arabia		1,523.04		31.13		260.65		1,814.82
Ariana Sarar	11/4	11/6	Afghanistan		156.00		9,672.41				9,828.41
	11/6	11/9	Saudi Arabia		1,523.04		91.45		260.65		1,875.14
Shalanda Young	11/24	11/25	New Zealand		271.50		14,147.65		376.55		14,795.70
	11/25	11/28	Antarctica								0.00
	11/28	11/29	New Zealand		271.50				376.55		648.05
Robert Bonner	11/24	11/25	New Zealand		271.50		14,145.65		376.55		14,793.70
	11/25	11/28	Antarctica								0.00
	11/28	11/29	New Zealand		271.50				376.55		648.05
Susan Adams	11/24	11/25	New Zealand		271.50		14,145.65		376.55		14,793.70
	11/25	11/28	Antarctica								0.00
	11/28	11/29	New Zealand		271.50				376.55		648.05
Evan Hollander	11/24	11/25	New Zealand		271.50		14,145.65		376.55		14,793.70
	11/25	11/28	Antarctica								0.00
	11/28	11/29	New Zealand		271.50				376.55		648.05
Committee total					46,778.58		258,688.07		14,692.11		320,158.76

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. NITA M. LOWEY, Jan. 29, 2020.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee	10/8	10/8	Bahamas		149.00		595.35				744.35
Committee total					149.00		595.35				744.35

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH, Jan. 24, 2020.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Frederica Wilson	9/30	10/2	Bahamas		431.72		564.63				996.35
Committee total					431.72		564.63				996.35

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, Jan. 31, 2020.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Dave Loebsack	9/28	9/29	Ukraine		373.54		(³)				373.54

February 10, 2020

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H1011

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Tom O'Halleran	9/29	10/2	Estonia		770.67						770.67
	10/2	10/5	Poland		673.36						673.36
	9/28	9/29	Ukraine		373.54		(³)				373.54
	9/29	10/2	Estonia		770.67						770.67
Hon. John Shimkus	10/2	10/5	Poland		673.36						673.36
	9/28	9/29	Ukraine		373.54		(³)				373.54
	9/29	10/2	Estonia		770.67						770.67
	10/2	10/5	Poland		673.36						673.36
Hon. Scott Peters	9/29	9/30	Singapore		699.00						13,503.33
	9/30	10/2	Malaysia		522.51		12,810.33				522.51
	10/2	10/5	Philippines		925.00						925.00
	11/2	11/3	Japan		312.00		(³)				312.00
Hon. Tony Cardenas	11/3	11/6	Australia		999.00						999.00
	11/6	11/8	New Zealand		962.91						962.91
	11/2	11/4	Ireland		864.46		2,757.52		2,183.35		5,750.33
	11/4	11/6	England		982.00				9,522.00		10,504.00
Alexander Hoehn-Saric	11/6	11/9	Belgium		979.59				4,209.38		5,188.97
	11/2	11/4	Ireland		864.45		2,757.52				3,621.97
	11/4	11/6	England		982.00						982.00
	11/6	11/9	Belgium		979.59						979.59
Lisa Goldman	11/2	11/4	Ireland		864.45		2,757.59				3,621.97
	11/4	11/6	England		982.00						982.00
	11/6	11/9	Belgium		979.59						979.59
	11/2	11/4	Ireland		864.45		2,757.52				3,621.97
Zach Kahan	11/4	11/6	England		982.00						982.00
	11/6	11/9	Belgium		979.59						979.59
	11/2	11/4	Ireland		864.45		2,757.52				3,621.97
	11/4	11/6	England		982.00						982.00
Bijan Koohmaraie	11/6	11/9	Belgium		979.59						979.59
	11/2	11/4	Ireland		864.45		2,757.52				3,621.97
	11/4	11/6	England		982.00						982.00
	11/6	11/9	Belgium		979.59						979.59
Timothy Kurth	11/2	11/4	Ireland		864.45		2,757.52				3,621.97
	11/4	11/6	England		982.00						982.00
	11/6	11/9	Belgium		979.59						979.59
	11/2	11/4	Ireland		864.45		2,757.52				3,621.97
Jean Fruci	11/3	11/8	Italy		1,433.33		1,425.15		940.42		3,798.90
Gerald Couri	11/4	11/8	Italy		1,494.66		1,425.15				2,919.81
Dustin Maghamfar	11/4	11/9	Italy		1,626.66		2,083.33				3,709.99
Rep. Greg Walden	11/8	11/9	Germany		305.77		390.70		296.84		993.31
Committee total					31,692.80		34,679.78		17,096.99		83,469.57

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR., Jan. 30, 2020.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. <input type="checkbox"/>											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH, Jan. 27, 2020.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Karen Bass *	6/28	7/3	Cameroon		923.99		10,693.15		* 4,050.59		15,667.73
Janette Yarwood	6/28	7/3	Cameroon		923.99		10,693.15				11,617.44
Hon. Jim Sensenbrenner	6/28	7/3	Cameroon		1,196.81		10,284.63				11,650.94
Meghan Gallagher	6/28	7/3	Cameroon		1,196.81		10,454.13				17,650.94
Hon. Ted Deutch *	6/28	6/30	Switzerland		1,227.89		(³)		* 12,188.60		13,416.60
	6/30	7/4	Israel		2,100.00		(³)		24,306.04		26,406.04
	7/4	7/6	Qatar		769.05		(³)		3,552.82		4,321.90
	7/6	7/7	Cyprus		431.07		(³)		11,292.97		11,724.04
	7/7	7/8	Greece		257.00		(³)		4,184.00		4,441.00
Casey Kustin	6/28	6/30	Switzerland		1,151.03		(³)				1,151.03
	6/30	7/4	Israel		2,100.00		(³)				2,100.00
	7/4	7/6	Qatar		769.05		(³)				769.05
	7/6	7/7	Cyprus		350.24		(³)				350.24
	7/7	7/8	Greece		257.00		(³)				257.00
Gabriella Zach	6/28	6/30	Switzerland		1,227.89		(³)				1,227.89
	6/30	7/4	Israel		2,100.00		(³)				2,100.00
	7/4	7/6	Qatar		769.05		(³)				769.05
	7/6	7/7	Cyprus		350.24		(³)				350.24
	7/7	7/8	Greece		257.00		(³)				257.00
Sadaf Khan	6/28	6/30	Switzerland		1,151.03		(³)				1,151.03
	6/30	7/4	Israel		2,100.00		(³)				2,100.00
	7/4	7/6	Qatar		769.04		(³)				769.04
	7/6	7/7	Cyprus		350.24		(³)				350.24
	7/7	7/8	Greece		257.00		(³)				257.00
Jessica Steffens	6/28	6/30	Switzerland		1,151.03		(³)				1,151.03
	6/30	7/4	Israel		2,106.00		(³)				2,106.00
	7/4	7/6	Qatar		769.05		(³)				769.05
	7/6	7/7	Cyprus		350.24		(³)				350.24
	7/7	7/8	Greece		257.00		(³)				257.00
Ryan Doherty	6/28	6/30	Switzerland		1,151.03		(³)				1,151.03
	6/30	7/4	Israel		2,106.00		(³)				2,106.00
	7/4	7/6	Qatar		769.05		(³)				769.05
	7/6	7/7	Cyprus		350.24		(³)				350.24
	7/7	7/8	Greece		257.00		(³)				257.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Samantha Stiles	6/28	6/30	Switzerland		1,227.89		(3)				1,227.89
	6/30	7/4	Israel		2,106.00		(3)				2,106.00
	7/4	7/6	Qatar		769.04		(3)				769.04
	7/6	7/7	Cyprus		350.24		(3)				350.24
	7/7	7/8	Greece		257.00		(3)				257.00
Hon. Lee Zeldin	6/28	6/30	Northern Ireland		769.59		(3)				769.59
	6/30	7/2	United Kingdom		1,842.03		(3)				1,842.03
	7/2	7/3	Poland		446.44		(3)				446.44
	7/3	7/8	Luxembourg		2,128.00		(3)				2,128.00
	7/8	7/8	Portugal		0.00		(3)				0.00
Hon. Chris Smith	7/5	7/7	Luxembourg		981.36		3,110.93				4,092.29
Piero Tozzi	7/5	7/7	Luxembourg		980.99		3,834.99				4,815.98
Hon. Eliot Engel *	7/2	7/4	Serbia		400.00		12,285.53		* 4,348.00		17,033.53
	7/4	7/6	Kosovo		330.68				* 2,656.92		2,987.60
	7/5	7/5	Croatia						* 145.00		145.00
	7/6	7/8	North Macedonia		434.00				* 1,021.15		1,455.15
Jason Steinbaum	7/2	7/4	Serbia		400.00		4,387.13				4,787.13
	7/4	7/6	Kosovo		330.68						330.68
	7/6	7/8	North Macedonia		434.00						434.00
Zach Silberman	7/2	7/4	Serbia		400.00		4,698.03				5,098.03
	7/4	7/6	Kosovo		330.68						330.68
	7/6	7/8	North Macedonia		434.00						434.00
Raven Bellamy	7/2	7/4	Serbia		400.00		3,751.03				4,151.03
	7/4	7/6	Kosovo		330.68						330.68
	7/6	7/8	North Macedonia		434.00						434.00
Hon. Vicente Gonzalez **	7/26	8/3	Iceland		**		**		**		**
	7/26	8/3	Norway		**		**		**		**
	7/26	8/3	Sweden		**		**		**		**
	7/26	8/3	Finland		**		**		**		**
	7/26	8/3	United Kingdom		**		**		**		**
Hon. Greg Pence **	7/26	8/3	Iceland		**		**		**		**
	7/26	8/3	Norway		**		**		**		**
	7/26	8/3	Sweden		**		**		**		**
	7/26	8/3	Finland		**		**		**		**
	7/26	8/3	United Kingdom		**		**		**		**
Hon. Albio Sires *	7/18	7/21	Argentina		1,060.23		(3)		4,867.40		5,927.63
	7/21	7/22	Chile		370.29		(3)		6,422.34		6,792.63
Hon. Ted Deutch	7/18	7/21	Argentina		1,060.23		(3)				1,060.23
	7/21	7/22	Chile		370.29		(3)				370.29
Hon. Ted Yoho	7/18	7/21	Argentina		1,060.23		(3)				1,060.23
	7/21	7/22	Chile		370.29		(3)				370.29
Hon. Joe Wilson	7/18	7/21	Argentina		1,060.23		(3)				1,060.23
	7/21	7/22	Chile		370.29		(3)				370.29
Sadaf Khan	7/18	7/21	Argentina		1,060.23		(3)				1,060.23
	7/21	7/22	Chile		370.29		(3)				370.29
Alexander Brockwehl	7/18	7/21	Argentina		1,060.23		(3)				1,060.23
	7/21	7/22	Chile		370.29		(3)				370.29
Alex Sadler	7/18	7/21	Argentina		1,060.23		(3)				1,060.23
	7/21	7/22	Chile		370.29		(3)				370.29
Carlos Monje	7/18	7/21	Argentina		1,060.23		(3)				1,060.23
	7/21	7/22	Chile		370.29		(3)				370.29
Mariana Cruz Munoz	7/18	7/21	Argentina		1,060.23		(3)				1,060.23
	7/21	7/22	Chile		370.29		(3)				370.29
Hon. Eliot Engel **	8/11	8/18	Ukraine		**		**		**		**
	8/11	8/18	Georgia		**		**		**		**
Jennifer Hendrixson-White *	7/29	7/31	Fiji		467.42		10,170.22		* 78.50		10,716.14
	8/1	8/4	Papua New Guinea		1,011.95				* 2,504.17		3,516.12
	8/4	8/6	Solomon Islands		515.18				* 83.84		599.02
	7/31	8/1	Australia		2,924.66				* 641.00		3,565.66
	8/6	8/10	Taiwan						* 191.34		191.34
Theresa Lou	7/29	7/31	Fiji		455.31		10,103.63				10,558.94
	8/1	8/4	Papua New Guinea		1,006.22						1,006.22
	8/4	8/6	Solomon Islands		486.00						486.00
	7/31	8/1	Australia		223.73						223.73
	8/7	8/9	Taiwan		543.00						543.00
Bryan Burack	7/29	7/31	Fiji		468.31		10,595.53				11,063.84
	7/31	8/1	Australia		126.73						126.73
	8/1	8/4	Papua New Guinea		1,013.22						1,013.22
	8/4	8/6	Solomon Islands		504.00						504.00
	8/6	8/10	Taiwan		772.09						772.09
Tim Mulvey *	7/28	7/30	South Korea		690.18		4,415.90		* 612.46		5,718.54
	7/30	8/1	Vietnam		607.00		* 346.00				953.00
	8/1	8/3	Cambodia		623.00				* 116.33		739.33
John Stapleton	7/28	7/30	South Korea		690.18		4,415.90				5,106.08
	7/30	8/1	Vietnam		607.00						607.00
	8/1	8/3	Cambodia		623.00						623.00
Corey Holmes	8/4	8/7	Cote d'Ivoire		900.00		4,896.33				5,796.33
Katy Crosby *	8/5	8/8	Ukraine		899.13		3,556.10		3,681.48		8,136.71
	8/8	8/10	Bosnia		394.30				* 422.89		817.29
	8/10	8/14	Georgia		717.52				* 853.66		1,571.18
	8/14	8/16	Turkey		817.02						817.02
Jaclyn Cahan	8/5	8/8	Ukraine		899.13		5,292.53				6,181.66
	8/8	8/10	Bosnia		394.40						394.40
	8/10	8/14	Georgia		707.52						707.52
	8/14	8/16	Turkey		817.02						817.02
Michael Matlaga	8/5	8/8	Ukraine		899.13		4,541.53				5,440.66
	8/8	8/10	Bosnia		394.40						394.40
	8/10	8/14	Georgia		717.52						717.52
	8/14	8/16	Turkey		817.02						817.02
Grant Mullins	8/5	8/8	Ukraine		850.13		1,769.63				2,619.76
Katherine Curtis	8/5	8/8	Ukraine		899.13		5,008.63				5,907.76
	8/8	8/10	Bosnia		394.40						394.40
	8/10	8/14	Georgia		717.52						717.52
	8/14	8/16	Turkey		817.02						817.02
Sajit Gandhi *	8/19	8/25	India		1,804.35		9,055.23		* 655.00		11,514.58
James Walsh	8/19	8/25	India		1,824.35		9,054.73				10,879.08
Eric Jacobstein *	8/12	8/14	St. Lucia		748.00		1,667.73		* 1,671.00		4,086.73
	8/14	8/15	Barbados		334.31				* 49.28		383.59
	8/15	8/17	Guyana		296.00				* 718.00		1,014.00
Evan Bursey	8/12	8/14	St. Lucia		748.00		1,753.03				2,501.03
	8/14	8/15	Barbados		334.31						334.31
	8/15	8/17	Guyana		296.00						296.00
Rachel Levitan	8/20	8/23	Ghana		958.14		2,976.33				3,934.47
	8/23	8/27	Cote d'Ivoire		1,078.54				* 1,692.69		2,771.23
Taylor Redick	8/20	8/23	Ghana		958.14		2,976.33				3,934.47

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Meghan Gallagher	8/23	8/27	Cote d'Ivoire		1,078.54						1,078.54
	8/20	8/23	Ghana		954.49		2,976.33				3,930.82
Jacqueline Ramos *	8/23	8/27	Cote d'Ivoire		1,075.70						1,075.70
	8/18	8/24	United Kingdom		2,182.00		2,209.73		* 1,150.00		5,541.73
Peter Billerbeck *	8/18	8/24	Ireland		381.03						381.03
	9/2	9/4	Algeria		452.55		4,449.43		* 34.00		4,935.43
Gabriella Zach	9/4	9/7	Tunisia		672.34				* 140.28		812.62
	9/2	9/4	Algeria		390.40		4,743.93				5,134.33
	9/4	9/7	Tunisia		602.34						602.34
Committee total:					106,214.16		180,821.43		94,677.75		381,713.23

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

* Indicated Delegation costs.

** Indicates a cancelled mission.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL, Jan. 24, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Karen Bass *	9/30	10/1	Germany		284.62		(³)		* 924.21		1,208.83
	10/1	10/3	Djibouti		762.00				* 817.30		1,579.30
	10/3	10/4	Niger		358.00				* 208.00		566.00
	10/4	10/5	Burkina Faso		233.00				* 1,345.10		1,578.10
Janette Yarwood	9/30	10/1	Germany		284.62		(³)				284.62
	10/1	10/3	Djibouti		762.00						762.00
	10/3	10/4	Niger		358.00						358.00
	10/4	10/5	Burkina Faso		233.00						233.00
Hon. Ilhan Omar	9/30	10/1	Germany		284.62		(³)				284.62
	10/1	10/3	Djibouti		762.00						762.00
	10/3	10/4	Niger		358.00						358.00
	10/4	10/5	Burkina Faso		233.00						233.00
Hon. James Sensenbrenner **	**	**	Germany		163.46			**	**		163.46
Meghan Gallagher	9/30	10/1	Germany		284.62		(³)				284.62
	10/1	10/3	Djibouti		762.00						762.00
	10/3	10/4	Niger		358.00						358.00
	10/4	10/5	Burkina Faso		233.00						233.00
Corey Holmes	9/30	10/1	Germany		284.62		(³)				284.62
	10/1	10/3	Djibouti		762.00						762.00
	10/3	10/4	Niger		358.00						358.00
	10/4	10/5	Burkina Faso		233.00						233.00
Hon. Ami Bera *	9/29	9/30	Philippines		925.00		14,102.23		* 1,175.90		16,203.13
	9/30	10/2	Malaysia		522.50				* 311.42		833.92
	10/2	10/5	Singapore		699.00				* 1,037.00		1,736.00
Nikole Burroughs	9/29	9/30	Philippines		925.00		10,736.33				11,661.33
	9/30	10/2	Malaysia		522.50						522.50
	10/2	10/5	Singapore		699.00						699.00
Chad Obermiller	9/29	9/30	Philippines		925.00		10,736.33				11,661.33
	9/30	10/2	Malaysia		522.50						522.50
	10/2	10/5	Singapore		699.00						699.00
Hon. William Keating *	9/30	10/4	Portugal		2,130.00		7,180.73		* 1,746.00		11,056.73
	**	**	Azores		**		**		**		**
Hon. David Cicilline	9/30	10/4	Portugal		2,130.00		2,916.73				5,046.73
	**	**	Azores		**		**		**		**
Hon. Juan Vargas	9/30	10/4	Portugal		2,130.00		4,697.93				6,827.93
	**	**	Azores		**		**		**		**
Gabrielle Gould	9/30	10/4	Portugal		2,130.00		2,364.03				4,494.03
	**	**	Azores		**		**		**		**
Hon. Gregory Meeks	9/30	10/1	The Bahamas		431.72		1,254.23				1,685.95
Hon. Abigail Spanberger	10/3	10/4	Afghanistan		66.00		12,266.03				12,332.03
	10/4	10/6	Jordan		704.01						704.01
Janice Kaguyutan	10/6	10/9	Colombia		983.00		2,641.00				3,624.00
	10/9	10/10	Curacao		300.00						300.00
	10/10	10/12	Trinidad and Tobago		754.00						754.00
Sajit Gandhi *	10/9	10/12	Pakistan		447.00		9,292.45		* 509.72		10,249.17
Theresa Lou	10/9	10/12	Pakistan		452.00		9,362.45				9,814.45
Mariana Cruz Munoz *	11/4	11/6	Guatemala		460.10		999.03		* 105.00		1,564.13
	11/6	11/10	Mexico		1,260.00						1,260.00
Alex Sadler	11/4	11/6	Guatemala		460.10		999.03				1,459.13
	11/6	11/10	Mexico		1,260.00						1,260.00
Lesley Warner *	11/2	11/10	Sudan		1,422.50		8,365.38		* 390.00		10,177.88
Taylor Redick	11/2	11/10	Sudan		1,422.50		8,365.38				9,787.88
John Stapleton	11/2	11/10	Sudan		1,422.50		8,365.38				9,787.88
Hon. John Curtis	11/22	11/23	Kuwait		423.18						423.18
	11/23	11/25	Afghanistan		121.00		(³)				121.00
	11/25	11/26	Belgium		338.08						338.08
Hon. Ted Deutch *	11/22	11/25	Bahrain		2,038.77		11,929.15		* 218.28		14,186.20
Casey Kustin *	11/22	11/25	Bahrain		1,202.39		11,586.15				12,788.54
Hon. Joe Wilson	11/22	11/25	Bahrain		2,038.77		11,587.95				13,626.72
Gabriella Zach *	11/22	11/25	Bahrain		1,202.39		11,587.95				12,790.34
Hon. David Cicilline *	12/23	12/24	Kuwait		422.00		(³)		* 1,997.00		2,419.00
Hon. David Cicilline ***	12/24	12/25	Bahrain		***		***		***		***
Hon. David Cicilline *	12/25	12/25	Qatar		322.84				171.02		493.86
Hon. David Cicilline *	12/25	12/27	Italy		549.50				171.02		720.52
Hon. Lee Zeldin	12/23	12/24	Kuwait		422.00		(³)				422.00
	12/24	12/25	Bahrain		***		***		***		***
	12/25	12/25	Qatar		322.84						322.84
	12/27	12/27	Italy		549.50						549.50
Hon. Brian Fitzpatrick	12/23	12/24	Kuwait		422.00		(³)				422.00
	12/24	12/25	Bahrain		***		***		***		***
	12/25	12/25	Qatar		322.84						322.84
	12/27	12/27	Italy		549.50						549.50
Hon. Susan Wild	12/23	12/24	Kuwait		423.00		(³)				423.00
	12/24	12/25	Bahrain		***		***		***		***
	12/25	12/25	Qatar		322.84						322.84
	12/25	12/27	Italy		599.12						599.12

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Dean Phillips	12/23	12/24	Kuwait		423.00		(³)				423.00
	12/24	12/25	Bahrain		***				***		***
	12/25	12/25	Qatar		322.84						322.84
Jaclyn Cahan	12/25	12/27	Italy		599.12						599.12
	12/23	12/24	Kuwait		423.00		(³)		***		423.00
	12/24	12/25	Bahrain		***				***		***
	12/25	12/25	Qatar		322.84						322.84
	12/25	12/27	Italy		549.50						549.50
Matt Finkel **	**	**	Italy		435.50		**		**		435.50
Hon. Albio Sires **	**	**	Guyana		202.00		**		**		202.00
Hon. Gregory Meeks **	**	**	Guyana		202.00		**		**		202.00
Alexander Brockwehl **	**	**	Guyana		202.00		**		**		202.00
Mariana Cruz Munoz **	**	**	Guyana		202.00		**		**		202.00
Jennifer Hendrixson-White *	12/14	12/16	Hong Kong		958.41		1,735.85		* 1,770.70		4,464.96
Theresa Lou	12/14	12/16	Hong Kong		955.41		1,735.85				2,691.26
Bryan Burack	12/14	12/16	Hong Kong		967.41		1,735.85				2,703.26
Committee total					54,514.08		166,543.42		12,897.67		233,955.17

