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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 11, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF H.L. RICHARDSON OF CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, lost amidst the tumult of the last couple of weeks was the quiet passing of an outspoken leader of California, H.L. ''Bill'' Richardson. H.L., as he was known to his friends, arrived in the California State Senate with the freshman class of 1966, part of the Reagan landslide that year.

For every one of the 22 years he served in the Senate, H.L. was a force to be reckoned with. He served for many years in the Republican leadership, but he was never ever a political insider. His enormous influence inside the senate stemmed from the fact that he never joined that club; he never lost sight of the people who elected him. And he not only worked tirelessly to serve them inside the capitol, he worked even harder to organize, inform, and mobilize them outside the capitol.

He founded a multitude of advocacy groups to empower the millions of Californians who believed in individual liberty and economic freedom. He started the Free Market Political Action Committee to support free market principles and the candidates who embraced them, and it became the inspiration and prototype of groups like the Club for Growth and Americans for Prosperity and FreedomWorks today.

In the 1970's, when Jerry Brown first came to power and appointed radical leftists to the California courts, H.L. founded the Law and Order Campaign Committee, which became the driving force between the historic recall of Chief Justice Rose Bird and two of her associates on the California Supreme Court. That organization went on for many years to restore common sense to the California courts and criminal justice system, including pressing the legislature to restore the death penalty over Jerry Brown's veto.

His passion for the Second Amendment was his most defining cause. He founded Gun Owners of California to fight the growing movement in California to disarm law-abiding citizens, and its success not only beat back Proposition 15, a 1982 initiative to ban handguns in California, it generated so many new Second Amendment voters in that election to put George Deukmejian over the top by a tiny margin of victory over Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley in that Governor's race that year. Gun Owners of California continues its good work to this day, as does its spin-off, Gun Owners of America.

H.L. had a wicked sense of humor, and it was keenest when bursting bubbles of political pomposity. One of his half dozen published books, still required reading in some college classes, is titled, ''What Makes You Think We Read the Bills?'' His book, ''Confrontational Politics,'' offers a civilized, but no less resolute, conservative response to Saul Alinsky's ''Rules for Radicals.''

California, once called ''The Golden State,'' is today drawing more and more attention as a slow-moving train wreck. The radical left has now dominated the State's institutions for more than 20 years, and California is showing all of the political, social, and economic pathologies that accompany leftist governance: failing schools; rising crime; chronic traffic congestion; skyrocketing costs of housing, energy, and water; rampant homelessness; oppressive regulations; the highest effective poverty rate in the Nation; and a population now fleeing to other States.

Senator H.L. Richardson held back that tide for nearly 30 years. He was a mighty seawall that protected California from the left, giving one final generation of Californians the joy of living in the most prosperous and beautiful State in the Nation.

But, as age took its toll, his influence waned, the left steadily advanced, and none of us whom he inspired to follow him has been able to stop it.

On January 13, H.L. Richardson passed away at the age of 92, and with him passed the golden California of freedom, opportunity, and prosperity that he fought so hard, so long, and so effectively to preserve. Perhaps the day will come when California will see a rebirth of freedom, and on that day, H.L.'s wisdom, courage, and leadership

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will show that generation the way back.

We can hasten that day by remembering and celebrating his life, his lessons, and his achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS OF THREE AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN FROM ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we celebrate Black History Month across our Nation. And I want to recognize the extraordinary efforts of three African American women from Rockford, Illinois, who have honorably served three separate branches of our Armed Forces. Our Nation is indebted to them.

Later this week, the stories of Margaret Patricia Whelcher, Lana McCants, and Milana Herman will be displayed to the public at the Veterans Memorial Hall and Museum in Rockford, Illinois.

Their contributions to our country have been chronicled by local students from Harlem High School as part of the annual Harlem Veterans Project, and they have conducted interviews, shot videos, and have photographs and more.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to bring attention to their sacrifices and thank them for their service today.

Margaret Patricia Whelcher, she served in the United States Air Force from 1988 to 1991 and achieved the rank of senior airman.

Lana McCants, she served in the United States Navy from 1991 to 1997 and achieved the rank of operation specialist 3rd class.

Milana Herman served in the United States Army from 1989 to 1994 and achieved the rank of staff sergeant.

In addition to their distinguished military service, these veterans have worked to better our community. Lana is an active member of the American Legion Post 340, while Margaret and Milana routinely participate in local stand-downs, where they offer a variety of support services for at-risk veterans.

I am proud to see them represent our community with such distinction and such honor. Their selfless commitment to country and community sets a strong example for the leaders of tomorrow. It is crucial that their inspirational stories are spread far and wide.

That is why I applaud the work of those students participating in the Harlem Veterans Project. These students have sought to build a unique bond with members of the community and raise the voices of those around them.