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.
* Indicates Delegation costs.
** Indicates a cancelled mission.
*** Missing expense reporting from Post.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL, Jan. 31, 2020.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JERROLD NADLER, Jan. 22, 2020.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. PETER A. DEFAZIO, Jan. 31, 2020.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Mark Takano	11/30	12/1	Ireland		282.20		90.61				372.81
Hon. Connor Lamb	11/30	12/1	Ireland		282.20		90.61				372.81
Hon. Colin Alired	11/30	12/1	Ireland		282.20		90.61				372.81
Hon. Lauren Underwood	11/30	12/1	Ireland		282.20		90.61				372.81
Raymond Kelley	11/30	12/1	Ireland		282.20		90.61				372.81
Matt Reel	11/30	12/1	Ireland		282.20		90.61				372.81
Elizabeth Austin-Mackenzie	11/30	12/1	Ireland		282.20		90.61				372.81
Julie Turner	11/30	12/1	Ireland		282.20		90.61				372.81
Christine Hill	11/30	12/1	Ireland		282.20		90.61				372.81
Miguel Salazar	11/30	12/1	Ireland		282.20		90.61				372.81
Committee total					2,822.00		906.10				3,728.10

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MARK TAKANO, Jan. 21, 2020.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Schiff	6/27	7/3	Europe		2,431.02		7,522.09				9,953.11
Hon. Sewell	6/27	7/3	Europe		1,211.36		12,531.43				13,742.79
Hon. Heck	6/27	7/3	Europe		2,431.03		6,362.09				8,793.12
Hon. Maloney	6/27	7/3	Europe		2,431.03		6,518.49				8,949.52

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Timothy Bergreen	6/27	7/3	Europe		2,352.56		6,311.03				8,663.59
Thomas Eager	6/27	7/3	Europe		2,352.56		6,311.03				8,663.65
Linda Cohen	6/27	7/4	Africa		1,357.78		15,986.94		136.42		17,481.14
George Pappas	6/27	7/4	Africa		954.69		15,986.91		136.42		17,078.02
Hon. Swalwell	7/27	8/2	Europe		1,669.87		11,236.66				12,906.53
Kathy Suber	7/27	8/2	Europe		1,868.87		4,153.83				6,022.70
Carly Blake	7/27	8/4	Asia		2,367.40		13,382.00		285.26		16,034.66
Abigail Grace	7/27	8/6	Asia		2,628.89		15,488.93		285.27		18,403.09
Marissa Skaggs	7/27	8/6	Asia		2,628.89		15,488.93		285.27		18,403.09
William Flanagan	7/27	8/6	Asia		2,628.89		15,488.93		285.27		18,403.09
Hon. Himes	7/26	8/1	South America		914.27		3,830.36				4,744.63
Hon. Maloney	7/26	8/1	South America		914.27		3,699.52				4,613.79
Thomas Eager	7/26	8/1	South America		914.27		9,666.33				10,580.60
Lucian Sikorskyj	7/26	8/1	South America		914.27		9,666.33				10,580.60
Wells Bennett	7/27	8/7	Africa		2,558.06		10,756.93				13,314.99
Meghan Green	7/27	8/7	Africa		2,558.06		10,756.93				13,314.99
Kathy Suber	8/1	8/10	Asia		2,717.30		11,543.24		648.99		14,909.53
Kimberlee Kerr	8/1	8/10	Asia		2,182.30		11,543.24		648.99		14,374.53
Aaron Thurman	8/4	8/11	Africa		1,718.52		14,071.48		411.49		16,201.49
William Evans	8/4	8/11	Africa		1,718.52		14,071.49		411.49		16,201.50
Conrad Stosz	8/4	8/11	Africa		1,718.52		14,071.49		411.51		16,201.52
Laura Casulli	8/4	8/11	Africa		1,718.52		8,473.86		411.51		10,603.89
Hon. Wenstrup	8/4	8/12	Oceania		1,803.00		21,713.33		428.00		23,944.33
Stephen Keith	8/4	8/12	Oceania		1,803.00		8,515.33		428.00		10,746.33
Carly Blake	8/4	8/12	Oceania		1,803.00		8,268.53		429.00		10,500.53
Hon. Nunes	8/5	8/18	Europe		3,085.61		16,842.66		743.48		20,671.75
Allen Souza	8/5	8/13	Europe		2,214.99		14,439.13		1,442.68		18,096.80
George Pappas	8/5	8/18	Europe		2,796.66		13,595.13		1,776.50		18,168.29
Maher Bitar	8/5	8/13	Europe		2,215.00		14,439.13		1,442.69		18,096.82
Raffaella Wakeman	8/5	8/18	Europe		2,802.99		14,439.13		1,776.51		19,018.63
Hon. Quigley	8/10	8/16	Europe		776.01		16,281.63		365.91		17,423.55
Linda Cohen	8/10	8/16	Europe		776.00		9,735.63		365.90		10,877.53
Diana Pilipenko	8/10	8/16	Europe		776.00		9,735.63		365.85		10,877.48
Laura Casulli	8/10	8/16	Europe		776.00		5,798.63		365.94		6,940.57
Hon. Stewart	8/11	8/19	Europe		1,783.39		16,866.53		354.32		19,004.24
Lisa Major	8/11	8/16	Europe		1,217.70		9,637.63		303.52		11,138.85
Steve Keith	8/14	8/19	Europe		1,111.68		8,821.13		50.81		9,983.62
Lucian Sikorskyj	8/11	8/19	Europe		1,783.38		6,078.03		354.33		8,215.74
Kris Breaux	8/11	8/19	Europe		1,783.38		6,078.03		354.34		8,215.75
Hon. Crawford	8/5	8/13	Europe		2,334.32		12,875.41		1,442.69		16,652.41
Amanda Rogers-Thorpe	8/19	8/24	Asia		1,778.98		16,204.53		1,002.99		18,986.50
Nicolas Mitchell	8/19	8/24	Asia		1,778.98		16,204.53		1,003.00		18,986.51
Hon. Conaway	8/29	9/5	Asia		2,467.51		6,409.93				8,877.44
Andrew House	8/29	9/5	Asia		2,467.51		7,605.93				10,073.44
Meghan Green	8/29	9/5	Asia		2,467.51		8,159.73				10,627.24
Abigail Grace	8/29	9/5	Asia		1,990.07		7,366.43				9,356.50
Amanda Rogers Thorpe	6/27	7/4	Africa		232.00		54.65				286.65
Committee total					94,686.39		551,066.93		19,154.35		664,907.67

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

* In accordance with title 22, United States Code, Section 1754(b)(2), information as would identify the foreign countries in which Committee Members and staff have traveled is omitted.

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF, Jan. 22, 2020.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Kristine A. Roth	11/19	11/23	France		2,031.00		1,218.55				3,249.55
Jared A. Hermann	11/19	11/23	France		2,031.00		1,218.55				3,249.55
Chia J. Chang	12/7	12/10	France		992.00		1,217.85				2,209.85
Jeffrey S. Arbeit	11/26	12/10	France		822.00		608.05				1,430.05
Jeffrey S. Arbeit	12/5	12/10	France		822.00		1,217.85				2,039.85
Committee total					6,698.00		5,480.85				12,178.85

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL, Jan. 23, 2020.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3758. A letter from the Board Secretary, Board of Governors, U.S. Postal Service, transmitting the Service's report on postal officers and employees who received total compensation in calendar year 2019, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3686(c); Public Law 109-435, Sec. 506; (120 Stat. 3236); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3759. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting two notifica-

tions of an action on nomination, a discontinuation of service in acting role, a vacancy, and a designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3760. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Executive Office of The President, transmitting a notification of an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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:

Ms. SCANLON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 844. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2546) to designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 79) removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights

amendment; and for other purposes (Rept. 116-395). 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 Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. REED, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York):

H.R. 5821. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish hospice program survey and enforcement procedures under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 5822. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an acquisition professional career program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. RICHMOND (for himself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. KILMER, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 5823. A bill to establish a program to make grants to States to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems of State, local, Tribal, or territorial governments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico (for herself and Ms. SLOTKIN):

H.R. 5824. A bill to require reporting regarding accreditation of basic training programs of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 5825. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for reporting by certain investors with respect to certain specified medical care providers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEAL (for himself, Mr. BRADY, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESTES, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BEYER, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. EVANS, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. NUNES, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. REED, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 5826. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and title XI of the Social Security Act to prevent certain cases of out-of-network surprise medical bills, strengthen health care consumer pro-

tections, and improve health care information transparency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and Labor, and Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. LESKO (for herself, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 5827. A bill to exempt certain travelers from certain requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005 for purposes of boarding a federally regulated commercial aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, 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. LESKO (for herself, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, and Mrs. HARTZLER):

H.R. 5828. A bill to support remediation of illicit cross-border tunnels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. WALTZ (for himself, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 5829. A bill to require in-State tuition for certain Americorps volunteers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. BANKS):

H.R. 5830. A bill to protect American workers and enterprises from Chinese and other foreign efforts to extraterritorially censor free speech and inhibit lawful advocacy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FOXX of North Carolina (for herself, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. BANKS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GUEST, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. FLORES, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. CLINE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. OLSON, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. WATKINS):

H.R. 5831. A bill to restrict the availability of Federal funds to organizations associated with the abortion industry; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself, Mr. BRINDISI, and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 5832. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue regulations and submit a report to Congress on cost-benefit ratios, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 5833. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit the use of certain psychological evaluation via telehealth for Medicare coverage of neurostimulation

services for the treatment of chronic pain; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5834. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require the disclosure of notifications of intent to operate under section 501(c)(4); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself and Mr. STEWART):

H.R. 5835. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exempt certain employees engaged in outdoor recreational outfitting or guiding services from minimum wage and maximum hours requirements; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 5836. A bill to direct the Attorney General to prioritize the investigation and prosecution of Federal firearms offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself and Mr. JEFFRIES):

H.R. 5837. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit treatment of child care payments as elective deferrals for purposes of employer matching contributions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 5838. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and title 5, United States Code, to allow employees to take, as additional leave, parental involvement leave to participate in or attend their children's and grandchildren's educational and extracurricular activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 5839. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to authorize the provision of technical assistance under the Preserve America Program and to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into partnerships with communities adjacent to units of the National Park System to leverage local cultural heritage tourism assets; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RASKIN:

H. Res. 842. A resolution requiring an affirmative vote of a majority of the Members present and voting, a quorum being present, on final passage of House Joint Resolution 79; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. PAPPAS):

H. Res. 843. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the American Traffic Safety Services Association, the international organization for the roadway safety infrastructure industry, celebrating its milestones and achievements, and its efforts on saving lives and reducing injuries on United States roadways; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers

granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 5821.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 5822.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 5823.

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

Article I, section 8

By Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico:

H.R. 5824.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 5825.

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

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 7 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 5826.

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

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 7 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. LESKO:

H.R. 5827.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. LESKO:

H.R. 5828.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. WALTZ:

H.R. 5829.

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 of America

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 5830

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. FOXX of North Carolina:

H.R. 5831.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 5832.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 5833.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5834.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN:

H.R. 5835.

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

-Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 5836.

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

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 5837.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 5838.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 5839.

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

Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 618: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 763: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 906: Mr. POSTER, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. WATKINS.

H.R. 991: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 1049: Ms. TITUS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 1062: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 1133: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 1228: Mrs. MCBATH.

H.R. 1255: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 1266: Mr. TRONE and Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 1349: Mrs. WALORSKI and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1367: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 1400: Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 1407: Mr. HIMES and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 1434: Mr. SMUCKER and Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 1592: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1597: Ms. ESCOBAR, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. ZELDIN.

H.R. 1682: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 1695: Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 1715: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.

H.R. 1733: Mr. LUJÁN.

H.R. 1737: Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 1749: Mr. SWALLOW of California.

H.R. 1802: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 1869: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Mr. GALLEGU.

H.R. 1944: Mr. ROSE of New York.

H.R. 2031: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 2155: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2164: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 2168: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 2191: Mr. BUCK and Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 2218: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2219: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 2261: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 2404: Ms. NORTON and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 2420: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 2478: Ms. UNDERWOOD.

H.R. 2482: Ms. UNDERWOOD and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2491: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 2662: Mr. RUSH, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2711: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 2772: Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 2775: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 2818: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2850: Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 2867: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 2891: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 2912: Mr. CLEAVER and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 2931: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 3000: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 3107: Mr. COLE and Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 3119: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3293: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 3332: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 3334: Mr. COX of California.

H.R. 3425: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 3582: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 3711: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 3749: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 3760: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3799: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 3801: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 3814: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 3964: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 4069: Mr. CLINE and Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 4100: Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.

H.R. 4249: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 4326: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. DEAN, and Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 4364: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 4397: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 4482: Mr. HAGEDORN.

H.R. 4483: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 4540: Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. DELGADO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GALLEGU, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mrs. MCBATH.

H.R. 4623: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 4674: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 4687: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.

H.R. 4697: Ms. SPEIER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. RUSH, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. CISNEROS, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 4708: Ms. SPEIER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CISNEROS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 4709: Ms. SPEIER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CISNEROS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 4766: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 4800: Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 4817: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 4821: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.

H.R. 4864: Mr. WALTZ.

H.R. 4897: Mr. BRINDISI.

H.R. 4914: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 4928: Mr. GALLEGU.

H.R. 4945: Mr. DELGADO, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 4974: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 5036: Ms. GARCIA of Texas and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 5044: Mr. STAUBER.
 H.R. 5050: Mr. CLAY.
 H.R. 5052: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
 H.R. 5200: Mrs. AXNE.
 H.R. 5306: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 5309: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
 H.R. 5311: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 5350: Mr. TRONE, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, and Ms. TLAIB.
 H.R. 5383: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 5434: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Ms. STEVENS.
 H.R. 5443: Mr. TONKO and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 5485: Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 5491: Mr. TURNER.
 H.R. 5522: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 5523: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
 H.R. 5534: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. MEEKS.
 H.R. 5544: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. BACON, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. WOODALL.
 H.R. 5546: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BACON, Ms. DEAN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. CICILLINE.
 H.R. 5549: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. COSTA.
 H.R. 5554: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. POCAN.
 H.R. 5569: Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 5571: Mr. ROUZER.
 H.R. 5581: Mr. POCAN and Ms. ESCOBAR.

H.R. 5598: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 5628: Mr. DUNN.
 H.R. 5642: Mr. SIRES.
 H.R. 5659: Mr. CUELLAR.
 H.R. 5697: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
 H.R. 5702: Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
 H.R. 5703: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
 H.R. 5707: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
 H.R. 5711: Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KHANNA, and Mrs. NAPOLI-TANO.
 H.R. 5763: Mr. VAN DREW.
 H.R. 5765: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 5769: Mr. WATKINS, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
 H.R. 5770: Ms. TLAIB and Mr. POCAN.
 H.R. 5793: Mr. STEUBE and Mr. CUELLAR.
 H.R. 5814: Ms. NORTON.
 H. Res. 134: Mr. STEUBE.
 H. Res. 374: Mr. GAETZ.
 H. Res. 531: Mr. RASKIN.
 H. Res. 672: Mr. VELA.
 H. Res. 701: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
 H. Res. 735: Mr. NADLER.
 H. Res. 747: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H. Res. 775: Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LAMB, and Mr. PALAZZO.

H. Res. 797: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
 H. Res. 810: Mr. McCaul and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
 H. Res. 822: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. TAKANO.
 H. Res. 836: Mr. GOHMERT.
 H. Res. 841: Mr. PHILLIPS.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative DIANA DEGETTE or a designee to H.R. 2546, the Protecting America's Wilderness Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

H.R. 51: Mr. VAN DREW.



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No. 27

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You store up blessings for all who honor You. Lord, if angels must veil their faces in Your presence, shouldn't we mere mortals embrace reverential awe?

Today, empower our Senators to be strong and courageous as they make loyalty to You their highest priority. Smile on them with Your blessings, for You are the Author and Finisher of our salvation. Lord, grant that our lawmakers may know what is conducive for Your glory.

Today, we lift our hearts in ceaseless praise to You, our strong deliverer.

We pray in Your magnificent Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN BIRKBY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I pay tribute to a remarkable Iowan. She is one of the longest serving newspaper columnists in America.

She has an uncommon work ethic, having never missed a deadline in 70 years. Her weekly commentary in the

Shenandoah Valley News has blanketed her close-knit community in southwest Iowa for seven decades.

Now—get this—at age 100 years young, Evelyn Birkby—mother, farmer's wife, radio commentator—better yet, radio homemaker for KMA Radio—columnist, and author—is now retiring.

Her readers will miss her byline and storytelling. Her neighborly columns about ordinary life in rural America have brought extraordinary joy to generations of Iowans.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

KENTUCKY FLOODING

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this afternoon, my staff and I are continuing to monitor widespread flooding across Southeastern Kentucky. Heavy rainfall damaged homes, businesses,

and infrastructure in those counties. Our Governor declared a state of emergency and mobilized a full-scale response for the areas in need.

I am particularly grateful to the first responders who have already rescued and evacuated many Kentuckians from harm's way. Their professionalism and courage have helped to keep this situation from becoming even worse.

Many roads remain closed and hundreds of residents are still without running water. Worse still, more rain is in the forecast in the coming days. This crisis, unfortunately, is not over yet.

My office stands ready with local, State, and Federal officials to help families and communities however we can, as Kentuckians endure the remaining flooding and begin the recovery process.

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. President, on a totally unrelated matter, as the impeachment trial ended last week, I offered preliminary thanks to a few of the individuals whose outstanding service helped the institution fulfill this unique and challenging responsibility.

Rising to the occasion for just the third time in Senate history, it took herculean efforts from a long list of hard-working and dedicated people. So I would like to take a little bit of time this afternoon to share some Senate gratitude that too often goes unexpressed.

After I name some key individuals and offices within the Senate, I will submit a fuller list for the RECORD.

First, thanks to the Sergeant at Arms, Mike Stenger, and his entire team, especially the tremendous efforts of our Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Jennifer Hemingway; our protocol experts, including Becky Schaaf and Carly Flick; Krista Beale and Bob Shelton of Capitol and Chamber Operations; and, of course, Grace Ridgeway and her remarkable Capitol Facilities team.

Many other offices had to go far above and beyond their normal duties:

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



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S949

the executive office, doorkeepers, Press Gallery directors, Printing and Graphics, the Counsel, the Recording Studio, the Appointments Desk, the Switchboard, and the Chief Information Officer.

Thanks, of course, to the Secretary of the Senate, Julie Adams, and all of those vital Senate offices.

In particular, I have to single out our Parliamentarians, Elizabeth MacDonald and Leigh Hildebrand, and Parliamentary Clerk Christy Amatos. This expert team of professionals sacrificed nights, weekends, and holidays to ensure that this institution was ready to navigate little-charted waters, follow infrequently used rules, and track with the letter of the rules at every turn. We are so grateful.

Many others made huge contributions as well: the offices of the Legislative Clerk, the Official Reporters of Debates, the Journal Clerk, Captioning Services, the Senate Historian, Senate Security, the Curator's Office, the Senate Library, and the Office of Printing and Document Services.

Thanks also to the Architect of the Capitol's team for making sure our physical plant was up to snuff, to Chairman ROY BLUNT on the Rules Committee and their staff, and to the Office of Senate Legal Counsel and the Government Publishing Office.

As I mentioned last week, we are hugely grateful to the Capitol Police, the Senate pages, and the Chief Justice of the United States, John Roberts, and his staff.

I would like to recognize Erin Sager Vaughn, on the staff of the Democratic Leader, Senator SCHUMER, for her many efforts, and all the offices on both sides, particularly the staff assistants whose days became far busier during matters of especially great public interest.

Before I conclude, I need to thank several more players, specifically, on the Republican side and in my own office. Thanks to Chairman LINDSEY GRAHAM's staff on the Judiciary Committee, who poured enormous work into this process, particularly Brendan Chestnut and Gabi Michalak; to Chairman GRASSLEY's team on Senate Finance and to our Majority Whip, Senator THUNE, and the Whip office.

I am enormously grateful to Laura Dove, the Secretary for the Majority, for literally working around the clock to listen carefully to our Members and map out the complex strategy for the Senate to fulfill our duty. Laura sat on the dais for this trial just like her father Robert Dove before her, who was serving as Senate Parliamentarian in 1999.

Huge thanks to Robert Duncan, the Assistant Secretary, and their entirely stellar Cloakroom team: Chris Tuck, Megan Mercer, Noelle Ringel, Tony Hanagan, Katherine Foster, Brian Canfield, and Abigail Baker. We very simply could not have done this without you.

And last, but certainly not least, I need to thank my own staff. Working

for Senate leadership tends to mean there is no normal. There is no easy day. Call it an occupational hazard, but even by those standards, the past several months have required extraordinary efforts from my talented team. Andrew Ferguson, my chief counsel, became a leading expert on every component of impeachment seemingly overnight and offered invaluable counsel, guidance, and leadership at every single stage of this process.

Thanks as well to Robert Karem, my national security adviser, and Jim Neill and Erica Soares; to my communications director, David Popp and the entire team he oversees, led by Doug Andres, Andrew Quinn, and Scott Sloofman, including Dylan Vorbach, and, especially, the crack research team of Robert Utsey and David Hauptmann.

Thanks to Sarah Fairchild, Alexandra Jenkins, and our operations team of Victoria Mason, Spencer Abraham, and Elise Stebick.

Thanks to my Kentucky office team, led by Phil Maxson, and my in-State offices, led by Terry Carmack, for continuing their crucial work while Washington was literally consumed by impeachment.

Most of all, I need to thank my staff's fearless leaders, Scott Raab, deputy chief of staff for Policy; Stefanie Muchow, my deputy chief of staff for operations, for her enormous efforts day and night; and Sharon Soderstrom, my chief of staff. I rely on Sharon's wisdom, expertise, and impeccable judgment every single day. I cannot thank her enough.

With that, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the more comprehensive list of individuals to thank be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

In addition to the individuals I just named, I want to express the Senate's sincere gratitude to the following individuals for their essential contributions to the historic undertaking of a presidential impeachment trial.

In the Office of the Chief Justice: Jeff Minear, George Everly, Megan Braun, and Craig Carroll.

On the staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee: Tim Rodriguez, Watson Homer, Mike Fragoso, Zach Somers, Elliott Walden, Chris Ventura, Lindsey Keiser, Raija Churchill, and Arthur Baker.

On the staff of the Senate Finance Committee: Joshua Flynn-Brown, Delisa Ragsdale, Taylor Foy, George Hartmann, and Michel Zofa.

On the staff of the Senate Rules Committee: Fitzhugh Elder and Rachelle Schroeder.

On the staff of the Majority Whip: Nick Rossi, Geoff Antell, Jason Van Beek, Daffnei Riedel, and the entire Whip team.

In the Office of the Secretary of the Senate: the Assistant Secretary of the Senate, Mary Suit Jones, as well as Dan Schwager, Rachel Creviston, Sydney Butler, and Vanessa VandeHey.

Among the many people it takes to run the Senate floor, Cassandra Byrd, Allys Lasky, Billy Walsh, Megan Pickel, Adam Gottlieb, John Merlino, Mary Anne Clarkson, Sara Schwartzman, and Lindsay Gibmeyer.

In the Office of Conservation and Preservation: Beverly Adams and Susan Rapuano.

In the Senate Curator's Office: Melinda Smith, Sasha Lourie, Megan Hipsley, Jen-

nifer Krafchik, Theresa Malanum, and Corey Purtell.

In the Senate Historical Office: Betty Koed, Kate Scott, Dan Holt, Karen Paul, Amy Camilleri, Beth Hahn, and Mary Baumann.

In the Senate Library: Leona Faust, Kara Baer, Meghan Dunn, Annelisa Cobleigh, Rachel Donelson, Meg Kuhagen, Rachel Sharrow, and Jessica Sprigings.

In the Office of Captioning Services: Sandra Schumm, Doreen Chendorain, Laurie Harris, Brenda Jamerson, and Jennifer Smoika.

In the Office of Official Reporters of Debates: Dorothy Rull, Susie Nguyen, Patrice Boyd, Mary Carpenter, Octavio Colominas, Carole Darche, Diane Dorhamer, Chantal Geneus, Alice Haddow, Andrea Huston, Catalina Kerr, Julia LaCava, Michele Melhorn, Adrian Swann, and Shannon Taylor-Scott, and Julia Jones.

In the Office of Printing and Document Services: Laura Rush and Robert Braggs III.

In the Office of Senate Security: Mike DiSilvestro and Ronny Howard.

In the Office of Senate Legal Counsel: Pat Bryan and Morgan Frankel.

In the Office of the Sergeant at Arms: Garrett Burns, Jeff Kent, Laura Lytle, Mike Mastrian, Justin Wilson, Brian Trott, Terence Liley, Bob Swanner, Karl Jackson, Mele Williams, Joan Sartori, Debbie Tyler, Chris Jordan, Lynden Armstrong, and Brian McGinty.

In the Capitol Facilities Office: Monique Beckford, James Banavong, Jamie Becker, Hugh Bennett, James Hardwick, Jim Hoover, Andy Mohammed, Eileen Penot, Carlos Abarca, Leopoldo Aldayuz, Edward Cooper, John Davis, Jonathan Everett, Lawrence Ford, Steve Hall, Anthony Maree, James Montgomery, Olga Morales, Ana Orellana, Gary Richardson, Thomas Shaw, Misael Ulloa, Shariff Washington, Lyndon Webb, Sharif Amirgholi, Kelly Butler, Brenda Byrd, Verona Clemmons, Johnny Dixon, Ronald Gibson, Clydette Greer, Cleveland Johnson, Leon Jones, James Kennedy, Christina Mischel, Carlos Perez, Donnie Proctor, Alfredo Romero, Albert Sandidge, James Shird, Kenneth Vick, Branden Waters, Dominique Williams, Patrick Williams, Patricia Browne, Nandranie Gourzis, Christopher Hauser, LeMoine Simpson, Elmer Villatoro, and Jermaine Washington.

In the Capitol Operations office: Laverne Allen, Tyson Allison, Spencer Barks, Gwen Barnhardt, Dan Benedict, Lauren Cavignano, Tyler Chandler, Gail Daniels, Katherine Edwards, Michelle Enfiejian, Marcella Ferguson, Tom Ford, Wyatt Fulghum, Elizabeth Garcia, Rocketta Gillis, Tony Goldsmith, Patrick Green, Ryan Hoban, Denis Houlihan, Randi Hutchinson, Alex Johnson, Della Jones, Jim Jordan, Jacob Kaufman, Cindy Kesler, Emily Lamb, Raciee Leake, Shahwan Mason, Philip Norton, Mickey Oldaker, Timothy O'Neill, Jonathan Pacheco, Essence Patterson, Patrick Pettey, Julie Pfister, Megan Sheffield, David Straszheim, Todd Trautman, German Vasquez, Delta Whitfield, Nancy Bonilla, Dottie Bright, Merriell Briscoe, Ava Burleson, Barbara Callands, Adrienne Culver, Monica Thomas-Hawkins, Logan Johnson, Karen Jones, Khavin Kry, Tori Mayo, Marcela Samuels, April Foxx-Shird, Tina Stewart, Stella Strozier, Nellie Taylor, Lisa Thompson, Rochelle Thorpe, and Carol Yearwood.

In the Senate Recording Studio: Jeff Horne, John Buszinski, Tim Heacock, John Judge, Bill Steinhour, Chris Wilde, Scott Mead, Rob Strickland, John Grutzik, Gregg Brunclik, Paul Casasco, Blair Cooper, Stewart Grace, Jennifer Johnson, Chris Langley,

Kevin Neale, Kirby Reitz, Thanh Pham, Bryan Whitney, Eric Zeitlin, Lori Thabet, Luke Gallagher, Mariano Molina, Carlos Velado, Rogelio Velado, Ward Webster, Bob Becker, Kristen Betsill, Matt Commeree, Kristy Dyson, Torgunn Eckroad, John Evanko, Lori Helm, Lolita Graef, Carol Anne Jarrett, Kevin Loftus, Nate Russell, Angelo Skarlatos, Diego Torres, and John Viscardi.

In the Office of the Chief Information Officer: Jonathan Braxton, Tiffany Deliberto, David Gately, John Hartsfield, Bill Hill, Chris Humphrey, Rudolph Janifer, Katie Miller, Eric Quintos, Jack Reynolds, Bryan Steward and Tony Williams.

In the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness: Wendy Colmore, Gordon Liscomb, and Ronda Stewart.

In the Printing, Graphics and Direct Mail Office: Julio Benitez, Shayna Mack, George Thompson, Scott Wilson, John Zupko.

The Architect of the Capitol, Brett Blanton and Mark Reed.

In the Government Publishing Office, Hugh Halpern and his team.

And last but certainly not least, in my own Office of the Majority Leader: Valerie Chicola, Katherine Grayson, Emily Hauck, and Suzanne Youngblood.

A great many talented and dedicated professionals went far above and beyond the ordinary course of their duties to help the U.S. Senate complete this unusual but essential constitutional duty. This institution is not good enough at saying "thank you," let alone after an undertaking of literally historic proportions. We are grateful to all of you for your work—these past days and every day.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the impeachment process that has consumed our country over the last several months is finally at an end. Every Member of this Chamber has spent dozens of hours, if not more, studying the precedents, listening to the House managers and the President's legal team as they presented their arguments, including the testimony of 13 witnesses whose sworn testimony was presented during the Senate trial.

In the end, the majority of the Senators agreed that President Trump should be acquitted of the charges brought by the House. No matter how each Senator voted or felt about the end result, I can hope that we would all agree on one thing, and that is, it is time to move forward.

Impeachment has paralyzed the work of Congress for far too long, and we can't continue to allow the divisions and partisan games that are associated with it to prevent us from doing the jobs we were sent here to do. We are 9 months away from the next election. I think it is somewhere around 267 days, if I am not mistaken. That is when the American people will choose their next President and vote on the direction of the country. But until then, our constituents expect us to use the remainder of the time we have here to find

consensus where and when we can and to make progress on issues that they care most about.

For my constituents in Texas, the No. 1 item on their list is prescription drug pricing. I continue to hear from my constituents in Texas who feel burdened, confused, and down-right frustrated by rising costs at the pharmacy. One of the reasons why I think that is probably true is that under the Affordable Care Act deductibles have risen and copays have ballooned, such that consumers are now paying more out of pocket for their prescription drugs than ever before, because from all of the negotiated deals between the pharmaceutical manufacturers and the prescription pharmacy benefit managers, none of that savings directly goes into the pocket of the consumer. So with increased deductibles and with expanded copays, my constituents, and, I dare say, all of our constituents are feeling more of that coming out of their pocket.

Medications that people have been taking for years just keep getting more and more expensive with no explanation behind the increase. To me, the No. 1 example of that is insulin. I support the role of our patent system to protect research and development of lifesaving and innovative drugs, that people get a period of exclusivity—the companies that bring them into the market—a period of exclusivity so they can recoup their sunk costs and perhaps even make a profit, but there is just simply no explanation for a drug like insulin, that has been on the market for so long, for people to see \$1,200 and higher copays, as we heard in the Senate Finance Committee hearing.

A mother talked about her young son who was leaving the nest, so to speak, but he was unable to meet the \$1,200 copay. He was deferring decisions in his life like buying a house and perhaps even getting married because of the burden of that copay. We must do better, particularly on drugs that have been on the market for a long, long time, like insulin, that are so important for treating conditions like diabetes.

But perhaps the single most—well, it is really the most common concern I hear about is a drug called HUMIRA, and that is perhaps because it is the most widely prescribed drug in the world. This drug is a miracle drug, to be sure. It treats arthritis and a number of other immunodeficiency conditions, and it has been available for 15 years.

Now, you typically think of an expensive drug as being one, as I said, freshly on the market, which has just completed costly research and development, but a drug that has been around 15 years, can it be still protected by those patents, even though it was supposed to expire years earlier? Well, apparently, it can.

Smart lawyers with pharmaceutical manufacturers have figured a way to impose what is known as patent thickets. In other words, they can request and get issued so many different pat-

ents that they literally can prolong the period in which a drug manufacturer can claim exclusive right to the sales of that drug.

AbbVie, the company that makes HUMIRA, has figured this out. They figured out how to game the patent system so that no competition ever comes to market, and they remain the sole provider of this widely used drug. Their playbook involves an intricate maze of overlapping patents, which make it nearly impossible for a competitor to come to market.

Here is the best evidence of that. Today there are five companies that compete with HUMIRA in Europe, but all are blocked from their competing drugs being sold here in America until 2023. That is as a result of this patent thicketing gamesmanship. The smart lawyers at AbbVie have effectively found loopholes that allow them to create and maintain a monopoly.

Unfortunately, this isn't the only example of anticompetitive behavior in the pharmaceutical industry. A number of my constituents have also told me about their experience with a drug called Namenda, which is used by patients with Alzheimer's, a devastating disease. Like other new drugs, it began with an exclusivity period, where they were the sole provider, but when that period was coming to a close, the drugmaker switched from a twice-daily to a once-daily dose. Believe it or not, that triggers a new patent application. That move itself prevented pharmacists from being able to switch patients to a lower cost generic, even though it is just as effective, so the company could continue to reap enormous profits basically by just changing from twice-a-day to once-a-day application.

The enemy here is not our patent system. It is the abuse of the patent system by some pharmaceutical companies—again, not all pharmaceutical companies—but some in ways that directly harm the people we represent, the American people.

Earlier this year, I introduced a bill with my friend, the Democratic Senator from Connecticut, RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, to take aim at some of these corrupt practices. Our bill strikes the delicate balance between protecting innovation while increasing competition, and when it passes, it will be a win for every American who has felt the pain of sticker shock at the pharmacy.

We know it takes a lot more than good policy to get a bill turned into law around here. It takes bipartisan support. It takes broad consensus support to get the green light from the appropriate committees and to pass them through both Houses of the Senate. Well, you would think a bill like this that is bipartisan, has broad support, passed unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee, and reduces Federal spending would be a piece of cake to

pass, but they haven't been in the Senate during this period of our divisiveness.

The senior Senator from New York, the Democratic leader, has refused to let this bill pass without a Broadway-scale production of other unrelated legislation. Back in November, I came to the floor to ask that this bill be passed by unanimous consent—again, since it had passed unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee, and we had hotlined the bill to see if there were any other objections in the Senate and found none.

Well, in the month that followed, after the senior Senator from New York objected to passing that bill, I didn't hear a single word from the Senator who had concerns about it, but when I came to the floor to ask that the bill be passed again, the senior Senator from New York, the Democratic leader, blocked it again. He doesn't think it is bad policy. In fact, he admitted it is a good bill. He is not objecting to it because it is somehow a partisan bill that hasn't gone through the regular order or would increase the national debt. As I said, none of these things are true of this legislation.

The only reason the senior Senator from New York, the Democratic leader, objected to this bill is because he is engaging in the kind of politics and gamesmanship that really gives Washington, DC, a bad name. It is true that my name, like a third of the Senators' names, will be on the ballot in November, and Senator SCHUMER, apparently, is willing to punish his constituents in New York State by not allowing this bill to pass because he wants to make sure that nobody whose name is on the ballot, who happens to be a Republican, can claim any sort of advantage by getting a win, legislatively.

Well, unfortunately, while he is playing those sort of politics and games, his own constituents are being harmed, and the American people are being deprived of the benefits of this bipartisan legislation. We saw this mentality during the President's impeachment trial too. We saw how the Democratic leader staged vote after vote—not because he felt like he had a shot at getting a conviction of President Trump and a removal but strictly to make Senators whose names were going to be on the ballot in 2020 look bad. He wanted to get the best 30-second TV spot he could possibly get against all Republican Senators running in 2020.

He knew he was going to lose on the main impeachment vote, so he focused on the one thing that has eluded him for many years, and that is, his aspiration to become the next majority leader. Now, in his bid to become the next majority leader, our colleague from New York is blocking a bill that would bring down drug prices not only in the State of Texas but in New York as well and every other State around the country.

I wonder what the Senator's constituents in New York are telling him

about blocking bipartisan legislation that would actually benefit them. This is at the same time that they are trying to figure out how do they pay the higher copay or deductible for their prescriptions at the pharmacy. We are not even a month and a half into the new year, and drug prices are already on the rise, with an average increase of 6 percent. HUMIRA, which I mentioned earlier, has already gone up 7.4 percent.

So it is clear to me that this problem is not going to go away, and the time to act is now. I would encourage the Democratic leader to stop blocking the bill that his conference Member Senator BLUMENTHAL of Connecticut and I have introduced, so we can address these rising costs and provide some much needed relief for our constituents.

My constituents have asked me: What does Congress intend to do between now and the election? I usually mention: Well, we can deal with the prescription drugs, and we can help bring down the out-of-pocket costs. Hopefully, we can pass a highway infrastructure bill that we are working on, one that passed unanimously out of the Environment and Public Works Committee under the leadership of Senators BARRASSO and CARPER, but the third thing I think we ought to be able to do—and really it is a shame it has taken this long to act—is we need to take actions to confront the rising healthcare risks associated with e-cigarettes.

E-CIGARETTES

In December, I visited the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth to learn more about the danger of e-cigarettes, particularly among adolescents. I heard from a young Texan named Anna Carey, who used to be among the many students at her high school using e-cigarettes. Like so many young people across the country, she became addicted. That is the point. E-cigarettes are not harmless. They deliver nicotine, which is an addictive drug, into your body, and that is the point of the e-cigarette.

The one advantage it does have over tobacco is you don't have to burn it, which also produces carcinogenic by-products of combustion, but like so many people in the country, Anna became addicted, and it didn't take her long to experience severe health consequences as a result of the use of this product.

The once active 16-year-old became extremely lethargic and would experience random and severe chest pain. Eventually, she was admitted to Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth and diagnosed with chemical-induced pneumonia in both her lungs. She said that was her wake-up call. Anna quit using e-cigarettes, and I am glad to report she has made a full recovery. Others have not been so lucky.

She now shares her story in an effort to raise awareness and prevent other young people her age from going down the same path, but we can't let young

people like Anna lead this fight alone. We need to do more in Washington to do our job. This has been a high priority for Members on both sides of the aisle. One of our colleagues on the HELP Committee, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, continues to work to address this health challenge.

The most effective way to prevent adolescents from facing the harmful consequences of these devices is to stop them from getting addicted in the first place. A recent survey found that one-third of underage e-cigarette users bought them over the internet, where it is easy to skirt the age requirements. That has to change. It has already changed for tobacco. We just want to apply the same standard to e-cigarettes.

I have introduced a bill with the Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, to protect our children from becoming addicted to the nicotine produced by e-cigarettes, and I hope we will be able to make progress on this legislation soon.

As I said, e-cigarettes and tobacco are on totally different playing fields when it comes to online purchases. For traditional cigarettes, there are clear guardrails in place to prevent minors from using online purchases to skirt the age requirements. At the time of delivery, the buyer has to sign and show an ID proving their age, which just makes sense. You are required to show an ID when you purchase cigarettes at a gas station or convenience store, and online purchases should be the same, but in the case of e-cigarettes, it is different. Anyone, no matter how old or young, can go online and buy e-cigarettes and have them delivered to their front door without the legal requirement of an ID, and you better believe that too many young people are taking advantage of that loophole without really fully understanding the dangers they are subjecting themselves to.

A recent survey found that about one-third of underage e-cigarette users bought them online. This legislation would change that. It wouldn't add additional requirements. It would simply apply the same requirements for the online sale of traditional cigarettes to e-cigarettes.

As I said, this bill has broad bipartisan support, as you think it would. So I am hopeful we can pass it and get it to the President's desk soon so we can address this wave of addiction among our young people.

With impeachment in the rearview mirror, I hope the Senate will come together and cross these critical items off of our to-do list. Our constituents, the American people, will benefit.

We have a lot of work to do and a lot of work we can and should get done between now and the election in November, so I hope we will be able to make some progress.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HAWLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, it is my privilege to rise and congratulate the Kansas City Chiefs on their victory over the 49ers in Super Bowl LTV last week in Miami, FL.

With their victory, the Chiefs earned their second Super Bowl championship and their first since 1970. I would just note, as someone who was born just about 10 years after that first Super Bowl, I have literally been waiting my whole life for this, and, man, it is darn good.

This victory was Coach Andy Reid's 222nd career win and, of course, his first Super Bowl title in his Hall of Fame career.

The Chiefs were led by quarterback Patrick Mahomes. If you don't know who Patrick Mahomes is, I don't know where you have been for the last couple of years. Mahomes completed 26 of 42 passes for 286 yards and 2 touchdowns. He rushed nine times for 29 yards and another touchdown, and he was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

Mahomes is the youngest player in the history of the NFL to win both the NFL MVP award and a Super Bowl title. Mahomes' play in the Super Bowl was the culmination of a historic play-off run, full of memorable moments, none more iconic than the "scamper down the sideline" for a touchdown to take the lead against the Tennessee Titans in the AFC championship game.

It takes a team to win a Super Bowl, and everyone on this team did his part. Running back Damien Williams had 17 carries for 104 yards and 1 touchdown, plus 4 catches for 29 yards and a touchdown. Tight end Travis Kelce added six receptions for 43 yards and one touchdown. Wide receiver Tyreek Hill had nine receptions for 105 yards, including that crucial 44-yard reception on third down with fewer than 7 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter. And wide receiver Sammy Watkins added another five catches for 98 yards.

The defense and special teams did their part, too. Bashaud Breeland led the Chiefs with seven tackles and one interception. Defensive tackle Chris Jones was a disruptive force, batting down three passes from 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo. Defensive end Frank Clark sacked Garoppolo on fourth and 10 with fewer than 2 minutes remaining to seal the victory—maybe my favorite play of the game. And Harrison Butker was perfect, making one field goal and four extra points. The entire Chiefs roster contributed to this historic victory.

I ask unanimous consent that all of their names be listed in the RECORD.

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

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

The entire Chiefs roster contributed to the Super Bowl victory, including Nick Allegretti, Jackson Barton, Blake Bell, Bashaud Breeland, Alex Brown, Harrison Butker, Morris Claiborne, Frank Clark, Dustin Colquitt, Laurent Duvernay-Tardif, Cam Erving, Rashad Fenton, Eric Fisher, Kendall Fuller, Mecole Hardman, Demone Harris, Chad Henne, Tyreek Hill, Anthony Hitchens, Ryan Hunter, Chris Jones, Travis Kelce, Tanoh Kpassagnon, Darron Lee, Jordan Lucas, Patrick Mahomes, Tyrann Mathieu, LeSean McCoy, Matt Moore, Ben Niemann, Derrick Nnadi, Dorian O'Daniel, Mike Pennel, Byron Pringle, Reggie Ragland, Austin Reiter, Demarcus Robinson, Khalel Saunders, Mitchell Schwartz, Anthony Sherman, Daniel Sorensen, Terrell Suggs, Darwin Thompson, Charvarius Ward, Sammy Watkins, Armani Watts, Damien Williams, Xavier Williams, James Winchester, Stefen Wisniewski, Andrew Wylie, and Deon Yelder.

Punter Dustin Colquitt, the longest tenured Chief and the team's nominee for Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year, earned his first Super Bowl championship in his 15th season.

Rookie kick returner Mecole Hardman, tight end Travis Kelce, safety Tyrann Mathieu, and right tackle Mitchell Schwartz were named to the Associated Press All-Pro team for the 2019 season.

Mr. HAWLEY. If I could just add a word about the Hunt family, who own the Chiefs and have led the Chiefs for decades now, Lamar Hunt founded the Chiefs more than six decades ago and helped shape the National Football League, including by coining the phrase "Super Bowl." Those were his words. It was his idea. His legacy continues today with Clark and Tavia Hunt, who are remarkable people.

The entire Hunt family deserves great credit for their unwavering commitment to Kansas City, the State of Missouri, and the Chiefs organization, which they lead with tremendous poise, tremendous integrity, and tremendous honor.

Congratulations to the Kansas City Chiefs, to their employees, to the hundreds of thousands—maybe millions—of loyal fans out there, to Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Clark Hunt, to President Mark Donovan, General Manager Brett Veach, Coach Reid, and his staff, trainers, and equipment managers, all of whom contributed to this great victory. They have people all over the world asking "how 'bout those Chiefs?"

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today President Trump unveiled his budget proposal for fiscal year 2021. For the third year in a row, the President's budget puts a magnifying glass on the endemic, pervasive hypocrisy of this administration.

He says one thing in the State of the Union and does the opposite in his budget. But the budget is what he does. The State of the Union is just what he says. So, 1 week removed from the State of the Union Address, President Trump's budget doublecrosses the American workers and middle-class families he promised to help in that speech.

Let's take healthcare. Candidate Trump promised to protect the social safety net programs like Medicare and Medicaid, unlike other Republicans. Once in office, President Trump has proposed cutting—cutting—Medicare and Medicaid every year he sent us a budget. Once again, the President proposed steep cuts to Medicaid, as well as onerous new qualification requirements, policies that would take coverage away from millions.

Medicaid affects poor people, but it affects a whole lot of middle class people whose parents are in nursing homes and healthcare facilities. Dramatic cuts to Medicaid hurt large, large numbers of Americans, both poor and middle class.

On top of that, the budget proposes cutting funding for the Department of Health and Human Services by 9 percent. That is the Department in charge of the coronavirus. He is cutting the budget. Then, when something bad happens, he will blame somebody else. That is his MO.

The President stood in front of the Nation and promised his administration would protect Americans with preexisting conditions. It was a lie when he said it, and his budget makes that very, very clear. If the President's budget became reality, hundreds of billions of dollars would be taken away from healthcare services, and tens of millions of Americans would see their coverage disappear, including millions with preexisting conditions.

There is one term that appears nowhere in the President's budget. It is called "climate change." One of the greatest challenges of our time, the No. 1 threat facing our planet, climate change is not mentioned once among the hundreds of pages of the President's budget, except it does propose cutting the Environmental Protection Agency by 26 percent—more than a quarter.

The Earth is on fire. Antarctica had a 64-degree record temperature this week. What is the President's response? He douses the fire with the lighter fluid of weakened pollution regulations and then proposes cutting the fire department.

He cares about the oil companies. Lots of those Big Oil wildcatters send him tons of money. He doesn't care

about the future of this globe and that we are leaving something awful to our children and grandchildren.

Going further, in the President's budget, hundreds of billions would be slashed from Federal housing assistance, student loan forgiveness, and Federal disability insurance. Nutrition assistance to hungry families, long on the President's chopping block, would see another round of severe cuts. Food—food for children. They are poor. Take it away. Is that what this country stands for? Is that what our Judeo-Christian tradition stands for? Absolutely not. Absolutely not.

If you are an American struggling with student loan debt or health problems or housing costs or hunger, the President's budget says you are out of luck. Meanwhile, if you are a millionaire or a billionaire or a corporation or a Big Oil wildcatter, the President's budget says you are in luck.

When it comes to taxes, the President thinks the tax cuts should be extended for an additional 10 years. So, so much for this deficit reduction that the Republican Party used to stand for. Now it is clear. A few years after the tax cuts—2 years after them—the deficit is increasing. It hasn't produced that dramatic increase in revenues that everyone talked about. But let's do it for 10 years. No Republican should complain to Democrats about deficit reduction when we are talking about things that matter to average middle-class people, like Medicare and Medicaid, when the tax cuts are proposed for 10 years.

So the budget reveals once again where President Trump's priorities truly lie: not with the working Americans he touts in his speeches but with the ultrarich and the corporate elites he rewards with his policies. It can't be discarded soon enough.

One more point—I said it the night of the President's State of the Union. I said the truth serum will be his budget. Let's see if the President, for once, is telling a little bit of the truth.