Institutions like the Veterans Memorial Hall and Museum in Rockford, which will feature these incredible women, tell the stories of so many who have made an immense impact on the lives of those across our region. It is only fitting that the stories of Margaret, Lana, and Milana will be displayed with the rest of them.

We must never forget those who paved the path before us. Stories like theirs make up the very fabric of our Nation. They should be cherished and celebrated.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELORS WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week marked National School Counselors Week.

School counselors play a valuable role in the lives of our Nation's students. They help students navigate challenges, both academic and personal, through all phases of education. But some counselors truly go above and beyond.

Recently, I had the pleasure of joining the American School Counselor Association for a meeting, where I met Laura Ross, the 2020 School Counselor of the Year. Laura's co-workers have called her a true hero and a champion for the work that she has done at Five Forks Middle School.

School counselors like Laura have big responsibilities and even greater opportunities to make a difference in the lives of young people. When people choose to dedicate their careers to providing support and guidance for these students, they are better equipped to tackle personal and professional challenges and better prepared to enter the workforce.

A successful career begins with a well-rounded view of what the workforce entails. Effective counseling can assist learners in better understanding their educational opportunities and career prospects, while preventing students from taking on sizable debt.

H.R. 5092, the Counseling for Career Choice Act, seeks to ensure high school students are made aware of their educational options and career prospects prior to graduation. To do that, the bill would establish a grant program for $40 million to invest in career counseling programs for high school students.

It also invests in professional development opportunities for counselors working with these students so counselors can do their jobs to the best of their ability and stay up to date on workforce trends and postsecondary opportunities. This includes 2- and 4-year degree programs, but that also includes certificate programs, internships, and apprenticeships.

Mr. Speaker, we all owe a debt of gratitude to our Nation's school counselors. All year long, their service and support of our Nation's young people is greatly appreciated.

REMEMBERING THE BAKU POGROMS THAT TOOK PLACE 30 YEARS AGO

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the Baku pogroms, which took place in January 1990, some 30 years ago. The Baku pogroms represented the culmination of years of atrocities by the Azeris against ethnic Armenians living in Azerbaijani communities, such as Sumgait and Kirovobad.

Time and time again, Armenians fell victim to their neighbors, as gangs of Azeris roamed the streets, smashed windows, burned cars, and attacked any Armenians they found. The gangs murdered and mutilated some women and repeatedly raped others.

In Baku, the pattern held, as looters destroyed property and tortured the murdered victims. Thousands of Armenians fled the systemic violence, world chess champion Gary Kasparov's family counted among them.

Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan was engaged in a systemic effort to erase this history and silence those who repeat it. I rise today so that they cannot succeed.

The history of this violence is one of the many reasons I believe that residents of Nagorno-Karabakh or Artsakh should be allowed to live in peace, freedom, and security. The United States has a crucial role to play in promoting this outcome.

For decades, U.S. aid has helped clear mines in Artsakh, saving lives, promoting development, and giving communities a sense of normalcy. Today, even though the work is not done, that aid is threatened.

Today, even though Armenia and Artsakh have embraced the Royce-Engel peace proposal, while Azerbaijan has rejected it, Artsakh could lose the mining assistance. And today, even though Armenia has transformed itself into a growing democracy, it is autocratic Azerbaijan that has received a massive, disproportion increase in military aid from the United States.

If the administration won't help those who stand for peace and democracy, Congress must. The legacy of Baku, Sumgait, and Kirovobad remind me why. We must fight for the memories of those we lost, for their dreams of safety and security, and for the promise of a free Artsakh.

RADICAL OPEN BORDERS POLICIES THAT ARE DANGEROUS TO OUR CITIZENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose a truly radical piece of legislation that was recently introduced in this Chamber.

The New Way Forward Act, as it is called, introduced with the support of

more than three dozen Democratic cosponsors, decriminalizes illegal immigration, makes it nearly impossible for border authorities to detain and deport immigrants with criminal convictions, and forces taxpayers to foot the bill to bring back previously deported criminal illegal immigrants.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, if this bill were to become law, it would enable illegal immigrants who have committed crimes abroad to be returned to the U.S., and it would allow them to gain a pathway to citizenship.

The bill eliminates the provision in current law that forbids an immigrant from entering the United States if they have committed drug crimes or any crimes involving moral turpitude. Examples of crimes involving moral turpitude include child molestation, kidnapping, rape, murder, and more. It is unthinkable that we would allow anyone who has committed those crimes to freely enter our country.

To add to the egregiousness of this legislation, it calls on the Department of Homeland Security to pay for the return of previously deported illegal immigrants. Under the bill, any immigrant deported since April 1996 would be allowed to return to the U.S. as long as they met a stunningly lax set of criteria. It is ridiculous to require American taxpayers to foot the bill to bring previously deported individuals back onto U.S. soil.