The budget shows all the rhetoric is one way, and the actual budget is another. How long will the American people stand for this man's hypocrisy—blatant? I have never seen it in a President—Democrat or Republican—before.

WHISTLEBLOWERS

Mr. President, now, on whistleblowers, in the aftermath of the President's impeachment trial, the President has begun dismissing members of the administration who testified in Congress, including Lieutenant Colonel Vindman and Ambassador Sondland. The President also dismissed LTC Eugene Vindman. This was vindictive, nasty, typical of President Trump, and for no other reason than he was the brother of LTC Alexander Vindman.

This morning, senior adviser to the President Kellyanne Conway said these were not likely the last of the firings. This is a textbook case of witness retaliation. Not only is the retaliation against Lieutenant Colonel Vindman,

the anonymous whistleblower, and others like them shameful; it is also illegal. It is illegal. All Federal employees have the right—the legal right—to make protected disclosures to Congress and to inspectors general anonymously and free from reprisals. Even the Founding Fathers were concerned about whistleblowers and protecting them.

This country is being turned inside out, and too many people are going along. If something is going on that is wrong in government, don't we want to encourage government employees to bring that forward? Don't we? Well, not President Trump, because he is the government, and what is good for him—or what he thinks is good for him—he thinks is good for America, even when they diverge.

So the rights of whistleblowers are being challenged like never before, creating a chilling effect among those who in previous administrations might have come forward to expose abuses of power, waste, and fraud. Whistleblowers save the taxpayers money. Again, it used to be bipartisan. The Senator from Iowa has always been defending whistleblowers, but all of that goes away now that Trump is President. Without the courage of whistleblowers and the role of inspectors general, the American people would never have known how the President abused his power in Ukraine.

Now the President is taking steps to punish anyone who came forward, out of spite and out of a desire to prevent future whistleblowers from potentially reporting on the President's misconduct. Make no mistake about it, the President is conducting a deliberate campaign to intimidate anyone who might blow the whistle on his conduct or the conduct of those under his direction. He feels this cannot be tolerated.

So today I sent a letter to all 74 inspectors general in the executive branch, requesting that they immediately investigate any and all instances of retaliation against anyone who has made or in the future makes protected disclosures of Presidential misconduct to Congress or to an inspector general.

Members of the administration take an oath to protect and defend the Constitution. Some of them bravely stepped forward to tell the truth about the President's efforts to solicit foreign interference in the 2020 elections, and for that, for telling the truth under oath—which the President didn't allow his allies to do—for these people doing their patriotic duty to their country, they are being summarily dismissed from their jobs by a vindictive President.

Our Founders believed that truth was fundamental to the government and, indeed, the survival of the Republic. As the President takes steps to punish anyone in his administration who tells the truth, it is incumbent on the independent watchdogs in our government to protect whistleblowers like Lieuten-

ant Colonel Vindman and others who put their lives and livelihoods on the line to protect our freedoms. I was glad to hear the Chief of Staff say that Vindman, within the military, was protected. At least there is some honor left in this government.

NOMINATION OF ANDREW LYNN BRASHER

Mr. President, now, about the nomination of Mr. Brasher, now that the impeachment trial of the President is over, Leader McCONNELL is wasting no time getting us back to what seems to be his primary goal: rubberstamping unqualified and extreme judicial nominations.

This week the Senate will consider the nomination of Andrew Brasher to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Brasher's primary qualification to sit on the Federal bench seems to be the 6½ months—6½ months—he spent on the district court in Alabama. Let me repeat that. Senate Republicans installed Brasher as district court judge less than 7 months before moving to elevate him to an appellate court. I have never heard of anything like this. The Senate majority is asking us to promote a candidate for circuit court judgeship who has less than a year of experience as a judge. But he is not just unqualified. Maybe they are promoting him so quickly because they love the fact that his views are so wildly out of the mainstream. As Alabama's solicitor general, Brasher fought against women's reproductive rights, which three-quarters of Americans believe in; commonsense gun safety laws, which 90 percent of Americans believe in; and marriage equality, which the majority of Americans believe in. He employed farfetched legal theories that were overruled by the courts, including Justice Scalia. Mr. Brasher shamefully spent his career defending voter suppression efforts. So less than 1 week after covering up the President's attempt to cheat in the next election, Senate Republicans are moving forward to reward a nominee who supports voter suppression. Both actions smack of contempt for the democratic process and a blatant disregard for the franchise of American citizens, the thing many of our young men and women have died for throughout the century—the right to vote.

Mr. Brasher's nomination to the circuit court is another disgrace—an absolute disgrace—to our Federal judiciary. Every Senator should vote against it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Thom Tillis, John Thune, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Kevin Cramer, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Shelley Moore Capito, Todd Young, John Boozman, David Perdue, James E. Risch, Lindsey Graham, Roger F. Wicker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 46, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 35 Ex.]

YEAS—46

Alexander	Ernst	Portman
Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blackburn	Gardner	Roberts
Blunt	Grassley	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Loeffler	Thune
Cotton	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	McSally	Wicker
Cruz	Moran	Young
Daines	Murkowski	
Enzi	Perdue	

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Brown	Carper
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Casey
Booker	Cardin	Coons

Cortez Masto	King	Shaheen
Duckworth	Leahy	Sinema
Durbin	Manchin	Smith
Feinstein	Menendez	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Merkley	Tester
Harris	Murphy	Udall
Hassan	Murray	Van Hollen
Heinrich	Peters	Warner
Hirono	Reed	Whitehouse
Jones	Rosen	Wyden
Kaine	Schumer	

NOT VOTING—13

Bennet	Klobuchar	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Markey	Toomey
Graham	Paul	Warren
Hoeben	Sanders	
Kennedy	Schatz	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 46, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 2:15 tomorrow, all postcloture time on the Brasher nomination be considered expired. I further ask that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action. Finally, I ask that following disposition of the Brasher nomination, the Senate vote on cloture motions with respect to the Kindred, Schelp, Kness, and Halpern nominations, and if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, the confirmation votes occur on Wednesday, February 12, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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. 20-02 concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$990 million. 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. 20-02

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* \$690 million.
Other \$300 million.
Total \$990 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to two hundred (200) AGM-158C, Long Range Anti-Ship Missiles (LRASMs).
Up to eleven (11) ATM-158C LRASMs Telemetry Variant (Inert).

Non-MDE: Also included are DATM-158C LRASM, Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM-158C LRASM), containers, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor representatives technical assistance, engineering and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics support.

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

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(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: February 7, 2020.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—Long Range Anti-Ship Missiles (LRASMs)

The Government of Australia has requested to buy up to two hundred (200) AGM-158C, Long Range Anti-Ship Missiles (LRASMs); and up to eleven (11) ATM-158C LRASM Telemetry Variant (Inert). Also included are DATM-158C LRASM, Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM-158C LRASM), containers, support and test equipment, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor representatives technical assistance, engineering and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics support. The total estimated cost is \$990 million.

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.

Australia intends to use the missiles on its F-18 aircraft and will provide enhanced capabilities in defense of critical sea-lanes. The proposed sale of the missiles and support will increase the Australian Navy's maritime partnership potential and align its capabilities with existing regional baselines. This is Australia's first purchase of the missiles. Australia will not have any difficulty absorbing these weapons into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Orlando, Florida. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require annual trips to Australia involving U.S. Government and contractor representatives for technical reviews, support, and oversight for approximately five years.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 20-02

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. The AGM-158C, Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRASM) system is classified SECRET. The LRASM is a non-nuclear tactical weapon system. It provides a day, night, and adverse weather, standoff air-to-surface capability and is an effective Anti-Surface Warfare missile. The LRASM incorporates components, software, and technical design information that are considered sensitive. The following components being conveyed by the proposed sale that are considered sensitive include:

- a. RF Seeker.
- b. GPS/INS System.
- c. Datalink.
- d. Warhead.
- e. IR Seeker.

2. These elements are essential to the ability of the LRASM missile to selectively engage hostile targets under a wide range of operations, tactical and environmental conditions.

3. 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.

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

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

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. 19-55, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of India for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.867 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. 19-55

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 India.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$ 0.492 billion.
Other \$ 1.375 billion.
Total \$ 1.867 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: India has requested a possible sale of an Integrated Air Defense Weapon System comprised of:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Five (5) AN/MPQ-64F1 Sentinel Radar Systems.

One hundred eighteen (118) AMRAAM AIM-120C-7/C-8 Missiles.

Three (3) AMRAAM Guidance Sections.

Four (4) AMRAAM Control Sections.

One hundred thirty-four (134) Stinger FIM-92L Missiles.

Non-MDE: Also included are thirty-two (32) M4A1 rifles; forty thousand three hundred twenty (40,320) M855 5.56mm cartridges; Fire Distribution Centers (FDC); Handheld Remote Terminals; Electrical Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) Sensor Systems; AMRAAM Non-Developmental Item-Airborne Instrumentation Units (NDI-AIU); Multi-spectral Targeting System-Model A (MTS-A); Canister Launchers (CN); High Mobility Launchers (HML); Dual Mount Stinger (DMS) Air Defense Systems; Vehicle Mounted Stinger Rapid Ranger Air Defense Systems; communications equipment; tool kits; test equipment; range and test programs; support equipment; prime

movers; generators; technical documentation; computer based training equipment; training equipment; training towers; ammunition storage; training and maintenance facilities; infrastructure improvements; U.S. Government and contractor technical support, engineering and logistics support services; warranty services; Systems and Integration Checkout (SICO); field office support; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (IN-B-UAP) and Air Force (IN-D-YAC).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(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: February 7, 2020.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

India—Integrated Air Defense Weapon System (IADWS) and Related Equipment and Support

The Government of India has requested to buy an Integrated Air Defense Weapon System (IADWS) comprised of: five (5) AN/MPQ-64F1 Sentinel radar systems; one hundred eighteen (118) AMRAAM AIM-120C-7/C-8 missiles; three (3) AMRAAM Guidance Sections; four (4) AMRAAM Control Sections; and one hundred thirty-four (134) Stinger FIM-92L missiles. Also included are thirty-two (32) M4A1 rifles; forty thousand three hundred twenty (40,320) M855 5.56mm cartridges; Fire Distribution Centers (FDC); Handheld Remote Terminals; Electrical Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) Sensor Systems; AMRAAM Non-Developmental Item-Airborne Instrumentation Units (NDI-AIU); Multi-spectral Targeting System-Model A (MTS-A); Canister Launchers (CN); High Mobility Launchers (HML); Dual Mount Stinger (DMS) Air Defense Systems; Vehicle Mounted Stinger Rapid Ranger Air Defense Systems; communications equipment; tool kits; test equipment; range and test programs; support equipment; prime movers; generators; technical documentation; computer based training equipment; training equipment; training towers; ammunition storage; training and maintenance facilities; infrastructure improvements; U.S. Government and contractor technical support, engineering and logistics support services; warranty services; Systems and Integration Checkout (SICO); field office support; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is \$1.867 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to strengthen the U.S.-Indian strategic relationship and to improve the security of a major defensive partner, which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia region.

India intends to use these defense articles and services to modernize its armed forces, and to expand its existing air defense architecture to counter threats posed by air attack. This will contribute to India's military goal to update its capability while further enhancing greater interoperability between India, the U.S., and other allies. India will have no difficulty absorbing these systems into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors involved in this program are The Raytheon Corporation and Kongsberg Defense and Aerospace. There are

no known offset agreements proposed in conjunction with this proposed sale; however, the purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the Purchaser and the prime contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require 60 U.S. Government or contractor representatives to travel to India for a period of six weeks (non-concurrent). Activities will include de-processing/fielding, training, and technical/logistics support.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-55

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. The Integrated Air Defense Weapon System (IADWS) is a System of Systems (SOS) consisting of the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS), a Very Short Range Air Defense (VSHORAD) capability consisting of the Stinger FIM-92 Reprogrammable Micro-Processor (RMP) Block I missile, and small arms. The IADWS is designed for mid-range air defense and can be deployed to engage fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft, cruise missiles, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The IADWS is not a Program of Record (POR) for the U.S. Department of Defense, but the SOS architecture does consist of four PORs: The U.S. Army's AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel radar, the U.S. Army's FIM-92L Stinger Missile, U.S. Air Force's Multi-Spectral Targeting System-A (MTS-A), and the U.S. Air Force's AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM). The NASAMS is comprised of U.S. and Norwegian manufactured components. Norwegian components will be procured by the Raytheon Company. Norwegian involvement will be managed by Raytheon using export authorizations received from the U.S. Department of State.

2. The NASAMS Fire Unit (FU) consists of one fire distribution center (FDC), one AN/MPQ-64F1 surveillance, acquisition, and tracking radar, 3 truck-mounted Canister Launchers (LCHR) and the High Mobility Launcher (HML) with 6 AMRAAM missiles each, and one truck-mounted Electrical Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) Sensor System, the MTS-A, for visual target identification and raid size assessment.

3. The command and control entity, FDC, is the major operator interface in NASAMS. It provides all command and control functionality necessary to effectively conduct Air Defense missions, both in a stand-alone (autonomous) configuration as well as in a netted configuration integrated to other units. The FDC interfaces and controls the MPQ-64F1 Sentinel radar, the MTS-A EO/IR Sensor and the Canister and High Mobility Launchers. In addition, it interfaces and sends commands to any connected Very Short Range Air Defense (VSHORAD) Stinger platforms. The FDC also interfaces (voice and data) to the national command and control structure.

4. The AN/MPQ-64F1 Sentinel Radar is the organic mobile Air Defense acquisition and tracking sensor for the United States Army. Sentinel provides persistent air surveillance and fire control quality data through command and control systems to defeat Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), cruise missiles, and fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft threats.

5. The purpose of the Canister Launcher (LCHR) and the High Mobility Launcher (HML) is to transport, aim, and fire the AMRAAM missiles. Under the remote con-

trol of the Fire Distribution Center (FDC), the LCHR/HML permits rapid launching of one or more missiles against single or multiple targets. The LCHR/HML provides 360-degree, all weather, day and night, missile launch capability.

6. The AN/AAS-52 and AN/AAS-44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting System-A (MTS-A) is a multi-use infrared (IR), electro optical (EO), and laser detecting ranging-tracking set originally developed and produced for use by airborne platforms. This advanced EO and IR system provides long-range surveillance, target acquisition, target tracking, range finding, and laser designation. It has been adapted for towers, aerostats, and ground based applications.

7. The AIM-120C-7/C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, aerial intercept, guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics that is also able to operate as a ground-based air defense missile capable in all-weather against multiple targets in a sophisticated electronic attack resistance to electronic countermeasure, and interception of high- and low-flying maneuvering targets. The AIM-120C-8 is a form, fit, function refresh of the AIM-120C-7 and is the next generation to be produced.

8. The VSHORAD system consists of the four Dual Mount Stinger (DMS) systems, two Rapid Ranger (RR) Stinger Mobile Integrated Defense Systems, and the Stinger 92L Reprogrammable Micro-Processor (RMP) Block I missile.

9. The Stinger 92L Reprogrammable Micro-Processor (RMP) Block I missile is an infrared homing surface-to-air missile that can be adapted to fire from a wide variety of ground vehicles.

10. The DMS System provides a man-portable pedestal system that can be used day or night in any environment. The DMS fires two Stinger missiles, and includes fully integrated day/night sights with optical zoom capability. Included as part of the DMS is a ruggedized tablet from which video output from the visible band day-sight, IR scene from the night-sight, and target cueing data are integrated. Slew-to-cue information provides guidance to the gunner for target selection. The OMS can interface with the NASAMS FDC for Target Designation and Target Engagement Authorization as well as autonomous operation.

11. The Rapid Ranger (RR) consists of a High Mobility Vehicle operated by a crew of three. The RR is integrated by Raytheon with two Stinger Vehicle Universal Launchers (SVULs), a Fire Control System (FCS), and a Command, Control and Communications (C3) System. The RR can interface with NASAMS FDC for Target Designation and Target Engagement Authorization as well as autonomous operation.

12. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification. Moreover, the benefits to be derived from this sale, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology were revealed to unauthorized persons.

13. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of India.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today following Senate acquittal in the impeachment trial of President Trump.

After a 2-week trial, the U.S. Senate has delivered impartial justice. Make

no mistake: Senate acquittal is the final judgment, forever clearing President Trump.

The House clearly made serious mistakes. Never before has a President been impeached with no underlying crime, no defense counsel, and not a single Republican vote. It was purely partisan and totally political.

The House overstepped its authority. The Senate, however, according to the Constitution, has the final word. The Senate followed the law. The Senate held a fair trial. We used the bipartisan Clinton trial format. These rules ensured both sides full and equal time.

Let's not forget: In the House, the President's rights were ignored. He had no voice, no due process, no defense. The Senate allowed the President to defend himself, and his defense team presented a fact-based case. White House lawyers detailed the President's legitimate, long-held concerns over Ukraine corruption. The President's legal team made a strong case against the House impeachment articles.

House managers, meanwhile, failed to prove their case. Rather than focus on facts, they appeared to be playing to the cameras. Incredibly, House managers attacked the Senate jury, accusing Republicans of "corruption" and "cover-up." House managers played for time, repeating speeches, demanding more witnesses we didn't need. In reality, it was a weak case. There were no offenses that rose to the Constitution's requirement of "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

The House process was one-sided from the start. For political purposes, Speaker PELOSI rushed the impeachment vote by Christmas, claiming urgency. Then her sense of urgency disappeared. She proceeded to delay the Senate trial for 4 weeks. The Speaker waited 33 days to send us the Articles of Impeachment. This begs the question: Why delay the removal of a President the Democrats in the House claim is "dangerous"?

Still, the Speaker insisted this spectacle was "solemn," even prayerful. Then came her strangely irreverent signing ceremony. Nothing says solemn like souvenir signing pens.

The bottom line is: Partisan impeachment is poison—poison—for our democracy. Senate acquittal is the antidote. Impeachment has hurt and divided this country. It has also delayed important work on behalf of the American people. Congress needs to now come together and move forward.

Look at the incredible results we are already seeing under this President. Thanks to tax and regulatory relief, our economy is booming. American workers are winning.

We are seeing record job growth: 7 million new jobs, 500,000 new manufacturing jobs, and 50-year-low unemployment. Middle-class and blue-collar wages are rising. Household wealth is soaring. Consumer confidence is at record highs. Add to that the President's America-first trade deals. The

U.S.-Mexico-Canada deal, deals with China, Japan, they are a boon for our farmers and for our workers. What is more, we have unleashed American energy. The U.S. is now No. 1 in oil and in natural gas. We no longer need Middle East oil. We have also confirmed 187 highly qualified Federal judges. Above all, we are keeping the country safe and secure. President Trump has completely rebuilt our military.

Yet partisan impeachment has blocked progress. Congress has learned its lesson: Impeachment, if it is to ever happen again, must be bipartisan, fair, and rare. Senate acquittal is the final judgment.

Now, we are back to work for the American people. We are looking forward to the important work ahead, to continuing our progress on priorities like lowering prescription drug costs, securing our border, and fixing our aging roads and bridges.

The 2020 Presidential election is fast approaching. In fact, voting has already occurred in Iowa. It is time for the American people to decide who serves as President. It is time for Congress to get back to work. Thank you.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. President, on Wednesday, I voted against convicting President Trump of the two Articles of Impeachment. The Senate has spent the last 3 weeks in a Presidential impeachment trial for only the third time in our Nation's 244-year history. ADAM SCHIFF and House Democrats demanded that the Senate overturn the results of the 2016 Presidential election, remove President Trump from office, and take him off the 2020 ballot. These outcomes would be deeply disruptive to the functioning of our government, would further divide our Nation, and would prevent the American people from deciding who their President should be at the ballot box. The American people collectively are better fit to judge Donald Trump's Presidency as a whole than the partisan politicians in Washington who brought forth this impeachment. Despite the celebrations by NANCY PELOSI and House Democrats, this is a grave and serious matter with implications far beyond this President, this Congress, and this generation.

During the trial, I have remained committed to my oath to administer impartial justice with the same seriousness as my oath to protect the Constitution that I put my life on the line for in uniform. I listened carefully to the presentations by both the House managers and the President's counsel. I researched the law, reviewed historical precedents, and asked questions. I discussed the evidence and the issues with colleagues, and I came to my own conclusion.

The text, history, and purpose of the Constitution support acquittal. Our founding document gives the House the sole power of impeachment and the Senate the sole power to try all impeachments. Further, it requires a two-thirds vote to convict and remove any President. The Founding Fathers were

concerned that impeachment would be frequently used as a partisan political weapon. Because of this concern, they deliberated whether to include Presidential impeachment at all. Then, they considered the scope of the offenses subject to the grievous, divisive, and disruptive punishment of decapitating one branch of our government. At the constitutional convention, the Founders rejected vague, standard-less terms like "malpractice," "neglect of duty," and "maladministration." James Madison, the father of our Constitution, objected that vague terms would be "equivalent to a tenure during the pleasure of the Senate." Madison's view prevailed, and the framers settled on "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors" to minimize the risk of partisan abuse of impeachment.

Madison and the other Founders intended impeachment to be an extremely disruptive last resort to save the Republic. What our constitutional text and tradition teach us is that no President should be impeached and removed from office without the support of both parties and the American people. The reason that President Andrew Johnson avoided conviction in his trial was that a mixed group of both Democrats and Republicans voted to find the President not guilty. Richard Nixon's impeachment inquiry vote passed the House 410 to 4. Senator CHUCK SCHUMER and Speaker NANCY PELOSI used to agree. "I expect history will show that we've lowered the bar on impeachment so much, we've broken the seal on this extreme penalty so cavalierly—that it will be used as a routine tool to fight political battles," SCHUMER said in 1998. "My fear is that when a Republican wins the White House, Democrats will demand payback." Likewise, Speaker PELOSI stated last March: "Impeachment is so divisive to the country that unless there's something so compelling and overwhelming and bipartisan, I don't think we should go down that path because it divides the country." Before a few months ago, the consensus—articulated well by Senator SCHUMER and Speaker PELOSI, was that a partisan impeachment is not a proper impeachment.

The first Article of Impeachment for "abuse of power" does not warrant removal from office and the ballot. The President is not perfect, and the way in which he evidently attempted to address his legitimate concerns about corruption involving the Bidens was inappropriate. But even if all that the House Democrats allege in fact occurred, even if John Bolton supports their allegations in his book, even if other negative information comes out in the future, this does not rise anywhere near the level of throwing the President out of office or off the ballot for the first time in American history. Abuse of power is a vague offense that the House managers have failed to define with precision, but even accepting all the House managers' facts as true,

the alleged conduct does not justify conviction.

The second Article of Impeachment for "obstruction of Congress" is frivolous and dangerous for the separation of powers that is foundational to our Republic. Presidential clashes with Congress are not just routine but are baked into our constitutional DNA. The separation of powers painstakingly negotiated by our Founders is working—and that is a positive thing. The Framers designed tension between the coequal executive and legislative branches of our government. Congress often wants access to everyone and everything in the executive branch. The executive branch, in contrast, has legitimate grounds to prevent certain advisors or documents from being hauled before Congress. This article, if legitimized, would cede unprecedented power to one Chamber and would permit the House to remove a President from office any time that it does not get what it wants from the President, exactly as James Madison feared.

Not only do the two articles fail, but I also cannot in good conscience vote to convict because every step of this slapdash impeachment process has been characterized by a lack of fundamental fairness. I am troubled by the speed and cheerful eagerness with which the House Democrats railroaded through their investigation and vote on the articles. Unlike the Nixon and Clinton impeachments, the investigation into the alleged wrongdoing was hastily conducted and sloppily executed. The House Democrats made it clear that their objective was to impeach the President by Christmas, and they trampled over fairness and well-established legal processes on the way. After initially failing to vote to authorize the inquiry, they went from a vote authorizing an inquiry to impeaching the President in just 48 days.

What is more, the House Intelligence Committee failed to afford the President with procedural rights. The House should have voted to authorize the impeachment before investigating and should have attempted the usual accommodation process to resolve the tensions with the executive branch. The fundamentals of due process also include the right to have counsel present during interviews with investigators, the right to cross-examine witnesses, the right to call your own witnesses, and the right to submit evidence. Here, House Democrats called only their preferred witnesses, and they denied President Trump's counsel the opportunity to be present for examinations. The Democrats conducting the investigation also failed to subpoena individuals whom they now claim are key witnesses. If ADAM SCHIFF genuinely wanted to hear from John Bolton, he should have subpoenaed him, should have allowed the President to assert immunity, and should have gone to the courts to sort out the competing claims. But that wouldn't have fit the House Democrats' rushed timeline or narrative.

Once the process was handed over to the House Judiciary Committee, House Democrats had a single hearing with law professors on December 4 before announcing on December 5 that they were committed to drafting Articles of Impeachment. The committee approved the articles on December 13. To put this in perspective, this meant that the relevant committee spent 1 week drafting the articles before Speaker PELOSI spent 4 weeks sitting on the articles. And on the Senate side, I am likewise concerned that ADAM SCHIFF, House Democrats, and CHUCK SCHUMER demanded that the Senate do the House's job and clean up the House's shoddy work. Democrats have insisted that the Senate subpoena witnesses that the House refused to call and that the Senate shut itself down for weeks or months to allow for an investigation that the House should have conducted before proceeding to a final impeachment vote. The House Democrats showed testimony of 13 witnesses during the trial and submitted 28,000 pages of documents. Having repeatedly stated that their evidence was overwhelming, they then claimed that they needed more witnesses and documents to make their case. You can't have it both ways.

I am particularly troubled that in the Senate, the House managers sought to have the Senate address issues of executive privilege in a way that it has never done before. Executive privilege is a right—asserted by all Presidents of different parties for decades—to prevent close advisers from divulging confidential communications. But now, for the first time in our Nation's history, the Democrats sought to have the Senate displace the judiciary and resolve, by majority vote, highly complicated questions on executive privilege—a task that would raise substantial constitutional and institutional questions.

Even more disturbing was the House and Senate Democrats' casual attempt to drag the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court into this process. With a straight face, ADAM SCHIFF repeatedly called for the Chief Justice to be the decisionmaker on serious and complex issues, as if attempting to remove a President and adjust the relationship between the House and the Senate forever weren't enough. On top of this, Democrats tried to bring the third branch of government into this partisan political exercise with no concern for the seismic implications for our Republic.

Although my vote against convicting President Trump lies with the failure of House Democrats to prove impeachable conduct, I would be remiss if I did not emphasize one crucial fact: The historical record is clear that President Obama was weak on Russia and trivialized the geopolitical threat posed by Putin. In 2009, Obama's Secretary of State presented the Russian Foreign Minister with a "reset" button, grinning alongside him in a photo opportunity. That year, President Obama, at Russia's request, cancelled

plans to build a missile defense system in Eastern Europe. In 2011, an open microphone caught Obama telling Russian President Medvedev that he would "have more flexibility" with easing pressure on Russia—"particularly with missile defense"—after the Presidential election. During the 2012 election, President Obama mocked his opponent for expressing geopolitical concern about Russia. "The 1980s are now calling to ask for their foreign policy back," Obama said. Two years later, Russia annexed Crimea and then invaded eastern Ukraine. Obama refused to provide lethal aid to Ukraine to defend itself and his policies toward Russia were a national security disaster.

In contrast, President Trump has placed unprecedented sanctions on Russia and provided lethal weapons like the Javelin anti-tank missile to Ukraine to defend itself. Several of the House managers who attempted to remove President Trump for a minor delay in security-assistance funding, which was separate from the Javelin missile purchases, voted against providing lethal aid to Ukraine in multiple defense authorization and funding bills. Should we have impeached Obama for not providing lethal aid to Ukraine? No. It was bad policy and weak compared to what Trump has done but not impeachable.

This Presidential impeachment is historic for dangerous reasons. It is the first partisan House impeachment with bipartisan opposition. It is the first to deny procedural fairness protections to the President during the House inquiry. It is disturbing because this entire matter should have been handled via the normal oversight processes available to Congress with subpoena disputes resolved in the courts.

With all the above in mind, I conclude that the President did not engage in conduct rising to the level of treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors. Democrats have been trying to impeach President Trump repeatedly since he was elected. They filed eight impeachment resolutions for everything from undermining the freedom of the press to using insulting language.

Our country has a Presidential election in 9 months, with the first votes in Iowa already completed. The American people deserve to be represented by the President they elected. They also deserve to choose who is the President for the next 4 years. While I have concerns about the upcoming 9 months, I am likewise concerned about the next 90 years. Looking at the process that unfolded in the House and the constitutional contortionism that the Democrats displayed in the Senate, it would be a dangerous precedent to normalize how House Democrats have carried out this process. If rewarded, this precedent would trivialize impeachment, distort the relationship between the two Chambers, and forever alter the relationship among the three branches. In the future, any House controlled by

the opposite party of the President could trample on due process, ram through an unfair impeachment for vague accusations, and demand that the Senate shut down its legislative work to investigate on behalf of the House. No future House of Representatives run by Democrats or Republicans should take this path.

I have heard it said repeatedly throughout this trial that Benjamin Franklin left Americans "a Republic—if you can keep it." I vote to keep it.

TRIBUTE TO JACQUELINE WICECARVER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, it is my honor to pay tribute to an exceptional leader and member of the Senior Executive Service of the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General, Ms. Jacqueline Wicecarver.

A native of Rector, AR, Jackie joined the Department of Defense in 1978 as a member of the U.S. Army Materiel Command in Rock Island, IL. Within the next 10 years, Jackie and her family moved five times. During this time, Jackie held a variety of positions within the Department of Defense and received high praise in each position for her exceptional level of professionalism, dedication to duty, and outstanding contributions to the mission.

In 1990, Jackie joined the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General as a staff auditor and rose through the ranks, joining the Senior Executive Service as the Assistant Inspector General for Acquisition and Contract Management in 2011. In January 2017, she was selected to lead nearly 600 auditors and support personnel as the Deputy Inspector General for Audit.

In her role as the Deputy Inspector General for Audit, Jackie has provided guidance, counsel, and mentorship to many auditors as they worked to complete more than 320 audit reports that identified over \$7 billion in potential savings to the Department of Defense. Most significantly, under Jackie's direction, the Office of Inspector General completed two full financial statement audits of the Department of Defense. These financial statement audits have been described as the largest in history.

Jackie has been honored with the Department of Defense Inspector General Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, and the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency Award.

Jackie has served her country for more than 40 years as a Department of Defense civilian. On behalf of the Senate, I thank Jackie and her family—her husband James of 50 years, their children Christopher and Jennifer and four grandchildren, Caitlyn, Wade, Tate and Quinn—for their continued commitment and sacrifice in service to our Nation. I wish her future success as she transitions into retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WALLY COVINGTON

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize one of the most influential and well-known forest ecologists in the Nation, Dr. Wally Covington of Flagstaff, AZ.

Last month, Dr. Covington retired from his current position as regents' professor at the School of Forestry and the executive director of the Ecological Restoration Institute at Northern Arizona University.

When we talk about the wildfire crisis afflicting the West, we frequently reference the need to thin our forests of the enormous number of small, dead, and dying trees that have fueled some of the largest, deadliest, and most destructive mega fires ever seen in the United States.

In my home State of Arizona, about one-quarter of our pine forests have been impacted by fire over the past two decades. In 2011, the largest wildfire in State history, the Wallow Fire, incinerated over a half million acres in a matter of weeks before finally burning out. And a nation mourned the loss of 19 brave wildland firefighters from Prescott, AZ, who gave their lives battling the Yarnell Hill Fire in 2013.

These fires burn so hot and fast that they barrel through rural communities, insatiably consuming property in its path and, sometimes, human life too.

We recognize that the fuel load is too high in many forests and that prescribed fires and fuel breaks alone are not enough to prevent mega-fires that crown atop forest canopies.

Today, it is common sense that our fire-prone public lands need to be restored to their natural, fire-adapted state. It is difficult to imagine how this conventional wisdom shared across both sides of the aisle, and among the timber industry and environmental groups alike, was foreign, controversial, and, frankly, heretical only two decades ago. It was Dr. Covington's applied research in forest ecology and his tireless advocacy that showed us how reducing tree density through timber harvesting is not only beneficial, but also necessary if we want to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires.

So when we talk about forest thinning, the country should know just how influential Dr. Wally Covington's contributions were to the practice of forest ecosystem restoration.

Let me share a little bit of Dr. Covington's story with you. From a young age, Wally was exposed to the wonders of the great outdoors by his parents who first met and fell in love in Flagstaff. They instilled in him a profound appreciation for nature and a humbling perspective on humanity's impact on the land. At his father's urging, Wally studied the works of conservationist Aldo Leopold, who is regarded as the founder of the wilderness preservation movement and the philosophy of "land ethics," which espouses the belief that man is not a conqueror of his environment, but a unique component of it.

Later, Wally graduated from the University of North Texas with a degree in biology, and he planned to become a physician in pediatric oncology. However, the emotional toll of working with children with cancer left Wally disheartened. He departed medical school never to return. Still, that heart-wrenching experience taught Wally that he was a healer.

Shaped by the burgeoning environmental movement of the 1970s, Wally answered another calling. He decided to pursue a master's in ecology from the University of New Mexico. It wasn't long before Wally's academic achievements led him to Yale University where he earned a doctorate in forestry in 1976.

Dr. Covington was already an accomplished forest ecologist by the time he joined NAU. At Yale, he developed an innovative theory for predicting the carbon budgets of unharvested forests, a calculation known as "Covington's curve" that is still widely used in modern forestry.

His next achievement, however, would transform how we view and manage our forestlands. For some time, Wally had been studying ponderosa pine trees, a type of evergreen species that dominates the landscape in the West. These iconic conifers span more than 27 million acres in the United States. Wally observed that our Nation's pine forests were out of balance, unhealthy, and highly susceptible to drought, insect infestation, and disease. A majority of the mega-fires or "conflagrations" impacting northern California, Montana, Arizona, and elsewhere were occurring in ponderosa pine forests.

As a forest ecologist, Wally understood that fire plays a natural role in our forests. Historically, in North America, low intensity ground fire led to large, mature pine trees and forests that are naturally adapted to withstand fire. But modern wildfires in the West were now burning with such ferocious intensity that even the sturdiest of pine trees would literally boil to the point of exploding. Postfire conditions were no longer the regenerative force that ecologists had once studied. Soils were damaged, taking years to replenish their nutrients, and watersheds were more likely to experience long-term flooding and erosion.

Wally once poignantly described the situation in an article he authored in the journal *Nature* in 2002: "The dry forest ecosystems of the American West, especially those once dominated by open ponderosa pine forests, are in widespread collapse. We are now witnessing sudden leaps in aberrant ecosystem behavior long predicted by ecologists and conservation professionals. Trends over the past half-century show that the frequency, intensity and size of wildfires will increase—by orders of magnitude—the loss of biological diversity, property and human lives for many generations to come."

Like any good healer, Dr. Covington worked tirelessly to diagnose the ill-

ness and devise a cure. As part of his research, Wally pored through historical records, old photographs, and land surveys dating back to the turn of the century. He listened to Native American Tribal members, the first inhabitants of our forests, who shared stories told and retold through the generations about elk and deer hunts in open canopied forests teeming with bountiful grasslands. Wally discovered that, in a very short time, about 50 years, the forest landscape of the West had substantially changed.

He hypothesized, correctly, that man's presence had transformed our once fire-adapted, low-density forests into overstocked tinderboxes. Before there was a Forest Service, before westward expansion brought pioneers and homesteaders, the land, he estimated, supported around 50 to 100 pine trees per acre. In contrast, today's modern forests host roughly 300 percent more trees—sometimes as much as 1,000 trees per acre—a number far greater than the natural ecosystem can support. This meant that the West was overloaded with a dangerous amount of kindling fuel.

To prove his theory, Wally ran experiments. Beginning in 1992, on a modest 10-acre parcel of Forest Service land in the Gus Pearson Natural Area, Wally established three test plots. The first plot was used as the control, its post-settlement state preserved as-is. The second plot was thinned of excess pine trees. On the third plot, the trees were thinned to simulate pre-settlement conditions and then subjected to prescribed fire, the kind of controlled burns routinely used by the Forest Service to clear our low-lying fuels from the forest floor.

His test showed that fire behavior dramatically decreased on the plot that was thinned. Trees didn't suffer the same trauma found on the other two plots and in fact responded positively by producing increased resin, which meant increased resistance to bark beetle infestation. Also, the number of species and amount of native grasses and plants increased improving both forage and habitat quality. Wally had successfully conducted the first science-based forest restoration project in history.

Dr. Covington took his findings to Congress, the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the National Academy of Sciences. He met with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt under the Clinton administration and, later, Secretary Gale Norton under the George W. Bush administration, to convince them to implement forest restoration treatments. In many of his meetings, he would echo the old adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

They listened, and Congress listened, as did my Arizona predecessors in the Senate. In 2003, he worked with Senator Jon Kyl to enact legislation like the Health Forests Restoration Act and also established the congressionally chartered Southwest Ecological

Restoration Institutes at NAU, Colorado State University, and New Mexico Highlands University, which assist the Forest Service in developing restoration projects across millions of acres of land.

Today, the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior are working to mechanically thin millions of acres of forestlands across the West to make our forests more resilient to fire. It is a slow, expensive, and time-consuming prospect to reverse 50 years of forest mismanagement across a territory as vast as the United States, but the reward is worth it. In doing so, we are saving our forests, our homes, and human lives.

I cannot overstate Dr. Covington's tremendous contribution to the field of forest ecology. Had it not been for Wally's work, his compassion for healing our unhealthy forests, and his drive to educate policymakers on the sound science behind forest restoration, I suspect our forests would be in far worse shape today. I am proud to recognize Dr. Covington, a fellow Arizonan. Our Nation owes Wally a debt of gratitude that we can never repay.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RYAN MICOZZI

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Ryan for his hard work as an intern in the Senate Republican Conference. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Ryan is a native of New York. He is a graduate of the University of Buffalo, where he studied political science and business administration: human resources. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Ryan for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN FERRIOLA

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the career and service of John Ferriola, who will retire at the end of this year after serving Nucor Steel for nearly three decades. Mr. Ferriola has served as CEO since 2013, and under his leadership, the company has grown and created thousands of good-paying manufacturing jobs here in the U.S. He worked to upgrade Nucor's facility in Marion, OH, with a new rolling mill that began operating this year.

John has been a passionate advocate for American manufacturing and for a

fairer trade policy that works for American workers and businesses. We worked together to pass the Leveling the Playing Field Act in 2015, the first strengthening of our trade remedy laws in more than two decades. That law has helped us win key trade cases for Ohio steel companies over the past 4 years.

When John started at Nucor in 1991, it was a small steel company with just two mills. Last year, Nucor was the largest steel producer in the United States. John understands that workers in Ohio and around the U.S. are the engine behind that success. I look forward to continuing to our fight together for a fair trade policy that puts American workers first, and I wish John Ferriola all the best in his retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR PAY ADJUSTMENTS FOR CIVILIAN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES COVERED BY THE GENERAL SCHEDULE AND CERTAIN OTHER PAY SYSTEMS IN JANUARY 2021—PM 44

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am transmitting an alternative plan for pay adjustments for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2021.

Title 5, United States Code, authorizes me to implement alternative plans for pay adjustments for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems if, because of "national emergency or serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare," I view the increases that would otherwise take effect as inappropriate.

Under current law, locality pay increases averaging 20.67 percent, costing \$21 billion in the first year alone, would go into effect in January 2021, in addition to a 2.5 percent across-the-board increase for the base General Schedule.

We must maintain efforts to put our Nation on a fiscally sustainable course; Federal agency budgets cannot sustain such increases. Accordingly, I have determined that it is appropriate to exercise my authority to set alternative pay adjustments for 2021 pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5303(b) and 5 U.S.C. 5304a.

Specifically, I have determined that for 2021 the across-the-board base pay increase will be limited to 1.0 percent and locality pay percentages will remain at their 2020 levels. This alternative pay plan decision will not materially affect our ability to attract and retain a well-qualified Federal workforce.

As noted in my Budget for Fiscal Year 2021, our pay system must reform to align with mission-critical recruitment and retention goals, and to reward employees whose performance provides value for the American people.

For this purpose, my Budget further directs agencies to increase awards spending in FY 2021 by an amount equal to no less than 1 percent of total salary spending. My Administration will continue to support reforms that advance these aims.

The adjustment described above shall take effect on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2021.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 10, 2020.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—PM 45

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on Appropriations; and the Budget:

To the Congress of the United States:

Over the past 3 years, my Administration has worked tirelessly to restore America's economic strength. We have ended the war on American workers and stopped the assault on American industry, launching an economic boom the likes of which we have never seen before.

While our incredible economic turnaround came as a shock to most career politicians in Washington, it is no surprise to millions of hard-working families across the Nation. Their natural talent, ingenuity, and strength simply needed an opportunity to flourish, free from the massive regulations and taxes heaped upon them by their Government.

As my Administration continues to remove these burdens, our economy continues to surpass expectations. We are growing faster than the experts thought possible. The unemployment rate is at 3.5 percent, the lowest it has been in 50 years. And more Americans are working today than at any point in our history.

Today's tremendous job market is leading employers to realize the vast potential of many individuals they previously overlooked. Over the past 3

years, the employment rate of our prime-age workers has skyrocketed, and wages are growing the fastest for historically disadvantaged workers, reversing trends under the previous administration.

With this 2021 Budget, my Administration is placing a special focus on these forgotten Americans, because every individual deserves to experience the dignity that comes through work. The truth is, jobs do not just provide paychecks: they give people purpose; allow them to engage with their communities; and help them reach their true potential. As we have shown, the right policies offer Americans paths to independence rather than trapping them in reliance on Government programs.

The era of putting American workers second and doubling down on the failed policies of the past is over. While job creation during my Presidency has surpassed expectations, the credit belongs to the job creators and workers who risk everything and devote themselves to building a better future for themselves, their families, and their Nation. The Federal Government does not create jobs; hardworking Americans create jobs. My Administration's role is to follow our foundational policy pillars and allow our job creators and workers to do what they do best.

To ensure this economic strength continues, I have called on the Government to reduce wasteful, unnecessary spending, and to fix mismanagement and redundancy across agencies. This includes prioritizing spending for programs that are a core function of the United States Government.

As we enter the 2020's, our Nation confronts new challenges and opportunities. The 21st century requires us to focus on great power rivals; prioritize artificial intelligence, 5G, and industries of the future; and to protect our research and environment from foreign government influence. To meet these challenges and seize these opportunities, we must shift the Government out of its old and outdated ways. This will require each and every Government agency to do more to prepare for the demands of tomorrow.

The following are key priorities of my Administration:

Better Trade Deals. Renegotiated or new trade deals with Canada and Mexico, China, South Korea, and Japan are modernizing international trade and creating freer, fairer, and more reciprocal trade between the United States and our largest economic partners. These deals will enable our country's manufacturing renaissance to continue. Trade deals are in development with the United Kingdom and the European Union, as well as other countries that desire access to the coveted American market. These deals will expand American markets abroad and keep businesses here in America, which means keeping jobs here at home.

Preserving Peace through Strength. To sustain security at home and pro-

mote American interests abroad, my Administration has rebuilt the military. A strong military, fully equipped and integrated with our allies and all our instruments of power, enables our Nation to deter war, preserve peace, and, if necessary, defeat aggression against the United States and her people. To that end, my Budget requests \$740.5 billion for national defense.

Overcoming the Opioid Crisis. Because of my Administration's aggressive tactics to fight over-prescription of opioids, promote effective treatment for addiction, and secure the border, we are turning the tide of the opioid crisis. Since my term began, we have seen a more than 30 percent decrease in the total amount of opioids prescribed, and deaths from drug overdose fell for the first time in nearly 30 years in 2018.

Failure is not an option when it comes to helping people avoid the pain, suffering, and death caused by addiction. Work must play an integral role in any solution. Research shows that holding a job is a key factor in helping people overcome drug addiction. For the duration of my Presidency, I will continue to promote policies that will beat back this deadly crisis and promote job training and employment opportunities for Americans who are rebuilding their lives after struggling with addiction.

Regulation Relief. Many pundits and Washington insiders laughed when I promised to cut two regulations for every new regulation. They were correct that two-for-one was the wrong goal. Instead, the Federal Government has cut more than seven regulations for every significant new regulation. After only 3 years, my Administration has cut a historic number of regulations, and we have put the brakes on an endless assault of new, costly actions by Federal agencies.

Our commitment to regulatory reform stems from the simple truth that the vast majority of business owners want to do the right thing, comply with the law, and treat their workers fairly. The Federal Government ignored this reality for far too long and abused its authority to go after businesses, especially small businesses and entrepreneurs, in ways that can only be described as arbitrary and abusive.

At the same time, we are maintaining America's world-class standards of environmental protection. Emissions of all criteria pollutants dropped between 2016 and 2018. The United States environmental record is one of the strongest in the world and continues to have some of the cleanest air and water in the world.

American Energy Independence. American energy powers our cities and towns, empowers innovators, drives our economy, and protects our sovereignty. Energy companies across the world are ready to build in our Nation, and permitting reform that cuts red tape shows that we welcome their investments. My Administration continues to support growth in the energy sector

by removing unnecessary regulations and unleashing America's vast natural and human resources. Through these actions, the United States is now on track to be a net exporter of crude oil and natural gas for all of 2020, a major milestone not achieved in nearly 70 years. In addition to being the world's largest natural gas producer, we also became the world's top crude oil producer in 2018.

The records of our energy boom are widespread. Energy production has created jobs in areas of the United States where job opportunities were scarce. It also provides enormous benefits to families across the Nation by lowering energy prices. And it further distances us from geopolitical foes who wish to cause us harm. More jobs, lower costs, and American dominance—these are predictable results of our pro-energy policies.

Today, there is hope throughout America. There is optimism that was not here before 63 million Americans asked me to work for them and drain the swamp. For decades, Washington elites told us that Americans had no choice but to accept stagnation, decay, and decline.

We proved them wrong. Our economy is strong once more, and America's role as leader of the Free World has been restored.

America is the single greatest country in the world. We must never believe for one moment that this great Nation is destined for a diminished future. When we take hold of our freedom, and take our destiny in our hands, we choose to reject a future of American decline. My 2021 Budget sets the course for a future of continued American dominance and prosperity.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 10, 2020.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.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 bills and joint resolutions, without amendment:

S. 375. An act to improve efforts to identify and reduce Governmentwide improper payments, and for other purposes.

S. 394. An act to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions.

S.J. Res. 65. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of John Fahey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

S.J. Res. 67. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Risa Lavizzo-Mourey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1132. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay.

H.R. 1620. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program.