The bill would make it more difficult for ICE to detain an immigrant with a criminal record. Agents would be forced to prove that a suspect poses a danger or a flight risk without using the immigrant's past criminal history as a sole factor.

One of the Democratic cosponsors on this bill even proclaimed that it would end deportation for people who had contact with the criminal legal system. I would say it is common sense that a serious criminal conviction should lead to deportation.

Worse yet, this prevents ICE from deporting immigrants who have been convicted of crimes with an average sentence of less than 5 years. This bill would allow an alien who committed crimes like auto theft, weapons crimes, identity theft, and fraud to remain in the country.

Like many Americans, I want people to enter our country through the legal process—we want them here—and then to stay on the right side of the law. Legal immigration is what makes our country great. But we cannot pass bills, like this one, that incentivize more people to come here illegally or imposes no penalty on those who commit serious crimes.

I think most Americans would agree that we should welcome those who come to our land in a legal, merit-based way and that dangerous, illegal immigrants should not be allowed to come into our country or stay in our country.

Unfortunately, this bill makes a mockery of that principle and replaces it with a set of radical, open-border policies that are dangerous to our citizens and our communities. It is for that reason that it should be soundly defeated.

HONORING FALLEN SOLDIERS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to honor and express my deepest sympathy, as a fellow Texan, to the family of Sergeant 1st Class Javier Gutierrez, who lost his life in battle in Afghanistan. I also want to acknowledge Sergeant 1st Class Antonio Rodriguez of New Mexico, as he lost his life in battle as well.

It is a war that is endless. Nonetheless, the service of our giants, our young men and women in uniform, is to be constantly honored.

Sergeant Gutierrez, a family man, a husband, a father, engaged in the service of his Nation, enthusiastically joining. He came from a long legacy of service to the Nation: his grandfather, another hero in our Nation, and his father, another hero in our Nation.

I pray for this family, who has now given the ultimate sacrifice and never refused to put on the uniform to fight in battle for this Nation's freedom, its justice, and its equality.

May God bless his family, and may he rest in peace.

DEFEAT PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Ms. JACKSON LEE. As I move to another topic, I would like to say that this is a message to my constituents and the American people.

As you have heard in the news, and were probably frightened by the excerpts, I hold in my hand a budget for America's future. This was offered by the President of the United States. It is frightening in its attack on the basic security, domestic security, of the American people.

I would venture to say that even our young soldiers have found the need for their families to sometimes have assistance with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, food stamps. Tragically, this budget digs deep to hatchet away the basic safety net that we have come to understand is not a handout for working families who may be impoverished but a hand-up.

I am startled by the cuts, draconian cuts, in this document. I am startled by $1.6 trillion in cuts for Medicare and Medicaid.

I am startled by, in the midst of the coronavirus, a more than $4 billion cut in funding for the NIH and the Centers for Disease Control, the very entities that provide lifesaving research and possible cures for the American people and people around the world.

The World Health Organization is begging to go into China at this time, and they are looking to have American researchers who are ready and able to go, to determine how to stop, how to determine the origins, and how to thwart what might be a horrific pandemic around the world. How can you cut $4 billion?

Then, the precious children in my congressional district, I have the privilege of representing a number of school districts, not just one, but a good number of school districts. Every day, the administrators, teachers, and parents, dropping their beautiful children off, are looking for an opportunity so that they, too, might serve and contribute to this great Nation. Yet, a number that is so startling it takes your breath away: $6.2 billion in cuts for education.

After Hurricane Harvey, with 51 trillion gallons of floodwater, people are still suffering from the losses of their homes, still trying to fix flooding areas and mitigate the damage through infrastructure work. Yet, $1.7 billion has been cut from those needs of people who have experienced heinous and horrific natural disasters and still need the repairs that are necessary.

Of course, every child knows that climate change is real. So in this Nation—the innovative, important leader of the world—we are slashing the dollars for climate research.

We are not aware as well, I guess, in this administration, that terrorism is on the rise, domestic terrorism in particular. But we must also be vigilant for the terrorism that brought down the Twin Towers on 9/11. Yet, those dollars are being cut from FEMA, $746.9 million.

Then, let me say, as I close, that we are also saying to those who are unhoused, the homeless, those who seek better housing, that they, too, can't get housing. Affordable housing for the homeless and others is now waning.

Mr. Speaker, I ask to defeat this budget, as we will.

HONORING LITTLETON ALSTON

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I rise to recognize Littleton Alston for his lifetime contributions in the fine art of sculpting, both as a renowned artist and as a professor.