H.R. 2247. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for programs and activities to protect the water quality of Puget Sound, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2382. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2474. An act to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3317. An act to permit the Scipio A. Jones Post Office in Little Rock, Arkansas, to accept and display a portrait of Scipio A. Jones, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3830. An act to provide taxpayers with an improved understanding of Government programs through the disclosure of cost, performance, and areas of duplication among them, leverage existing data to achieve a functional Federal program inventory, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3941. An act to enhance the innovation, security, and availability of cloud computing services used in the Federal Government by establishing the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program within the General Services Administration and by establishing a risk management, authorization, and continuous monitoring process to enable the Federal Government to leverage cloud computing services using a risk-based approach consistent with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 and cloud-based operations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3976. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12711 East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Aretha Franklin Post Office Building".

H.R. 4031. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4044. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4275. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4279. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 445 Main Street in Laceyville, Pennsylvania, as the "Melinda Gene Piccotti Post Office".

H.R. 4305. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy.

H.R. 4794. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8320 13th Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office Building".

H.R. 4981. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2505 Derita Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the "Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 5037. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3703 North Main Street in Farmville, North Carolina, as the "Walter B. Jones, Jr. Post Office".

H.R. 5214. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to prevent fraud by representative payees.

H.R. 5687. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year

ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 1903(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy: Mr. Thompson of Mississippi.

The message further announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4303, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University: Ms. SHALALA of Florida.

The message also announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4303, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University: Mr. BUCSHON of Indiana.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1620. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2247. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for programs and activities to protect the water quality of Puget Sound, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2474. An act to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3317. An act to permit the Scipio A. Jones Post Office in Little Rock, Arkansas, to accept and display a portrait of Scipio A. Jones, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3941. An act to enhance the innovation, security, and availability of cloud computing services used in the Federal Government by establishing the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program within the General Services Administration and by establishing a risk management, authorization, and continuous monitoring process to enable the Federal Government to leverage cloud computing services using a risk-based approach consistent with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 and cloud-based operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3976. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12711 East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Aretha Franklin Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4031. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 4275. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration

Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 4279. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 445 Main Street in Laceyville, Pennsylvania, as the "Melinda Gene Piccotti Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4305. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4794. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8320 13th Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4981. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2505 Derita Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the "Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5037. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3703 North Main Street in Farmville, North Carolina, as the "Walter B. Jones, Jr. Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 5687. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and was referred as indicated:

EC-3930. A communication from the Chief Management Officer, Office of the Chief Management Officer, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Department of Defense Response to the Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act (GAO-IG Act)"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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. LEE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SASSE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. BURR, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3259. A bill to restrict the availability of Federal funds to organizations associated with the abortion industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3260. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

3703 North Main Street in Farmville, North Carolina, as the "Walter B. Jones, Jr. Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3261. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow qualified distributions from health savings accounts for certain home care expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3262. A bill to state the policy of the United States regarding the need for reciprocity in the relationship between the United States and People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; 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 Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 494. A resolution denouncing female genital mutilation or cutting as a violation of the human rights of women and girls and urging the international community and the Federal Government to increase efforts to eliminate the harmful practice; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 190

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 190, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to prohibit assistance to nonprofits, foreign nongovernmental organizations, and quasi-autonomous nongovernmental organizations that promote or perform abortions.

S. 206

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 206, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 227

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 227, a bill to direct the Attorney General to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols appropriate to address missing and murdered Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 251

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 251, a bill to establish the Interdiction for the Protection of Child Victims of Exploitation and Human Trafficking Program to train law enforcement officers to identify and assist victims of child exploitation and human trafficking.

S. 285

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Georgia

(Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 285, a bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 524, a bill to establish the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 593

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to protect civil rights and otherwise prevent meaningful harm to third parties, and for other purposes.

S. 651

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 651, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs.

S. 696

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 696, a bill to designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to reform sentencing, prisons, re-entry of prisoners, and law enforcement practices, and for other purposes.

S. 738

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 738, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to make the provision of Wi-Fi access on school buses eligible for E-rate support.

S. 839

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 839, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 903

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 903, a bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish advanced nuclear goals, provide for a versatile, reactor-based fast neutron

source, make available high-assay, low-enriched uranium for research, development, and demonstration of advanced nuclear reactor concepts, and for other purposes.

S. 980

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1093

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1093, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the troops from the United States and the Philippines who defended Bataan and Corregidor, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service during World War II.

S. 1188

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1188, a bill to promote United States-Mongolia trade by authorizing duty-free treatment for certain imports from Mongolia, and for other purposes.

S. 1399

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1399, a bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Services Act to revise and extend nursing workforce development programs.

S. 1443

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1443, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a non-refundable credit for working family caregivers.

S. 1744

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1744, a bill to provide lawful permanent resident status for certain advanced STEM degree holders, and for other purposes.

S. 1757

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1757, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

S. 1791

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1791, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child

welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S. 1941

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1941, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 1970

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1970, a bill to secure the rights of public employees to organize, act concertedly, and bargain collectively, which safeguard the public interest and promote the free and unobstructed flow of commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 2085

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2085, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust, and for other purposes.

S. 2267

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2267, a bill for the relief of Cesar Carlos Silva Rodriguez.

S. 2499

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2499, a bill to effectively staff the public elementary schools and secondary schools of the United States with school-based mental health services providers.

S. 2530

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2530, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a School Safety Clearinghouse, and for other purposes.

S. 2626

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2626, a bill to remove limitations on inmate eligibility for Medicare, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and veteran's health benefits.

S. 2651

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2651, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide inscriptions for spouses and children on certain headstones and markers furnished by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2661

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2661, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to designate 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line, and for other purposes.

S. 2671

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2671, a bill to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives by investing in effective violence reduction initiatives.

S. 2715

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2715, a bill to develop and implement policies to advance early childhood development, to provide assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2743

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2743, a bill to establish the China Censorship Monitor and Action Group, and for other purposes.

S. 2949

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2949, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible organizations to provide service dogs to veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 2973

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2973, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to harmonize the definition of employee with the common law.

S. 3007

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3007, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require a provider of a report to the CyberTipline related to online sexual exploitation of children to preserve the contents of such report for 180 days, and for other purposes.

S. 3020

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3020, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to

enter into contracts with States or to award grants to States to promote health and wellness, prevent suicide, and improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3154

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3154, a bill to improve the effectiveness of tribal child support enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 3167

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3167, a bill to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair.

S. 3170

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3170, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to expand access to breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace, and for other purposes.

S. 3173

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) 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.

S. 3220

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3220, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to clarify that the provision of home and community-based services is not prohibited in an acute care hospital, and for other purposes.

S. 3239

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3239, a bill to designate the headquarters building of the Department of Transportation located at 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, in Washington, DC, as the "William T. Coleman, Jr., Federal Building".

S. 3244

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3244, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the detection, prevention, and treatment of mental health issues among public safety officers, and for other purposes.

S. 3252

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3252, a bill to prohibit chemical abortions performed without the presence of a healthcare provider, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 68

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 68, 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.

S. CON. RES. 35

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 35, a concurrent resolution providing for a joint hearing of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives to receive a presentation from the Comptroller General of the United States regarding the audited financial statement of the executive branch.

S. RES. 481

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 481, a resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz extermination camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 494—DENOUNCING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION OR CUTTING AS A VIOLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS AND URGING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE THE HARMFUL PRACTICE

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 494

Whereas female genital mutilation or cutting (referred to in this preamble as “FGM/C”) is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of women and girls;

Whereas FGM/C comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for nonmedical reasons;

Whereas an estimated 200 million girls and women alive as of January 2020 have been victims of FGM/C, with girls under the age of 15 representing 44 million of those who have been cut;

Whereas more than 3 million girls are estimated to be at risk of FGM/C annually;

Whereas the practice of FGM/C is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and age 15;

Whereas the practice of FGM/C is rooted in gender inequality and is often linked to other elements of gender-based violence and discrimination, such as child marriage;

Whereas the World Health Organization asserts that FGM/C—

(1) has no health benefits for women and girls; and

(2) can have long-term impacts on the physical, psychological, sexual, and reproductive health of the women and girls who experience FGM/C;

Whereas the impacts of FGM/C on the physical health of women and girls can include bleeding, infection, obstetric fistula, complications during childbirth, and death;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Children’s Fund, FGM/C is reported to occur in all parts of the world, but is most prevalent in parts of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia;

Whereas, although the practice of FGM/C is highly concentrated in specific regions and associated with several cultural traditions, it is not tied to any one religion;

Whereas, in 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published a report estimating that 513,000 women and girls in the United States were at risk of, or may have been subjected to, FGM/C;

Whereas, in 2015, the United Nations adopted a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals that includes a target to eliminate FGM/C by 2030, having previously recognized in 2010 that “the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society”;

Whereas the elimination of FGM/C has been called for—

(1) by numerous intergovernmental organizations, including the African Union, the European Union, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; and

(2) in 3 resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly;

Whereas the Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices prepared by the Department of State include information on—

(1) whether FGM/C is prevalent;

(2) the type and category of genital cutting that is most common; and

(3) international and governmental efforts to address the practice of FGM/C;

Whereas the Federal Government recognized FGM/C as a form of gender-based violence in—

(1) the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally, released in August 2012 and updated in June 2016; and

(2) the United States Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls, released in March 2016;

Whereas a Government Accountability Office report released in 2016 concluded that “State and USAID currently have limited international assistance efforts to address FGM/C”; and

Whereas, in 2012, the United Nations General Assembly designated February 6 as the “International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation” to enhance awareness of, and encourage concrete actions by governments and individuals against, the practice of FGM/C: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) denounces female genital mutilation or cutting as a violation of the human rights of women and girls;

(2) affirms the importance of ending the practice of female genital mutilation or cutting globally for the safety and security of women;

(3) calls upon the international community to increase efforts to accelerate the elimination of female genital mutilation or cutting; and

(4) urges the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to incorporate coordinated efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation or cutting into the gender programs of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, respectively.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 5687

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5687) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, February 11; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Brasher nomination under the previous order; and finally, I ask that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

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, following the remarks of Senator BROWN and Senator ENZI.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, thank you, and I thank the Republican leader.

Last month, while this body was trying, as we know—and failing—to hold the President accountable for betraying the American people, President Trump went to Davos, and he doubled down on another betrayal of the American people.

While he was hobnobbing with the global elite in Switzerland, he let slip his plan, after his tax handouts to billionaires and corporations blew up the deficit—we know deficits now. Thanks to Republican governing, thanks to

this President's tax cut and my Republican colleagues going along with this tax cut that went overwhelmingly to the wealthiest people in this country, the budget deficit has just skyrocketed. We know all that. President Trump now wants to pay for it by cutting Social Security and Medicare. He wants to pay for it by cutting Social Security and Medicare.

Today we got President Trump's budget. This document makes it clear how he wants to pay for his tax scam—on the backs of working families and seniors.

I want to start with one that is of special interest in Ohio. We all know that just in the last 2 or 3 years—well, starting soon after President Trump was elected and then over about a year-and-a-half period, the Lordstown auto plant—about 4,500 jobs—shut down. President Trump had promised those workers—he said to Mahoning Valley: Don't sell your homes. These jobs are coming back. This is going to work for us. And then the President Trump did absolutely nothing. The third shift was laid off. The second shift laid was off. The first shift was laid off. The plant closed, and there were 4,500 lost jobs.

I have been working with Senator PORTMAN—my Republican colleague—and others on getting somebody to come into that plant. It will not just be the 4,500 good UAW jobs, but it could be, potentially, a good many jobs. There was a loan program that we and this company were going to use to make sure they could, if you will, re-industrialize part of the Lordstown complex. Well, the President's budget axed that plan, that loan program. We were counting on that as a way to replace some of those jobs that the President of the United States promised would come back, and now we can't even count on that. There is that.

Then, in addition to the cuts to Medicare and Social Security, he is taking a sledgehammer to Medicaid, to food stamps, to investments in infrastructure, and support for rural communities and small towns. He wants to make it harder to clean up our drinking water and stop polluters.

At a time when one in four renters spends more than half of their income in housing, he wants to make it harder to help families find and afford loans for a home. Pretty much the only ones who escaped unscathed, the only ones the President's budget acts didn't hit: corporations and their wealthy, unaccountable CEOs. To fund their tax cuts—again, the tax cuts 2 years ago—70 percent of the tax cuts went to the wealthiest 1 percent of people in this country. To pay for those tax cuts that have exploded the Federal budget deficit—you don't have to be an accountant like my friend from Wyoming to understand what has happened to this deficit—President Trump wants to ask more from families struggling to make ends meet, the families he promised to fight for, the families he has betrayed. He wants to ask more of seniors and

people with disabilities and students and kids who need healthcare, all to pay for this tax scam.

President Trump sold us a tax cut for working people, but the jig is up. We know people aren't seeing more money in their paychecks. People see Trump's tax scam for what it really was: a giveaway to corporations and the wealthiest, tiny sliver of the population.

Remember the promises the President made that his tax law would mean raises for workers? He said it over and over. I was in the President's Cabinet room with the President and a handful of Senators from both parties. He promised, before it passed, With this tax bill, everybody will get a \$4,000 raise, he said—well, not exactly true.

He told workers last year, the month after he signed the law, You are going to start seeing a lot more money in your paycheck.

One lie after another lie after another lie. Instead of investing in workers, corporations bought back trillions—literally, trillions—of dollars of their own stock to line investors' pockets. Meanwhile, the deficit exploded.

We know what the corporate crowd's plan always is to deal with the deficit, every single time: cut taxes, blow a hole in the deficit, and then go back and pay for it by cuts to Social Security and Medicare. How do we know that is what they are going to do? Because they told us that is what they are going to do. In spring 2017, right after President Trump was elected, the Wall Street Journal ran an op-ed by economist Martin Feldstein, who has built his career pushing tax cuts for his rich friends.

Guess how he wanted President Trump to pay for his corporate giveaway? In those days, the President said, We will have so much economic growth that it will pay for itself. Well, the economic growth has been less in these 3 years of Trump than in the last 3 years of Obama, but that is not the point. The point is he said it would pay for itself.

Well, Martin Feldstein didn't believe that. He knew. He said in this article that it will not pay for itself; it will pay a little bit. But he said the best way to do it is raise the Social Security retirement age. It looks like President Trump was listening to Martin Feldstein.

It always comes back to whose side are you on. You stand with workers, or you stand with corporations. You stand with insurance companies, or you stand with patients. You stand with Wall Street, or you stand with consumers.

Do you fight for Wall Street wealth? Or do you fight for the dignity of work? If you love this country, you fight for the people who make it work. The President promised to fight for American workers and their families. This budget he released today is the latest in a long line of broken promises and betrayals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Wyoming.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I suspect I couldn't have come to the floor at a better time. The President's budget did come out today. It consists of a set of documents a foot high. In my opinion, the whole pile should be replaced with a list from the President of what he thinks are pretty good ideas to do this year.

I want to encourage people, including the Senator from Ohio, not to waste any time searching out the President's budget cuts. Nobody has listened to the President in the 23 years that I have been here. Congress doesn't pay attention to the President's budget exercise. I don't know why we put him through that. That is all it is.

Congress holds the pursestrings, according to the Constitution. Congress is very protective of that constitutional authority. If you don't believe me, watch all the rhetoric that comes out on the President's budget. I am hoping that I hear something positive on it, but it is pretty hard to find anything positive with the funding situation that we are in. I do have to take issue with something that was just said here, that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act hasn't worked. It has worked.

Now, a very important thing for everybody to know: The problem that we are in right now with our deficits doesn't have to do with the dollars that are coming in. The first year after the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we took in more revenue than ever before. More people had jobs. More people were paying taxes. Companies were paying more taxes. They were doing more business. That results in more taxes. So, that first year, we got more money than we had ever had to spend before.

The second year, we had more money than the first year. We keep getting more money to spend. The problem is we have no control over our urge to spend. Since CBO's June 2019 Long-Term Budget Outlook, Congress has passed and the President has signed legislation that would add more than \$2 trillion to our national debt over the next 10 years. That is how we are spending.

The increased spending caps from the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 are responsible for \$1.7 trillion of that \$2.1 trillion. It does include interest costs, but that is what we have to pay any time we have a debt. That \$1.7 trillion passed with no debate. There was a budget point of order. I had established a budget point of order, which takes 60 votes. I missed by four being able to stop that. We can't spend that way. But that isn't the President's budget. That is our budget.

Over the next few days, you will hear lots of complaints about the President's budget. Seldom will anybody mention anything good, and it has been that way for every President. You will

hear lots of terrible things about the President's budget. You won't hear anything positive. In the present political atmosphere, you probably will not learn anything from the comments. Little of a positive nature is getting any coverage in Washington these days.

Recently, I went to a hearing on the dangers of youth vaping. It turned into a diatribe about President Trump. Presidents' budgets, regardless of what President, are a chance for Members not in his party to beat up verbally on whoever is President. For that reason, I didn't hold a hearing on President Obama's last budget, and I will not be holding one on this President's budget for that reason. Let me repeat that. Because it turns into a diatribe against the President, I did not hold a hearing on President Obama's last budget, and, for that same reason, I am not going to hold a hearing on this President's budget.

If you want the animosity of a budget hearing, the House of Representatives will have the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, for a hearing this Wednesday. You can take that in and get your dose of animosity if you want. It will be a chance for the House to ask loaded, venomous questions of the Director.

The budget process is not working. The only thing of real value in any President's budget is our history of spending. That is what has already been done. We ought to look at that. We ought to see the mistakes that we have made, the way that we have piled up this debt. If Congress, for once, could spend a portion of the scrutiny they give to the President's projected cuts and, instead, look at the history of our spending, we might be able to gain ground. Yes, only cuts will be blasted, even though we never make cuts; we just keep spending.

The official budget is done in the Senate and separately in the House and is only official if the House and Senate can reach agreement. When the two Chambers of Congress are opposite majorities, there is little chance for agreement. From history, I can assure you cuts will not be made. I can also assure you that seldom does any program get as big of an increase as the participants request, but that is changing. There is no spending constraint. There is seldom an attempt to find money to cover the costs, especially on new services that are dreamed up.

I will do a budget. I will ask the Democrats to help put together a responsible budget, working with Republicans. That is really the only way it can work responsibly. What do I mean by "responsibly"? The Budget Committee only sets limits on spending. A lot of people think that we dig into every detail and decide how much everybody is going to get. No. We set limits in a broad number of categories. It is the Appropriations Committee that allocates the specific dollars, but we always wind up spending beyond the

limit set by the budget, even if a budget can be agreed on.

How can that happen? When a spending bill or a spending idea comes to the Senate floor, the bill technically needs 60 votes to pass. To bust the budget limits also only takes 60 votes, so any idea or spending bill that is able to pass already, it already has the votes to bust the budget and put us deeper into debt.

Congress also doesn't meet spending deadlines. If Congress passes a continuing resolution, which means we couldn't agree by the end of the fiscal year, the government stays open with permission to spend each month 1/12 of what it was allocated the previous year. That is what a continuing resolution does; it allows them to keep operating at what they had before.

Continuing resolutions continue until both sides are able to negotiate what they want, but the new method of compromise is you can have everything you want as long as you will let me have everything I want. What kind of negotiation is that?

Well, as I mentioned before, it is \$1.7 trillion and one vote with no debate. Yeah. How would your Christmas shopping for your family work under those circumstances where everybody could have whatever they wanted? Wouldn't it even be worse if you were spending someone else's money for those Christmas presents? What if it appeared to be an unlimited supply of money? How long would that last?

Of course, if a continuing resolution doesn't pass, the government is shut down. The employees are sent home. Federal public places are shut down and closed to the public. When agreement is finally reached, the employees come back. They are paid for the time they were off. They are way behind in their work, which hurts the economy when permits aren't released—and other things. We also have to pay lots of overtime to catch up for the time they were off.

There are several proposals out there that could stop shutdowns and put pressure on Congress to get the spending job done on time. How long can we overspend? Well, interest, I think, is currently in the area of 2½ percent. If people lose confidence in the Federal Government, we will have to pay a higher interest rate in order to get the money to cover the debt. Yes, we have to pay the interest. If we default on the interest, the country defaults. If that interest rate were to go from the current 2½ percent to the normal 5 percent, we would only be able to pay for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

You didn't hear me say anything about defense. You didn't hear me say anything about education. You didn't hear me say anything about infrastructure. You didn't hear me say anything except Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare. That is what happens if people lose confidence in this, if they think we are overspending continually

and that we don't intend to get control over it.

I will tell you a few other things that you might not be aware of. Did you know that most Federal dollars are spent without Congress ever voting on it a second time? Those are called mandatory programs. Once a program is approved in the mandatory category, that spending is never voted on again. Worse yet, no one hardly ever looks at the program to see if it does what it was supposed to do. Nothing should be mandatory that doesn't have a source of revenue—that is, money—sufficient to fund it into the future. Do you know what that would amount to if we had that kind of rule on mandatory?

Social Security no longer brings in as much money as we pay out. Medicare doesn't bring in the money that we pay out. Medicaid doesn't bring in the money that we pay out. In the mandatory programs, there are probably only about four that have a source of revenue to fund them. The rest all take money from the general fund, which means that the general fund doesn't really have any money for the discretionary things that we vote on—you know, that big fight we have once a year come October 1 to fund the rest of government—and mostly defense is in that category.

I don't get invited to speak at many places. It is kind of depressing.

But once the program is approved, mandatory spending is never voted on again, and no one looks at the program to see what it is supposed to do. They still get their annual money, even though some of these programs have expired. They had an expiration date, and we went past the expiration date, which means the program shouldn't exist anymore, but it does, and we continue to fund it, not only at its previous, expired level. We keep adding cost-of-living increases for it. Yes, it is probably needed, but what is the money really doing?

No business would be in business if they didn't check even more than annually to see what is working effectively and eliminating those that aren't. We should be doing that task. When was the last time you saw a program eliminated around here? I have been here 23 years. Nope.

Then there is the problem with program duplication. When I got to Washington, there were 119 preschool children's programs. Those are really important. If kids get the learning they need before they go to kindergarten, it makes a difference in the rest of their life—but 119 programs? Senator KENNEDY and I worked together and merged quite a few of those. We eliminated some—so there are some programs that got eliminated—and we got that down to 45 programs. Five would probably do the job. We did pass an amendment to a bill that said that those had to be pared down to five programs, and that all of them had to be under the Department of Education. The reason we weren't able to get

below 45 is because we didn't have jurisdiction over those in Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Those were all in other groups.

In the area of housing, we have 160 programs—160 programs—and they are administered by 20 different agencies. So really, nobody is in charge. So nobody is setting goals. So nobody is checking to see if it is working. Nobody is checking to see if the program over here in one of those 20 is the same as the program over here in another one of the 20, which would allow them to be merged.

Merging saves money. If you merge, you only need one director, instead of two, and you don't need all the assistants there were. You only need the assistants for one program, and the money that would be stuck in Washington can actually go to what we thought was going to get done. Every merger results in savings. Elimination results in more savings. How much better would it be to move the money to where the results are?

The proposed budget reforms that Senator WHITEHOUSE and I have worked on would provide for portfolio reviews. Here is how that works. Each committee would have to look at all of the programs, of the type that would be in their jurisdiction if it weren't handled in a bunch of other places. So those other places would have to look at the ones under their jurisdiction. If we can get that portfolio review, I think we would find that some of those areas where we are doing it time after time, mostly by just adding to Washington bureaucracy.

We want the money out there where the problem is. We think we are solving

problems, but we are not solving problems. We are just hiring more people in DC. We used to have a policy that the last person hired would be the first person fired and that resulted in an increase in government, too, because as soon as you got hired, you could expand your workload so you needed an assistant, and now you weren't the first in line to be fired. That has resulted in a lot of people working in Washington. How much money actually makes it to the problem? We ought to see if the money makes it to the people or if we are just increasing Washington bureaucracy.

Over the next few weeks, I will be going into some detail on each of these problems with budgeting. I will also be promoting the budget reforms that Senator WHITEHOUSE and I and the Budget Committee have put out favorably. I think that is the first budget provision in about the last 20 decades that has come out of the committee in a bipartisan way.

Now, I could tell you that the reforms that we proposed will not solve all of the problem. You can't take that big of a leap when you have that big of a problem. But while those reforms will not solve the problem, they should help to make the solutions more noticeable.

We are having trouble getting that on the floor, too.

I really came to the floor to eliminate some of the concerns about the President's budget. I want people to know that they don't all have to fly to Washington to make their case to the Budget Committee for their program. Once the Budget Committee sets the parameters, then, the detail comes into

play with the Appropriations Committee.

Talk to your appropriators. They spend the money—the exact dollars. Do your work there, but be sure your program is as effective as it can be. Also, take a little look at how many similar Federal programs there are. See if there can be a savings by merging some, thus getting more money out in the field where you are and getting more money on the problem.

Once again, the President's budget came out today. It consists of a set of documents a foot high. In my opinion, the whole pile should be replaced with a list from the President of what he thinks are pretty good ideas to do this year and, hopefully, there will also be a little piece in there that says how you can pay for it.

So don't waste any time searching out the President's budget program cuts. Congress doesn't pay any attention to the President's budget exercise. That is all it is—an exercise. Congress holds the purse strings, according to the Constitution, and Congress is very protective of that constitutional authority. Now we need to do the work that goes with that authority.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:38 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE INCREASED TRANSPARENCY IN 501(C)(4) ORGANIZATIONS ACT OF 2020

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Increased Transparency in 501(c)(4) Organizations Act of 2020. This bill would require the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to make publicly available the forms organizations that self-declare under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) file with the IRS. Americans have the right to know which organizations are operating under this section of the IRC.

To be eligible for tax-exempt status under 501(c)(4), organizations, often referred to as "social welfare organizations," must be "devoted exclusively to charitable, educational, or recreational purposes." They can choose to apply for 501(c)(4) status from the IRS, or they can simply self-declare. Previously, organizations seeking to self-declare their 501(c)(4) status were not required even to notify the IRS of their existence. In 2015, however, the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (the PATH Act) was enacted into law. Under that law, an organization seeking to self-declare their 501(c)(4) status now must file a notice with the IRS that it is operating under this section. The PATH Act did not, however, make the filed notices, Form 8976, subject to public disclosure.

The IRS has opined that Form 8976 cannot be made available under the Freedom of Information Act or other disclosure laws. This opinion creates a discrepancy between those organizations for which the IRS must make publicly available information—all Section 501(c)(3) organizations and 501(c)(4) organizations that applied that for status—and self-declared 501(c)(4) organizations. This discrepancy appears to have been inadvertently created by the PATH Act.

My bill would correct this oversight and mandate that the IRS publicly disclose any filed Form 8976 upon request, thus allowing the public to know which organizations operate under 501(c)(4), as they do with 501(c)(3) organizations. In the aftermath of the Citizens United Supreme Court decision, which allows for unlimited expenditure in political campaigns from these "social welfare" groups, this bill is especially important to allow for greater transparency. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on roll call votes cast on February 7, 2020.

On Roll Call Vote Number 54, on the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "Yea."

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOMESTRETCH

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the 30th anniversary of Homestretch, a Falls Church organization dedicated to empowering homeless families in Northern Virginia to secure permanent housing and to attain the knowledge, skills and hope they need to achieve lasting economic self-sufficiency.

Homestretch has assisted substantially in the efforts of Fairfax County and the City of Falls Church to end homelessness by providing housing and comprehensive services to over 1,000 homeless families with over 3,000 homeless children since its inception in 1990.

The organization contributes to the goals of One Fairfax by equipping families to escape homelessness and poverty permanently through programs that help them acquire skills and education, reduce debt and repair credit, enter lucrative career paths and restore their health.

Furthermore, Homestretch significantly contributes to the economic empowerment of homeless parents with children in Northern Virginia by launching them into such careers as nurses, chefs, teachers, accountants, realtors, dental assistants, pastors, commercial drivers, social workers, business analysts, pharmacy techs, master plumbers, restaurateurs, and auto mechanics.

In addition to its wide array of services for homeless families, Homestretch also provides quality early education for homeless and low-income children through its licensed preschool, Kidstretch, and ensures the educational success for youth in their program through its dedicated collaboration with the Fairfax County and Falls Church City Schools.

Homestretch has achieved unparalleled success in equipping homeless families to secure and maintain long term employment and permanent housing, with 90 percent families completing the program by moving into permanent housing that they can afford on income they earn; and with 95 percent of its graduates never returning to homelessness.

The organization enjoys deep community support with over 800 volunteers over 1,400 donors each year and demonstrates that dramatic transformation of lives is possible, given the right structure, support and opportunity.

I commend Homestretch's staff on their organization's 30th anniversary, I am sincerely grateful for their tireless efforts to improve the lives of many of Northern Virginia's most vulnerable families and for giving them the tools to succeed.

RACHEL CRANE MATHER SCHOOL

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rachel Crane Mather, the founder of Beaufort's Mather School.

Rachel Mather moved to the Lowcountry in 1867 after the Civil War. She was a woman of faith and an educator. Mather hit the ground running as soon as she got to Beaufort and within a year, she opened her own institution. Her hopes and dreams came to life by serving others.

The book of Matthew, Chapter 11, verse 28 reads "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Led by faith and perseverance, Mather taught the weary and gave them food, housing, and rest during the southern Reconstruction Era.

The Mather School was a sanctuary for the young women in the Lowcountry and produced over a century of superior education in Rachel's name. As the matriarch of this institution, we honor the culture and legacy she has left today.

RECOGNIZING RONNIE RAKESTRAW

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Mississippian, Ronnie Rakestraw.

Ronnie Rakestraw formerly served the public as the Union County East Post Justice Court Judge for over 32 years. During his extensive career, Ronnie saw many changes in the Mississippi court system. He was present when Union County decided to divide justice court judges into East and West Posts. Ronnie always remained a dedicated public servant and continued to put Mississippi first. He also served as a municipal court judge for the town of Sherman, Mississippi, for over 20 years.

I thank Ronnie for his lifelong dedication to the law and for making Mississippi a better place. I wish him many years of good health.

● 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.

HONORING MASTER CAPTAIN
WILLIAM WARD

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Master Captain William Ward, of Florida, who passed away December 13, 2019 at the age of 57.

William was licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard as a Merchant Marine Officer in 1991. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida-College of Business in Accounting in 1994, and attained his Juris Doctor degree in 2013, from Barry University College of Law.

Mr. Ward was the President and C.E.O. of Captains Finest Seafood from 1994 to 2009, served on the Gulf Fisherman's Association board of directors since 2004, was the Vice President of Seafood Harvesters of America, and a board member with the Gulf Coast Leadership Conference. In addition, Mr. Ward was a member director of Fish for America, USA, representing and educating the millions of seafood consumers in the United States. His leadership and efforts earned him the title of Florida Businessman of the Year in 2001 and in 2004 as the National Business Council Chairman.

Mr. Ward advocated for sensible fisheries policy, including passage of the Port State Measures Agreement, which helped curb unregulated, unreported and illegal fishing. Additionally, Mr. Ward assisted in drafting legislation, advocating on its behalf, and consulting with state and federal governmental agencies in the development and implementation of protectionary natural resource regulations and rules. William also served as an expert consultant after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. He worked extensively on the passage of the Restore Act which provided the primary source of funding for the economic and ecological recovery of the Gulf States.

Mr. Ward represented the State of Florida as a two-time Gubernatorial Appointee to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission from 1999 to 2003. Further, William has served on numerous state and federal natural resources advisory panels, as well as two NOAA federal appointments serving on the advisory committees of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

Later in life, William worked as an attorney on several successfully litigated state and federal court cases during his time as managing partner of Ward Consulting Partners, LLC, and the William Ward Law Group, PLLC. He also testified as an expert witness on marine fisheries cases in federal court, one of which prevailed in the U.S. Supreme Court.

During his career, William has consulted or worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Washington D.C., NOAA, Southeast Headquarters, NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Florida Institute of Oceanography, University of South Florida-College of Marine Science, University of Miami-Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Regional Coast Guard Headquarters in New Orleans, Miami, St. Petersburg, and Clearwater.

William Ward was well respected and cherished on Capitol Hill, among his peers on the water, in the legal community and in the environmental community. He was a great friend and compassionate advocate who worked tirelessly to protect the people and waters he loved. Thanks to his contributions and advocacy, our coastal environment and fisheries are more sustainable than before.

NATIONAL COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, today, we recognize the Eighth Annual Court Reporters and Captioners Week. Approximately 48 million Americans are considered deaf or hard-of-hearing, and the captioning services that realtime writers and stenographic captioners ensure that all Americans have equal access to news and other vital information.

Realtime writers are highly trained professionals who share a unique ability to convert the spoken word to text that can be read, streamed, broadcast, searched, and archived. This specialization includes broadcast captioning and realtime translation services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing, as well as providing near-instant translation in legal and other settings.

In the 116th Congress, I am proud to have reintroduced the Training for Realtime Writers Act, which reauthorizes the Training for Realtime Writers Grant Program and encourages careers in realtime writing and court reporting, provides scholarships for students, and modernizes curriculum to adapt to our changing world. I was proud to have my bill included in the 2008 Higher Education Act Reauthorization.

The Training for Realtime Writers Grant Program has been incredibly successful in training the current generation of captioners and court reporters and has aided in the rapid growth of these professions. By reauthorizing the Training for Realtime Writers grants, new students will have the opportunity to enter a technical, well-paid, and highly skilled career that will allow them to become court reporters and captioners immediately upon graduation.

From maintaining the integrity of our democracy to ensuring every citizen stays up to date on today's 24-hour news cycle, realtime writers are vital to Americans in all communities. Over the past decade, this program has encouraged a new generation of realtime writers to enter this vital field. I am proud to work with the National Court Reporters Association and with my friend Rep. Rodney Davis, to reauthorize this program so we can continue to increase awareness and interest in this profession.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK REITER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and a giant in the recycling industry—Mark Reiter.

Mark was born and grew up in the Bronx—the South Bronx as he would say. Mark was an avid Brooklyn Dodgers fan. He later became a Nationals fan as a result of spending most of his life in Washington, D.C.; but make no mistake about it, Mark was a New Yorker through and through and never let you forget it.

Mark originally came to Washington to work for the late Bella Abzug. Mark would often entertain people with stories about those years working in her office. Representative Abzug was proud of Mark and his tireless devotion to environmental issues, as well as his commitment to others, especially those who were less fortunate. Later, Mark worked for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, helping shape our nation's environmental policy at its earliest stages. While he was a reliable Democrat, many of his friends were very reliable Republicans. He knew how to get things done by working with others, understanding others, and of course, caring for others.

One of Mark's great accomplishments was the enactment of the Superfund Recycling Equity Act (SREA), which provided environmental clarity for recyclers facing potential liability under Superfund. Because of SREA, recyclers today conduct due diligence to ensure their materials are used again in an environmentally responsible manner. SREA was a monumental achievement for responsible recycling and Mark was instrumental in its enactment.

Mark was fiercely loyal and devoted to his family—his brother, nephews, nieces, and their children. Mark would visit them often wherever they lived and generously help whenever needed. He was very proud of them all. He often spoke of his admiration of his parents and how their hard work enabled him to succeed in ways they could never have imagined, especially as they were recent immigrants to this great country. Mark never forgot where he came from and the sacrifices his parents made for him and his older brother Eli.

Mark helped so many colleagues from his beginnings on Capitol Hill through his long successful career at the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries. Many of his colleagues have gone on to great careers of their own as a result of Mark's tutelage and deep caring for them. I know because I am one of those colleagues who learned so much and was helped by Mark over the years.

Mark was also a man of faith. His Jewish faith helped him become a caring man to so many, whether they be family, friends, colleagues or strangers. People were simply people in Mark's eyes. Mark cared about how others were treated in our society and would speak up for them without reservation. He felt he had walked in their shoes before them and wanted life to be better for them.

Madam Speaker, we lost a giant in the recycling industry, the environmental community, and the Jewish community. Mark was a great colleague, a mentor, and a friend to many. His family and friends are so proud of who Mark became and what he left behind—a world he helped make better through his devotion to others, his work and his actions. Mark will be missed by so many.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes during the week of January 27th to January 31st, 2020, due to an inability to fly while recovering from an upper-respiratory infection. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 23; YEA on Roll Call No. 24; YEA on Roll Call No. 25; YEA on Roll Call No. 26; YEA on Roll Call No. 27; YEA on Roll Call No. 28; YEA on Roll Call No. 29; NAY on Roll Call No. 30; YEA on Roll Call No. 31; YEA on Roll Call No. 32; YEA on Roll Call No. 33; and YEA on Roll Call No. 34.

CONGRATULATING SHALISHA THOMAS ON HER RECEIPT OF THE 2019-2020 MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Shalisha Thomas on being named a recipient of the 2019-2020 Milken Educator Award.

Described as "the Oscars of Teaching," this honor is awarded to 40 educators nationally, and Ms. Thomas is the only winner from the State of Arkansas. According to the Milken Family Foundation, Ms. Thomas was given this distinct honor for her efforts to encourage her students through art.

Having received a degree in art education from the University of Arkansas in 2012, Ms. Thomas is also a valuable asset to the young people of the Pine Bluff community in her ability to encourage a high academic standard, build meaningful student-teacher relationships, and set students up for success in all aspects of life.

Ms. Thomas' work is a shining example of the power of an educator in the lives of young people and the power of service to a surrounding community. I take this time to applaud her on her award and her further successes, and to thank her for her exceptional representation of Arkansas and Fourth District educators.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I regretably missed votes on Friday, February 7, 2020. I had intended to vote "yes" on roll call vote 52, "no" on roll call vote 53, and "yes" on roll call vote 54.

SUPPORT FOR THE LEE OF CALIFORNIA HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 550—TO REPEAL THE AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION OF 2002

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, authorizing military force is the most sobering responsibility Congress has.

Washington's 10th District includes Joint Base Lewis-McChord, where over 40,000 servicemembers are stationed. I am very aware that every decision I make can affect their lives and the lives of their families. I take that responsibility very seriously.

In 2001, Congress passed an Authorization for the Use of Military Force only three days after the September 11th attacks. Because the country was still trying to determine exactly how we had been attacked, that AUMF was written broadly. In the time since, the 2001 AUMF has been used dozens of times to justify military action.

Subsequently, Congress passed another AUMF in 2002, which authorized military action in Iraq. President Trump cited the 2002 AUMF as justification for his decision to kill Qassem Soleimani in early January, more than 17 years after the AUMF's passage.

I have advocated for the end of the 2002 AUMF since 2014, during my first term in Congress. But it was only when I joined the House Intelligence Committee last Congress that I fully appreciated the scope and scale of our missions around the world.

I would have joined my colleagues in voting to repeal the 2002 AUMF, and I was proud to cosponsor the underlying resolution. I strongly believe that Congress must reassert its role in decisions of when to use military force. The 2002 AUMF has been used to justify military action that had not been contemplated by Congress. By repealing it, Congress will bring grave decisions about war and military action closer to the people whose lives will be altered by them. I am glad the House voted for such an outcome.

HONORING LILIAN SMITH OF COEUR D'ALENE IDAHO

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Lilian Smith of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. At a young age, Lilian found she had a love for mathematics and a passion to share her knowledge with her fellow students. As she entered high school, Lilian created a non-profit to organize competitive math teams and peer mentoring programs at over 12 local schools in the Coeur d'Alene area. When first starting, Lilian convinced a local elementary school to start an after-school math team, and it grew from there. Through her work, Lilian has recruited dozens of student coaches, mentors, and has even secured

funding for the future growth of her organization, "Growing the STEM." In just three short years, Lilian has helped over 400 students develop a meaningful skill set in mathematics and undoubtedly many future careers in major STEM fields. Her initiative is seen every day—through her fellow students—and through the community of Coeur d'Alene. As the head math coach at her local high school, Lilian continues to help fellow students excel in mathematics. While it may be difficult to measure the impact she has made, it is clear that this is just the beginning of Lilian's impact on our community. I thank Lilian for her hard work and dedication to the future of so many Idaho students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I was inadvertently detained and was unable to make votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 41; YEA on Roll Call No. 42; YEA on Roll Call No. 43; NAY on Roll Call No. 44; YEA on Roll Call No. 45; YEA on Roll Call No. 46; YEA on Roll Call No. 47; NAY on Roll Call No. 48; YEA on Roll Call No. 49; NAY on Roll Call No. 50; and NAY on Roll Call No. 51.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF IRA LEWIS

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Chief Ira Lewis, USCG (Ret.) of Harker's Island, North Carolina, who passed away recently at the age of 101. Mr. Lewis began his career as a fisherman, and then joined the Coast Guard in 1938. He served 21 years on the south shore of Long Island, New York, the final 3½ years as lighthouse keeper at Montauk Lighthouse. After retiring from the Coast Guard and returning to Harker's Island, Ira worked for 9 years at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station as a civilian. He continued fishing, and tended the local veteran's memorial, making sure flags were flown and grounds were well groomed.

In 1940 Ira married the love of his life, Maggie Hancock, whom he had met in the second grade. They had two children Ann and Phil, and eventually grandchildren, great-grandchildren, a great great-grandson. Unfortunately, Maggie preceded Ira in death in 1999 after battling cancer.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this veteran, patriot and public servant, Chief Ira Lewis who valiantly carried on the storied tradition of courage, faithfulness and service that characterizes our United States Coast Guard. May we never forget the sacrifices made by those in uniform, past and present, and always keep our dedicated service members in our thoughts and prayers.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE
SURVIVORS WEEK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, this week we honor the second National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

I rise today to lift the voices of survivors who live with the impact of gun violence each and every day.

Every year, over 36,000 Americans are killed in acts of gun violence and approximately 73,330 more are shot and injured.

Every day in America, one hundred people die and hundreds more are wounded by gun violence. Even more are threatened or witness gun violence.

America's gun death rate is 11 times greater than that of other developed countries.

This is why House Democrats have passed commonsense legislation like H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Check Act, and H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Check Act, to help End Gun Violence to keep our communities safe. Yet Leader MCCONNELL continues to block a vote on this crucial step forward.

This is SHAMEFUL.

The American people deserve ACTION. Not political gamesmanship.

We must stop the bloodshed and the tears. Our children and our communities deserve more than just thoughts and prayers—they deserve action.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, due to traveling with President Trump to North Carolina, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 52; Yea on Roll Call No. 53; and Nay on Roll Call No. 54.

HILLSBORO CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, the City of Hillsboro, and Washington County on the 125th anniversary of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce. The City of Hillsboro has grown from its agrarian roots to emerge as an economic engine in the State of Oregon.

Since the Hillsboro Chamber was founded in 1895, it has worked tirelessly with local business and community leaders to bring greater opportunities to the people of Hillsboro. When the Southern Pacific Railroad arrived, the ability to export wheat, hops, berries, onions, and dairy helped expand a commercial district in the community that eventu-

ally led to the formation of the Chamber. The Chamber emerged as an advocate for farmers and community members and, over time, the economic prospects of a once sleepy agrarian town expanded. During the Great Depression, the Hillsboro Chamber committed itself to unifying the community in difficult financial times, helping to lift spirits with celebrations such as Happy Days, Hillsboro Bargain Days, and the Harvest Festival. The Chamber also helped the local economy survive by partnering with the City of Hillsboro to administer funds that were used to employ workers to expand runways at the airport, build a post office and hospital, and improve a municipal water system. These early investments in infrastructure have helped make Hillsboro and the surrounding region a hub for the semiconductor and high technology industry. Silicon Forest, as it is known today, will continue to lead the way in development of new technologies and innovative thinking.

Even with the expansion of the economy and growth of modern industry, the Chamber has continued to support small business owners and community members, making sure they have the opportunity to participate in the growing economy. In 1995, The Hillsboro Chamber created the School to Career Program, which has developed an important workforce pipeline to connect high school students from schools throughout Washington County to career opportunities in their communities. By connecting employers to educators and community leaders, the Hillsboro Chamber is also at the forefront of rethinking post-secondary opportunities for its community members.

The 125th anniversary of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce is a testament to how a collaborative commitment between multiple stakeholders makes a community better for everyone. Although Hillsboro and the surrounding region look very different now, the spirit of collaboration and seeking opportunity in Hillsboro remains the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Thursday, February 6 and Friday, February 7. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: NAY on Roll Call No. 38; NAY on Roll Call No. 39; NAY on Roll Call No. 40; NAY on Roll Call No. 41; YEA on Roll Call No. 42; YEA on Roll Call No. 43; NAY on Roll Call No. 44; YEA on Roll Call No. 45; YEA on Roll Call No. 46; YEA on Roll Call No. 47; NAY on Roll Call No. 48; YEA on Roll Call No. 49; NAY on Roll Call No. 50; NAY on Roll Call No. 51; NAY on Roll Call No. 52; YEA on Roll Call No. 53; and NAY on Roll Call No. 54.

RECOGNIZING LAUREL WALSH

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Laurel Walsh

of Greenville, North Carolina. For more than 35 years, she has been the first face people would see at St. Peter Catholic School. She answered the phone, led tours, maintained enrollment records, helped handle billing, and also served as school nurse. For 20 years she even served as athletic director. Not only that, but for all those jobs, and for all those years she never once brought home a paycheck. Although a few people in leadership were aware, most in the St. Peter family thought Mrs. Walsh was a paid employee. Her secret was safe until about two months ago when the school established an endowment in her honor. In announcing the creation of the Laurel Walsh Fund, school officials revealed that this longtime employee was, in fact, a volunteer.

Teacher Joe Hughes who has worked with Walsh for three decades said: "She's just so kind to everyone. She's just a fine person, just a good example of what a human being should be, what Christ called us to be."

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this incredible volunteer, but more importantly, a wonderfully faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, and my personal friend, Laurel Walsh.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances directly related to the betterment of the community I serve, I had to miss voting on H.R. 5678 and all accompanying amendments. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 52; Yea on Roll Call No. 53; and Nay on Roll Call No. 54.

IN HONOR OF GENE AND PEGGY
RADIN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gene Radin and Mrs. Peggy Radin of Jessamine County, Kentucky. Both Mr. and Mrs. Radin are honored veterans of our great nation.

Mr. Radin joined the United States Coast Guard in 1948. He served for 43 years and earned the rank of CWO4 prior to his retirement in 1991. Chief Petty Officer Peggy Radin served in the Coast Guard for 20 years. Between the two of them, they devoted 63 years of service to America.

Following retirement from the Coast Guard, Mr. and Mrs. Radin began serving their fellow veterans by volunteering at the Thomson-Hood Veteran Center in Wilmore, Kentucky. Mr. Radin recently completed 25 years of volunteer service. In addition, for many years Mr. Radin has placed American flags at the graves of Coast Guard servicemen and women at Camp Nelson National Cemetery on the Saturday before Memorial and Veterans Days.

Mr. Radin turns 90 years old today, February 10. It is fitting to honor on this day such dedicated veterans and proud Americans as Mr. Gene Radin and his wife Mrs. Peggy Radin. They exemplify the American spirit and patriotic service that make this the greatest nation on earth. Mr. and Mrs. Radin are to be commended for their service both in the Coast Guard as well as to the veteran community in central Kentucky.

It is my honor to acknowledge the lives of these great Americans, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Radin, before the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Financial Services, I am deeply committed to strengthening consumer protections through legislative action. I was proud to vote in support of each of the bills in H.R. 3621—Comprehensive CREDIT Act of 2020 in committee, and I commend my colleagues for passing the package out of the House. While I was unfortunately unable to vote on House passage, I would have voted in support.