Littleton was born in Petersburg, Virginia, and grew up in northeast Washington, D.C., where he had his first encounter with great art and public sculpture. He still vividly remembers looking from his home down East Capitol Street and seeing the Capitol dome.

His mother, who was divorced and raising five children on her own, acknowledged and recognized a unique gift that Littleton seemed to possess: drawing. Her devotion and his talent helped him land an opportunity to attend the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C., where he graduated from high school.

Awarded a scholarship to Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, he received his bachelor of fine arts degree in sculpture and went on to earn his master of fine arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art's Rinehart Graduate School of Sculpture in Baltimore.

There, he was the recipient of the school's top honor, the Rinehart Award. In 1989, he was accepted to the artist residency program at the Bemis Center of Contemporary Arts in Omaha. A year later, he joined the faculty of Omaha's Creighton University, where he has attained the rank of full professor of sculpture.

For the past 30 years, he has consistently given back to the community. Littleton served on the Omaha Public Art Commission for 9 years, and he has volunteered often for local charities and community service groups. He is especially proud of his educational outreach, having often led classes and workshops at schools in low-income neighborhoods.

In 2013, he was recognized by the city of Omaha for his artistic and civic contributions with a Community Excellence Award and by Governor Dave Heineman with the Community Development Excellence Award.

Littleton says he chose the art of sculpting because he believes sculpture is the best vehicle through which he can best express the joys and sorrows of the human condition. He says that he has explored many mediums and conceptual approaches. As an artist, he tries to convey the beauty and power of the sculpted form.

Littleton Alston has been commissioned to create a variety of sculptural projects, including monumental bronze figures such as: The Archangel Michael, Christ Among Children, Dr. Martin Luther King, Baseball Legend Bob Gibson, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and many others.

His work has included international artist residencies. In 2019, Littleton was selected from applicants from across the country to create a larger-than-life-size bronze statue portraying Willa Cather, a sculpture that will be one of the two statues representing the great State of Nebraska in the U.S. Capitol.

This achievement is a hallmark for our country and a homecoming for Littleton, who will become the first African American artist to create a work to be displayed in the Statuary Hall collection, a compelling achievement, 50 years in the making, for a young man who grew up in eyeshot of the Statue of Freedom.

This wonderful addition to these hallowed Halls will be dedicated to his late mother, Gilbertha Otelia Alston, a fitting tribute to the person who helped cultivate his great talent at an early age.

We are proud that Littleton; his wife, Anne; and his children, Sarah, Taylor, and Daniel, call Omaha, Nebraska, home.

I salute and thank Littleton for his impression upon the community, which will be felt for years to come.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 27 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Cheryl Coleman Hall, Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God of infinite wisdom, of faithfulness, of mercy, of justice and love, we gather in this place at this hour by grace, and we are grateful.

We pray for clarity of mind for the work of service that must be accomplished by each one here. We pray that they will use today wisely, for today will become yesterday, and today is creating tomorrow.

We pray that broken places are made straight and the bridges we are building are strong and mighty, for we all must walk upon them.

We pray for the persons who support them, the family members, support staff, the unnamed and unknown as they carry out the awesome responsibilities of being their brothers and sisters, communities, and country's keepers.

As we gather, charged with the awesome responsibilities for which we have been called, we are reminded of all that is divine, all that is good, all that is merciful in each of us. And we pray that each of us is able to unabashedly declare at the end of the day, with sincere hearts: May the works I have done speak for me.

In the name of the One who reveals truth, the One who is the light that is showing in the darkness that cannot be extinguished, we offer this prayer.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

Mr. CRAWFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

NEW YORK WILL NEVER FORGET FLIGHT 3407 AND NEITHER SHOULD CONGRESS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, this week marks the 11th anniversary of the tragic crash of Continental flight 3407.

On February 12, 2009, flight 3407 crashed in Clarence Center, New York, killing all passengers and crew members on board and one person on the ground. The National Transportation Safety Board determined that the crash was due to pilot error and inexperience.

Thanks to tireless advocacy of the families of flight 3407 who lost loved ones in the crash, reforms like 1500 hours of flight training for first officers have been enacted. However, more than a decade later, we still anxiously await implementation of the pilot records database to allow airlines to access records of pilots applying for jobs.

Madam Speaker, western New York will never forget flight 3407 and neither should Congress. I urge my colleagues to continue to strive for One Level of Safety and remain vigilant about aviation and safety standards.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF BILLIE SUE HOGGARD

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of my close friend Billie Sue Hoggard, who passed away on Sunday evening.

Billie Sue was a lifelong public servant, a political pioneer, and a devout follower of Jesus. She was a nationally board-certified teacher.

Countless students in my hometown of Jonesboro, Arkansas, across five decades and four schools, were blessed to find themselves in her classroom.

She was selected for three international teaching exchanges in China, Japan, and Mexico. Her passion for teaching could not be extinguished, coming out of a well-deserved retirement just a few years ago to go back into the classroom.

Her service to the community extended to public office as well. She was appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee as justice of the peace on the Craighead County Quorum Court and as the commissioner for the Arkansas Educational Television Network.

Under her leadership of the Craighead County GOP, the county flipped all legislative seats and well over half of countywide offices. In 2017, she was awarded the ''Hi, I'm Frank White'' Award, the highest distinction given by the Arkansas GOP.

Billie Sue is survived by her four children and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask Congress to join me in offering condolences to her family and commemorating the life and achievements of an incredible leader and servant.

God bless Billie Sue Hoggard's memory.

THE DONALD TRUMP BUDGET CUTS OVER $1.5 TRILLION FROM MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, last week Donald Trump came onto this House floor, looked the American people in the eye, and he stated: '' . . . we will always protect your Medicare, and we will always protect your Social Security.''

That statement is false. We know that statement is false because Donald Trump released his budget, and the Donald Trump budget cuts over $1.5 trillion from Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

Let me say that again.

The Donald Trump budget cuts over $1.5 trillion from Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

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CONGRATULATIONS, CHARLES WAITES McCABE

(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, congratulations to Charles Waites McCabe, a freshman at A.C. Flora High School in Columbia, son of John and Amanda McCabe.

Next Sunday, Charles will receive the extraordinary award of Eagle Scout from Troop 10 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. He is preceded by his brother, John Franklin McCabe, Jr.; and his first cousins, Michael Joseph Harty III, Daniel McCabe Harty, and Christopher Robert McCabe; as well as his uncle, Robert Ainsley McCabe, Jr., in earning this prestigious honor with the Boy Scouts of America.

Charles has also been elected senior patrol leader in Troop 10, serving with Scoutmaster Flynn Bowie, as well as being elected to the Order of the Arrow.

As the father of four sons who are Eagle Scouts, I am grateful to attend courts of honor such as for Charles. This weekend, it was inspiring to be with Andrew Talkish at St. Simon and St. Jude Episcopal Church in Irmo.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism, led by President Donald Trump.

Congratulations to Coach Dawn Staley on her continuing victories for the Gamecock women's basketball.

A SIMPLE, YET PROFOUND ACT

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

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, 60 years ago this month, four African American students from North Carolina A&T performed a simple, yet profound act. They sat at Woolworth's lunch counter in front of a detestable ''Whites Only'' sign. They were called rabble-rousers, troublemakers, and worse. They did not yield.

In the days that followed, more students joined them, including my friend, Clarence Henderson. By continuing to sit, they were actually standing up for their God-given constitutional rights as Americans.

They may not have known it at the time, but their act of courage lit a fire of freedom that spread across our country, all the way to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial where Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke to us about his dream of a more just tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, this Black History Month, we remember the brave sacrifices that were made by so many so that each and every American would never again be judged, as Dr. King said, by the color of our skin but, instead, ''by the content of their character.''

CONGRATULATING BUTLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON THEIR RECENT ACHIEVEMENT

(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 Butler County Community College on their recent achievement. The college was recognized as the number one community college in Pennsylvania.

This is quite an achievement, but Butler County Community College is no stranger to success. For the fifth time since 2015, BCCC has been recognized as the best of the best in the Commonwealth. This annual accolade, presented by BestColleges.com, assesses academic quality, affordability, and online competency to determine who provides the best overall experience for students.

Butler County Community College is setting learners of all ages and backgrounds up for success by providing an affordable education that readies students for a 21st century workforce. Thanks to this model, BCCC students are graduating with more opportunities and less debt.

I am proud of the educational excellence that Butler County Community College has to offer for students in Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District and the surrounding area, and they are certainly well deserving of this recognition.

REPEAL THE ABORTION MANDATE OR RISK LOSING IMPORTANT FEDERAL FUNDS

(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, last month, Health and Human Services issued a notice of violation to my home State of California that is in direct violation of the Weldon amendment, by requiring all health insurers to cover abortions in their plans.

Governor Newsom has 11 days left to comply with Federal law by repealing the abortion mandate or risk losing important Federal funds.

In the shadow of the 47th anniversary of Rowe v. Wade, it is important that we buck the status quo that increasingly takes human life for granted. While Governor Newsom continues to blatantly disregard people's personal and religious views, I will continue to stand here as part of the fight to make sure Americans are never forced to pay for other people's abortions.

Madam Speaker, I urge Governor Newsom to quickly repeal California's abortion mandate and get back in line with the rule of law.

GREAT NEWS ON THE ECONOMY THIS WEEK

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

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, great news on the economy this week: The economy added 225,000 jobs in January, and unemployment for Americans is at a 50-year low.