HOOSIER YOUTH CHALLENGE CLASS 25

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, this past December, I had the honor of serving as the keynote speaker for the graduation of Class 25 of the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy.

Since 2007, the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy has helped change the lives of many young men and women between the ages of 16 and 18, who, for one reason or another, were headed down the wrong path. Many cadets who take part in the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy program are either dropouts or have been expelled from school.

For five and half months, the cadets of Class 25 participated in a quasi-military modeled training and education program that teaches and instills in them a sense of discipline, responsibility, achievement and positive behavior.

Among the group of graduates included an impressive 17-year-old from Indianapolis named De'Von Bates. As the Distinguished Honor Graduate, Cadet Bates spoke to his peers as a leader, a role model and a changed young man now filled with confidence, pride and strength. A sense of accomplishment and hope washed over the faces of he and his fellow graduates upon completion of this rigorous program, and I would like to include in the RECORD Cadet Bates' remarks:

"Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to start off by saying welcome to the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy's 25th graduating class. It is an honor and a privilege to represent this class of 60 as the

Distinguished Honor Graduate. It is truly inspiring to look out at my fellow cadets and see just how much we have changed, both physically and mentally. In the beginning, on Day Zero, I remember waiting in line to get a haircut thinking, "This is not where I want to be." By the looks around the room everyone else had the same exact mindset as me. All we had in common that day was a uniform and an I.D. card, and trust me: those pictures were not pretty.

During Acclimation Phase we were introduced to a lot of concepts and ideas we weren't used to: for some it was early wake ups; for others it was the physical training. A few of us had problems with organization. I think I speak for us all when I say that one of the most challenging aspects of Acclimation Phase was the time hacks. Everything, no matter how trivial, had a time associated with it. Meeting these time hacks was absolutely crucial because if we failed to do so we got rewarded with PT, with plenty to spare. This made us realize that to succeed we needed to work as a team, and that we were only as strong as our weakest link. We could no longer act as individuals, but had to operate as a team, giving us a "one team, one fight" mindset. Thinking back to 5 months ago, I remember how great it felt to receive mail from family and friends. Those 2 weeks were extremely demanding, both physically and mentally, but because of the encouragement from each other, and the constant uplifting notes from our loved ones, we were able to make it through Acclimation Phase and graduate with flying colors.

A wave of relief washed over us as we graduated Acclimation Phase, became cadets, and enjoyed the weekend. To finally get a phone call home for the first time since being gone was like a bottle of ice cold water on a hot summer day. These incentives that we had worked so hard for were a privilege, as compared to back at home where we took everything for granted. Acclimation Phase tore us down, but built us back up even stronger.

After those two grueling weeks, we entered the Challenge Phase of the program. Throughout the next 5 months we were being shaped, shifted, and molded into the best individuals that HYCA could produce. We started going to school learning our 8 core components, essential life skills needed to succeed in our time here and outside of HYCA. Then more options opened up to us: activities such as basketball, Color Guard, yearbook, and Art Club were made available to us to spend some extra free time we had. An early highlight in the program was Family Day where we were allowed to spend a few hours with our loved ones. Everyone had an amazing time, and it was a huge stress reliever for all of us after being here over 2 months.

Soon after there were even more opportunities presented to us: we took the ASVAB test, earned college credit, created a resumé, participated in a mock interview, learned job skills, and had a job fair to give us insight into which career interests we could potentially have. We also gained experience by going on Service to Community trips. We learned how to be selfless by investing time in others, not just ourselves.

In October we had the Tri-State Challenge, something exciting and different from previous classes. We were able to interact with other people our age and learn about some of the other Challenge academies. To end such an eventful weekend, we also had Mentor Match, followed by weekly visits from our mentors. We received guidance, emotional relief, and plenty of advice from our mentors. You have played an important role in our success here at HYCA and we would like to thank you for spending precious time with us.

Finally, here we are at graduation today. After 5½ long months, I am proud to say that you are looking at a group of successful young men and women. During our time here life-long friendships have been made, relationships with family members have been strengthened, and we have found a driving factor in our lives. A lot of us will leave with our high school equivalency, along with our Building Trades and Retail Sales certifications. We also take with us the confidence and discipline instilled within us during these 22 weeks. To the cadets, I want to say to you: congratulations! We've done it! We've made it through something that most people our age wouldn't dare think about doing. Take great pride in yourself knowing that you have succeeded where others have failed. To the staff of the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy, a huge thanks to you all for being there when we needed you. Thanks for being here through the good and bad days, during the ups and the downs, and for motivating us to be the best that we could be when we couldn't find the motivation from within ourselves. Thank you for being such a critical part of our success, for making us who we are today. Lastly, a special thanks to the family, friends, mentors, and loved ones: you stood on the sidelines, gave your best support possible through letters, phone calls, and constant engagement. Without you, some of us wouldn't have come here to make a positive change in our lives, let alone be here on graduation day ready to start anew with a different, but hopeful outlook on our futures. Thank you again.

President Theodore Roosevelt defined success as "the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm." Don't be discouraged by your failures, but be motivated by them. We all have the ability to succeed; we just have to find it. I leave you with these words from sportscaster Ernie Harwell: "It's time to say goodbye, but I think goodbyes are sad and I'd much rather say hello. Hello to a new adventure." This is the first day of the rest of your lives. May you all continue to be successful in your own adventures, wherever they may take you! Thank you.

Class 25: On your feet!

HYCA Creed on 3

1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . "

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF PLANO POLICE OFFICER ARTHUR PARKER

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, upon his well-deserved retirement this month, I rise today to recognize Plano Police Officer Arthur "Art" Parker on his thirty-four years of dedicated service to the City of Plano, Texas.

During his tenure as a school resource officer, Art made headlines for his incredible ability to memorize the names of over 20,000 students. A true public servant, and man of many talents, Officer Parker was often seen playing extravagant harmonica solos, making balloon animals, and most impressively, making people laugh from their cars while stuck in school traffic.

In 2015, Officer Parker was the first ever school resource officer to be named as Plano Officer of the Year. This came as no surprise to many inspired by his power to make others feel valued.

Officer Parker has made a lasting impact on the Plano community and although he will be missed, we know the future has wonderful things in store for him. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Officer Art Parker on his successful career and wishing him luck as he begins his next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS JAVIER J. GUTIERREZ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of United States Army Sergeant First Class Javier J. Gutierrez who died on February 8, 2020, in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. Sergeant First Class Gutierrez is from my hometown of San Antonio, Texas and is survived by his wife Gabriela Gutierrez, four children, and parents Sylvia and Javier Gutierrez. I am deeply saddened by his passing but also confident that his memory will live on through his many loved ones and our entire community.

Javier Jaguar Gutierrez was born in Jacksonville, North Carolina, on August 12, 1991. At an early age he demonstrated an interest in joining the military and following in his father's footsteps. His father, Javier S. Gutierrez, served in the United States Marine Corps as an enlisted combat engineer during the Gulf War. His great-grandfather, Thomas Ortiz, served in the Army Air Forces as a bombardier during World War II. He was a prisoner of war, taken by the Nazis after his plane was shot down.

Shortly after graduating from Luther Burbank High School in 2009, Gutierrez enlisted in the United States Army, where he was stationed at the 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He later went on to attend Special Forces assessment and selection, graduating in 2015 as a Communications Sergeant and assignment at the 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Airborne Group at Eglin Air Force Base of Florida.

Sergeant First Class Gutierrez was a person of high quality whose humility was only matched by his commitment to service. During his 11 years of remarkable service, he received several awards, which included the Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; Expert Infantry and Parachutist Badges; and the Special Forces Tab. Sergeant First Class Gutierrez was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, and promoted to the rank of Sergeant 1st Class.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the life and service of a person who dedicated themselves to family and country above all else. The entire San Antonio community mourns the loss of an American hero. We will be forever indebted to this true patriot whose sacrifice cannot be measured. I thank Sergeant First Class Gutierrez for his service, his

bravery, and for his unending commitment to our great country.

HONORING RANDY ROUTON

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Mr. Randy Routon for his nearly thirty-four years of dedicated service as the Executive Director of LifePath Systems.

Created in 1986 as the community MHMR for Collin County, LifePath Systems serves as the Local Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Authority and Local Behavioral Health Authority for Collin County. Under Mr. Routon's steadfast leadership, the organization provides community-based services for over 1,100 infants, toddler, and families in Collin, Rockwall, Kaufman, Grayson, and Fannin Counties through their Early Childhood Intervention program. Further, each month the organization provides Behavioral Health services to approximately 3,800 Collin County residents and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services to over 1,700 individuals.

As the CEO for LifePath, Randy supervises over 450 hardworking employees and over 350 private contractors stationed in 11 facilities and homes, tasked with interfacing with state and local agencies.

Mr. Routon previously served as the Executive Director of Mental Health Services in Collin County, as a former administrator at Children's Hospital of New Orleans, and as an instructor at Texas Women's University in Denton. Randy also served multiple terms as an elected Regional Representative and Treasurer on the Board of Directors for Texas Community Solutions, as a Regional Director for the National Therapeutic Recreation Society Board, and is currently serving as the Texas Council of Community Centers Executive Directors Liaison to Texas Early Childhood Intervention Providers.

Randy has helped shape Collin County through his work on the Advisory Board for the Health Care Committee, the Collin County Special Task Unit for Adult Protective Services, the Executive Board of the Coalition for Behavioral Health, and as a grant writer for various public and private organizations. Additionally, Mr. Routon has inspired countless others as a Paul Harris Fellow and Community Services Director for the McKinney Rotary Club.

Randy and his wife, Diane, are the proud parents of six children and six grandchildren, with whom he looks forward to enjoying a restful retirement with.

As Randy prepares to begin a new season of life, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Randy Routon for his selfless and dedicated career as the Executive Director for LifePath Systems and to wish him well in his future endeavors.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all

meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 12

- 9 a.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine home health care in rural America. SD-366
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine protecting the United States from global pandemics. SD-G50
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Semi-annual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress. SD-538
- Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine space missions of global importance, focusing on planetary defense, space weather protection, and space situational awareness. SH-216
- Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Leonard Badalamenti, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Anna M. Manasco, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Drew B. Tipton, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, and Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims. SD-226
- 10:15 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine United States-Libya policy. SD-419
- 1 p.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of the Treasury. SD-215

FEBRUARY 13

- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Northern Command and United States Strategic Command in review of

the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-215

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jessie K. Liu, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, Department of the Treasury, and Judy Shelton, of California, and Christopher Waller, of Minnesota, both to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

SD-538

FEBRUARY 25

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on public transportation stakeholders' perspectives.

SD-538

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S949–S969

Measures Introduced: Four bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3259–3262, and S. Res. 494. **Pages S963–64**

Messages from the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an alternative plan for pay adjustments for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2021; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (PM–44) **Page S961**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2021; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; which was referred to the Committees on Appropriations; and the Budget. (PM–45) **Pages S961–62**

Brasher Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit. **Pages S949–55**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 46 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 35), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S954–55**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, all post-cloture time on the nomination be considered expired at 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, February 11, 2020; that following disposition of the nomination, Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of 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, John Fitzgerald Kness, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Philip M. Halpern, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York; and that if cloture is invoked on any of those nominations, the confirmation votes occur on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader. **Page S955**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, February 11, 2020. **Page S966**

Messages from the House: **Pages S962–63**

Measures Referred: **Page S963**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S963**

Executive Communications: **Page S963**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S964–66**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S966**

Additional Statements: **Page S961**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—35) **Page S955**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:38 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S966.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 5821–5839; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 842–843, were introduced. **Page H1016**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1017–18**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 844, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2546) to designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 79) removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–395). **Page H1000**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Larsen (WA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H979**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H979**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:13 p.m. and reconvened at 3:33 p.m. **Page H981**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Homeland Security Partnerships Act: H.R. 1494, amended, to strengthen partnerships between historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions and the Department of Homeland Security; **Pages H981–83**

Protecting America's Food and Agriculture Act: S. 2107, to increase the number of CBP Agriculture Specialists and support staff in the Office of Field Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; **Pages H983–86**

Securing America's Ports Act: H.R. 5273, amended, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to increase to 100 percent the rates of scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems to enhance border security; **Pages H986–88**

DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act: Concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 504, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers; **Pages H988–90**

Homeland Security for Children Act: H.R. 2932, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeand-nay vote of 374 yeas to 11 nays, Roll No. 55; **Pages H990–91, H999–H1000**

Department of Homeland Security Climate Change Research Act: H.R. 4737, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to research and evaluate existing Federal research regarding approaches to mitigate climate change on homeland security to identify areas for further research within the Department, research and develop approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate change on homeland security; **Pages H991–93**

Protecting Critical Infrastructure Against Drones and Emerging Threats Act: H.R. 4432, amended, to require the Department of Homeland Security to prepare a terrorism threat assessment relating to unmanned aircraft systems; **Pages H993–94**

Drone Origin Security Enhancement Act: H.R. 4753, to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from operating or procuring foreign-made unmanned aircraft systems; and **Pages H994–95**

DHS Acquisition Reform Act: H.R. 3413, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for certain acquisition authorities for the Under Secretary of Management of the Department of Homeland Security, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeand-nay vote of 380 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 56. **Pages H995–97, H1000**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:55 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H999**

Presidential Messages: Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted to Congress his Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2021—referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 116–92). **Pages H997–98**

Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted to Congress Pay Adjustments for Civilian Federal Employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems—referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 116–97). **Pages H999**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeand-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear

on pages H999–1000 and H1000. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Committee Meetings

COLORADO WILDERNESS ACT OF 2019; REMOVING THE DEADLINE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2546, the “Colorado Wilderness Act of 2019” [Protecting America’s Wilderness Act]; and H.J. Res. 79, removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2546, the “Colorado Wilderness Act of 2019”, and H.J. Res. 79, Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 2546, the “Colorado Wilderness Act of 2019”, under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–50 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 79, Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate on the joint resolution equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the joint res-

olution shall be considered as adopted and the joint resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides that House Resolution 842 is hereby adopted. The rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from February 14, 2020, through February 24, 2020: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. The rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of this period. Testimony was heard from Representatives Cohen, Collins of Georgia, DeGette, Westerman, and Tipton.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, SEE DAILY DIGEST, p. D97)

S. 3201, to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances. Signed on February 6, 2020. (Public Law 116–114)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine United States strategy in Afghanistan, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Trade, and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine the state of intercollegiate athlete compensation, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to consider the nominations of Katharine MacGregor, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary, and Lanny Erdos, of Ohio, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, both of the Department of the Interior, 11 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider S. 3239, to designate the headquarters building of the Department of Transportation located at 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, in Washington, DC, as the “William T. Coleman, Jr., Federal Building”, and 18 General Services Administration resolutions, 9:45 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine a roadmap for effective cybersecurity, focusing on what states, locals, and the business community should know and do, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, to hold hearings to examine the Afghanistan Papers, focusing on costs and benefits of America's longest war, 2:30 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine ensuring appropriate medical care for children, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold hearings to examine the Digital Millennium Copyright Act at 22, focusing on what it is, why was it enacted, and where are we now, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research, hearing entitled "Economic Opportunities from Local Agricultural Markets", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Day 1", 9 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the USDA Office of Inspector General, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Open World Leadership Center, 10 a.m., HT-2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the United States Capitol Police, 11 a.m., HT-2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Day 1", 1 p.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Department of Defense's Role in Long-Term Major State Competition", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled "Reviewing Department of Defense Strategy, Policy, and Programs for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction for Fiscal Year 2021", 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled "Alarming Incidents of White Supremacy in the Military: How to Stop It?", 2:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5800, the "Ban Surprise Billing Act", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled "Balancing Work, Health, and Family: The Case for Expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act", 2 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, hearing entitled

"Autonomous Vehicles: Promises and Challenges of Evolving Automotive Technologies", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, hearing entitled "EPA's Lead and Copper Proposal: Failing to Protect Public Health", 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Elections, hearing entitled "Native American Voting Rights: Exploring Barriers and Solutions", 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request for Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs", 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled "More Hires, Fewer Hacks: Developing the U.S. Cybersecurity Workforce", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled "Space Situational Awareness: Key Issues in an Evolving Landscape", 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Development, hearing entitled "The Innovation Pipeline: From Universities to Small Businesses", 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled "Looking Forward: The Future of America's Aviation Maintenance and Manufacturing Workforce", 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Achieving Health Equity for America's Minority Veterans", 2 p.m., HVC-210.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Disappearing Corporate Income Tax", 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of February 11 through February 14, 2020

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of 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, John Fitzgerald Kness, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Philip M. Halpern, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

On *Wednesday*, if cloture being invoked on any of the following nominations, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Joshua M. Kindred, Matthew Thomas Schelp, John Fitzgerald Kness, and Philip M. Halpern, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: February 11, to hold hearings to examine United States strategy in Afghanistan, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

February 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine United States Northern Command and United States Strategic Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: February 12, to hold hearings to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, 10 a.m., SD–538.

February 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jessie K. Liu, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, Department of the Treasury, and Judy Shelton, of California, and Christopher Waller, of Minnesota, both to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: February 11, Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Trade, and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine the state of intercollegiate athlete compensation, 10 a.m., SD–106.

February 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine space missions of global importance, focusing on planetary defense, space weather protection, and space situational awareness, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: February 11, business meeting to consider the nominations of Katharine MacGregor, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary, and Lanny Erdos, of Ohio, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, both of the Department of the Interior, 11 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: February 11, business meeting to consider S. 3239, to designate the headquarters building of the Department of Transportation located at 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, in Washington, DC, as the “William T. Coleman, Jr., Federal Building”, and 18 General Services Administration resolutions, 9:45 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: February 12, to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal

year 2021 for the Department of the Treasury, 1 p.m., SD–215.

February 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 9:30 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: February 12, to hold hearings to examine United States-Libya policy, 10:15 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: February 11, to hold hearings to examine a roadmap for effective cybersecurity, focusing on what states, locals, and the business community should know and do, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

February 11, Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, to hold hearings to examine the Afghanistan Papers, focusing on costs and benefits of America’s longest war, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

February 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine protecting the United States from global pandemics, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on the Judiciary: February 11, to hold hearings to examine ensuring appropriate medical care for children, 10 a.m., SD–226.

February 11, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold hearings to examine the Digital Millennium Copyright Act at 22, focusing on what it is, why was it enacted, and where are we now, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

February 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Leonard Badalamenti, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Anna M. Manasco, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Drew B. Tipton, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, and Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: February 11, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: February 12, to hold hearings to examine home health care in rural America, 9 a.m., SD–366.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations: February 12, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Day 2”, 9 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

February 12, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Farm Credit Administration, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

February 12, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, 10 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

February 12, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Congressional Budget Office, 11 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

February 12, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “American Indian

and Alaska Native Public Witness Day 2", 1 p.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, February 12, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled "Land Based Ranges: Building Military Readiness While Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources", 2:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, February 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The President's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget", 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, February 12, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Protecting Women's Access to Reproductive Health Care", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

February 12, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled "Saving Energy: Legislation to Improve Energy Efficiency and Storage", 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, February 12, Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion, hearing entitled "A Review of Diversity and Inclusion at America's Large Banks", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

February 12, Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, hearing entitled "Equitable Algorithms: Examining Ways to Reduce AI Bias in Financial Services", 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, February 12, Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism, hearing entitled "The Middle East Peace Process: An Analysis from Former U.S. Negotiators", 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

February 13, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, and Trade, hearing entitled "Assessing U.S. Security Assistance to Mexico", 9 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

February 13, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled "The Youth Bulge in Africa: Considerations for US Policy", 10 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, February 12, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5736, the "Transnational White Supremacist Extremism Review Act"; H.R. 5780, the "Communities Act of 2020"; H.R. 5802, the "TSA Child CARE Act"; H.R. 5804, the "DHS Blue Campaign Enhancement Act"; legislation on the State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act; legislation on the Federal Law Enforcement Training Research and Reporting Act of 2020; legislation on the TSA Personnel Workplace Improvement Act of 2020; legislation on the DHS Illicit Border Tunnel Defense Act; legislation on the Homeland Security Acquisition Professional Career Program Act; and S.2035, the "TSA Credential and Endorsement Harmonization Act of 2019", 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, February 12, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2214, the "NO BAN Act"; H.R. 5581, the "Access to Counsel Act of 2020"; H.R. 5546, the "Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act"; H.R. 3283, to amend title 4, United States Code, to permit the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff in the event of the death of the Mayor of the District of Columbia; and H. Res. 694, recognizing the Importance of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the Laws Derived Therefrom, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

February 13, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled "Protecting Federal Judiciary Employees from Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Other Workplace Misconduct", 8:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, February 12, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 644, the "Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2019"; H.R. 1904, the "Indian Water Rights Settlement Extension Act"; H.R. 4444, the "Western Area Power Administration Transparency Act"; H.R. 5316, the "Move Water Now Act"; H.R. 5347, the "Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water Assistance Act"; S. 832, a bill to nullify the Supplemental Treaty Between the United States of America and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Indians of Middle Oregon, concluded on November 15, 1865; and a Committee resolution authorizing issuance of subpoenas related to mismanagement, waste, fraud, abuse, and wrongful conduct in relation to functions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources, 9 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, February 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Hearing with Census Bureau Director", 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, February 12, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2986, the "Better Energy Storage Technology (BEST) Act"; H.R. 4230, the "Clean Industrial Technology (CIT) Act of 2019"; H.R. 5374, the "Advanced Geothermal Research and Development Act of 2019"; H.R. 5428, the "Grid Modernization Research and Development Act of 2019"; and H.R. 5760, the "Grid Security Research and Development Act", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, February 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Challenges and Benefits of Employee-owned Small Businesses", 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, February 12, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled "Animals in Disasters", 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, February 12, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, hearing entitled "Data Privacy and Portability at VA: Protecting Veterans' Personal Data", 10 a.m., HVC-210.

February 12, Subcommittee on Health; and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, joint hearing entitled "Mission Critical: Examining Provider Relations During the Transition to VA's New Community Care Program", 2 p.m., HVC-210.

Committee on Ways and Means, February 12, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the "HOSPICE" Act; legislation to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for reporting by certain investors with respect to certain specified medical care providers; and legislation on the Consumer Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills Act, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, February 12, Subcommittee on Strategic Technologies and Advanced Research, hearing entitled “Emerging Technologies and

National Security: Posturing the U.S. Intelligence Community for Success”, 10 a.m., 2020 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, February 11

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, February 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of 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, John Fitzgerald Kness, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Philip M. Halpern, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 2546—Protecting America's Wilderness Act (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of H.J. Res. 79—Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Barr, Andy, Ky., E162
Beyer, Donald S., Jr., Va., E159
Blunt Rochester, Lisa, Del., E159
Bonamici, Suzanne, Ore., E162
Castro, Joaquin, Tex., E164
Cleaver, Emanuel, Mo., E161
Crist, Charlie, Fla., E160

Cunningham, Joe, S.C., E159
Fulcher, Russ, Idaho, E161
Heck, Denny, Wash., E161, E161, E163
Holding, George, N.C., E161
Kelly, Trent, Miss., E159
Kind, Ron, Wisc., E160
Lee, Barbara, Calif., E162
McHenry, Patrick T., N.C., E162
Murphy, Gregory F., N.C., E161, E162

Norman, Ralph, S.C., E162
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E159
Pallone, Frank, Jr., N.J., E160
Pence, Greg, Ind., E163
Roby, Martha, Ala., E162
Taylor, Van, Tex., E163, E164
Westerman, Bruce, Ark., E161



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