But the booming economy has resulted in worker shortages throughout the economy, whether it is for Aubrey Vincent of Lindy's Seafood in my district or for Alan Jones at Manor View Farms.

Right now, there are simply more seasonable jobs open than there are

Americans available to fill them. And tens of thousands of full-time American jobs rely on the availability of sufficient temporary H–2B visa workers to meet temporary seasonal labor needs.

Today, I rise to thank the Trump administration for its past decisions to release extra temporary H–2B visas. I realize that Congress should have determined the number needed and included that in legislation, but Congress failed, and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise to ask the administration to continue to support these seasonal businesses and release an adequate number of additional H–2B visas.

□ 1215

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. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 844 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 844

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2546) to designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–50 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 79) removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the joint resolution shall be considered as adopted. The joint resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. House Resolution 842 is hereby adopted.

SEC. 4. On any legislative day during the period from February 14, 2020, through February 24, 2020—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 5. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 4 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 844, providing for consideration of two measures, H.R. 2546, Protecting America's Wilderness Act, and H.J. Res. 79, Removing Deadline for Ratification of Equal Rights Amendment.

The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 2546 under a structured rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Natural Resources. It makes in order 12 amendments and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 79 under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule deems as passed H. Res. 842, a resolution to clarify that a simple majority is needed for passage of H.J. Res. 79.

Finally, the rule provides for standard district work period instructions from February 14 through February 24.

Madam Speaker, it has been almost 100 years since the equal rights amendment was first introduced in Congress. It has been 45 years since it was passed by Congress. In this year, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote in this country, it defies logic that we are still in a holding pattern when it comes to recognizing the equal rights of women under the United States Constitution.

Therefore, I am proud to oversee the rule for H.J. Res. 79, which will remove the questionable deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

When Alice Paul, Crystal Eastman, and other suffragists and women's rights pioneers set out to pass the equal rights amendment, they knew they had a long and fierce battle ahead of them. The first version of the ERA was introduced in 1923, and it took almost 50 years for both the House and the Senate to approve it. When the amendment was finally approved in 1972, the preamble to the amendment contained a 7-year deadline for ratification.

Thirty-five of the 38 required States ratified the ERA in their State legislatures during that initial 7-year timeline. The ERA had broad bipartisan support from Members of Congress and Presidents Nixon, Carter, and Ford but was unable to cross the finish line in the brief time allowed.

Why the ERA did not become a constitutional amendment in the seventies is up for debate, but it was in large part due to vicious, antifeminist rhetoric and actions by conservative activists who sought to trample on the rights of all women to work for an equal wage, to control their own reproductive health, and to participate as equal members of our society, in the name of protecting the traditional values of a privileged few.

In the years that followed, courts have recognized and protected various aspects of women's equality under the law through interpretation of the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. But as even Justice Antonin Scalia famously recognized, nothing in our Constitution, as currently written, forbids discrimination on the basis of sex.

Therefore, final passage and ratification of the ERA is critical in guaranteeing equal rights to me, to you, to my daughter, and to all women and girls across this country. We will not go back.

The equal rights amendment would permanently and explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. Laws change, as do the people interpreting them, but we are a Nation governed by our Constitution. The rights given to us through the Constitution are inalienable, and the protections they provide us with are invaluable.

We hear from the other side of the aisle that discrimination against women is already illegal. This argument might be more persuasive if it was not being presented by a party that is, if anything, less diverse than it was in the 1970s. When a party reflects a predominantly White, male, and conservative voter base, it is easy to see why that party might not understand the need for basic additional constitutional protections.

Women continue to face obstacles to full equality, including unequal pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual and domestic violence, and inadequate healthcare access. One in three women experience sexual violence in their lifetimes; one in five women are sexually assaulted on college campuses; and 56 percent of girls in grades 7 through 12 are sexually harassed in any given school year. Moreover, 60 to 70 percent of women face sexual harassment during their careers, with Black and Brown women disproportionately impacted.

Women are paid less than their male counterparts for equal work. Women are treated differently in job interviews and can be determined a burden for a company if they are pregnant or planning on becoming pregnant. These indiscretions are only compounded when we look at women of color and women with disabilities.

Women in general in this country make 80 cents to a man's dollar. Women with disabilities make about 65 cents to a man's dollar and 7 cents less than a man with disabilities. Black women make about 63 cents on a White man's dollar; Native women make about 57 cents; and Hispanic women make approximately 54 cents on a White man's dollar. The wages for trans women fall by nearly one-third after transitioning.

A woman who works full-time year-round typically loses $430,480 in a 40-year work-life period. That means this woman would have to work nearly 11 years longer to make up this lifetime wage gap.

This also has a serious financial impact on retirement. The average Social Security benefit for women 65 and older is about $13,867 per year, compared to $18,039 for men of the same age.

So, I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: If paying women less than men is already illegal, if treating women differently in the workplace and other professional settings is already prohibited by existing law, why does it still happen?

The answer is simple: because it is relatively easy to navigate around existing laws to protect women. It is easy to treat women differently in a way that is legal and in line with the law.

That is unacceptable, and that is why we need the equal rights amendment.

When women earn less for equal work, families earn less for equal work. If you choose to deliberately short-change the American family and deny them financial security, then, clearly, we have different values.

Although the ERA was passed with bipartisan support, and strong support from Republican women, we saw in the Rules Committee last night and in debate about this rule and bill that the spirit of the late Phyllis Schlafly has overtaken today's Republican Party, which now seeks to cloak deep-seated misogyny in anti-choice rhetoric.

Passing the equal rights amendment is long overdue. I am excited to be part of a Democratic majority that will remove this arbitrary deadline for ratification and finally allow States to exercise their constitutional authority to pass this critical and fundamentally American amendment.

This rule will also provide for consideration of H.R. 2546, the Protecting America's Wilderness Act. This is a package of public lands bills from the Natural Resources Committee that will designate more than 1.3 million acres as wilderness or potential wilderness areas, preserving those public lands for generations to come.

Few things in the United States are as universally cherished by Americans as public lands. Our country is home to more than 111 million acres of designated wilderness, and these lands help us to combat climate change, provide for an array of ecological diversity, and offer recreational activity to Americans, young and old.

As we continue to endure devastating and worsening effects of climate change, providing for millions of additional acres of wilderness allows for these areas to continue to serve as critical carbon sinks to capture and mitigate carbon dioxide in our atmosphere.

Additionally, wilderness areas are some of our most naturally resilient landscapes. This allows them to endure periodic wildfires and other disturbances, like floods, with relatively little human impact or intervention. This helps save the government money, as opposed to a more active style of forest management.

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This legislation not only helps to combat climate change, it also supports access to clean water, protects pristine wildlife habitats, and bolsters the outdoor recreation economies of Colorado, California, Washington, and more.

The Protecting America's Wilderness Act was crafted in direct coordination with the stakeholders and local voices that it will impact. I thank Chairman GRIJALVA, Congresswoman DEGETTE, and the members of the Natural Resources Committee for the lengths they went to in order to make this bill a success and one that will preserve and protect pristine wildlife habitats, clean water, and access to outdoor recreational opportunities.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Before I get to the points, I know that we differ on policy, but I have to tell you that I was offended by what I thought were racist and sexist comments made by my Democratic colleague about the Republican party makeup, and I totally disagree with her.

Madam Speaker, to begin, I would like to clarify what H.J. Res 79 is. It is not the equal rights amendment. It is a date change. The legislation is a joint resolution removing the deadline for ratification of the equal rights amendment in States that the amendment shall be valid and adopted as part of the Constitution whenever ratified by the legislatures of three-quarters of the States.

Democrats say this is about equal rights for women. Well, I am a woman, and so I, obviously, support equal rights for women. But I oppose H.J. Res 79 for the following reasons:

First: The bill is totally unconstitutional.

When the ERA originally passed on March 22, 1972, Congress explicitly set a deadline for ratification stating that the amendment shall be valid when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within 7 years from the date of its submission by the Congress. That meant that the final deadline was March 22, 1979, almost 41 years ago.

By the end of this initial deadline, only 35 of the 38 States needed had ratified it, so Congress with a simple majority vote, which is questionable, extended the deadline once to 1982, but no other States joined in ratification. Thus, the equal rights amendment was dead.

It is also imperative to note that five of the 35 States rescinded their ratifications. So then the count was down to only 30 States.

In fact, the U.S. Department of Justice issued a legal opinion just last month reiterating that the ERA ratification timeline is expired.

Ultimately, when the 1972 ERA's deadline passed without ratification by three-fourths of the States, the proposed amendment expired and is, therefore, no longer pending. The 1972 ERA, therefore, can no longer be ratified because it no longer exists.

In one of its works, the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, which we all turn to, states that the ERA formally died on June 30, 1982. The U.S. Supreme Court also dismissed all cases related to the ERA because it held the cases to be moot, saying that the ERA ratification date had expired.

Regardless of one's view on whether or not the equal rights amendment should be adopted, the fact remains that the equal rights amendment was not ratified by the necessary 38 States by the deadline set forth in the text of the amendment itself.

Just last night, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, certainly not known as a conservative, said Virginia's recent adoption of an ERA resolution was long after the deadline passed. She went on to say, ''I would like to see a new beginning. I'd like it to start over. There's too much controversy about latecomers. Virginia—long after the deadline passed. Plus, a number of States have withdrawn their ratification.'' Remember the five I talked about. ''So if you count a latecomer on the plus side, how can you disregard States that said we've changed our minds?'' And deratified.

In addition, the Democrats' sneaky act to slip into this resolution language that would deem that a mere majority vote instead of the two-thirds vote needed on a constitutional amendment, has significant constitutional and legal ramifications.

Should my Democratic colleagues wish to proceed with seeking to add the ERA to the Constitution, the appropriate method would be to follow the procedure outlined in the Constitution: Passage by a two-thirds majority in both Houses of Congress, followed by ratification by three-quarters of the States. And it seems as recently as last night, Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg agrees.

Secondly: The ERA amendment is not necessary.

Women's equality of rights under the law is already recognized in our Constitution in the Fifth and 14th Amendments.

Women do deserve fairness and equality under the law. Through established law such as Title IX, the Equality Opportunity Act of 1963, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Pregnancy Discrimination Act, and Equal Pay Act, plus State and local laws, women have made huge strides against institutional discrimination against women in education, employment, sports, politics, and many other aspects of society.

The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently ruled that both the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment and the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment guarantee women equal protection under the law.

That is why the ACLU women's rights director Lenora Lapidus wrote in response to what Ms. SCANLON brought up about Justice Scalia, ''it has been clearly understood that the 14th Amendment prohibits discrimination based on sex. In decision after decision, many authored by conservative Supreme Court Justices, this principle has been reaffirmed.''

Third: If ratified, the ERA would be used by pro-abortion groups to undo pro-life legislation and lead to more abortions and taxpayer funding of abortions.

Don't take my word for it. Let's look at what pro-abortion groups have done and what they are saying now.

Abortion activists have already utilized State-level ERAs to require taxpayer-funded abortion.

In 1998, the New Mexico Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the State ERA required the State to fund abortions since procedures sought by men like, prostate surgery, are funded. A lawsuit in Connecticut used similar arguments and achieved the same objective, full taxpayer-funded abortion.

In 2019, Planned Parenthood and Women's Law Center filed a lawsuit in Pennsylvania arguing that the Pennsylvania's ERA means abortion must be included in medical coverage for women because men aren't denied coverage for anything.

In another example, NARAL Pro-Choice America—which is a pro-abortion group—in a March 13, 2019, national alert asserted that the ERA would reinforce the constitutional right to abortion. It would require judges to strike down anti-abortion laws.

Further, in a 2019 letter to the House Judiciary Committee, the ACLU stated, ''The equal rights amendment could provide an additional layer of protection against restrictions on abortion, contraception, and other forms of reproductive healthcare.''

And the pro-ERA website itself, EqualRightsAmendment.org, explicitly states that ratifying the ERA into the U.S. Constitution would ''provide a strong legal defense against a rollback of women's rights, including but not limited to Roe v. Wade.''

In conclusion, H.J. Res 79 is unconstitutional. The ERA is unnecessary since constitutional, Federal, State and local laws already guarantee equal protections, and the ERA, if ratified, would be used by pro-abortion groups to undo pro-life laws.

Also included in this rule is H.R. 2546, the Protecting America's Wilderness Act.

My Republican colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee have expressed concern that each of the bills in this package will remove large swaths of land in rural areas from development, threaten the economic base of these regions, and reduce the effectiveness of fire prevention plans.

My Democratic colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee have continued the disappointing trend of moving bills that are not supported by the Members who represent the impacted lands. In fact, all the wilderness designations in H.R. 2546 are located outside the bill sponsor's district. Instead, most are located in Representative SCOTT TIPTON from Colorado's district, who opposes the bill.

One of the greatest concerns about this piece of legislation is that significant opposition from local counties, communities, and stakeholder groups seem to go ignored. The consensus is that these bills will negatively impact individual homeowners, agricultural entities, water providers, first responders, and the recreation tourism industry.

Today, it seems what we simply have before us are examples of:

Legislating in other Members' districts without their support or any attempt to collaborate.

Increased risk of wildfires due to the lack of management and inability to use mechanical means to fight or prevent fire within all newly designated wilderness areas.

Lack of support from local leaders and stakeholders across each of the bills in this legislation.

Concerns about threats to private property rights when the vast majority of land proposed to be added to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area is nonFederal.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, certainly we see a laundry list of reasons for opposition to this bill.

We hear that it is unconstitutional. Although, in fact, nothing in the Constitution speaks to deadlines that Congress may set.

We usually hear our colleagues from across the aisle invoking Justice Ginsburg to argue that for some reason we should start over with this century-long process.

Justice Ginsburg has obviously been a champion on these issues, and to the extent that remarks that she has made are being quoted, I understand that they were expressing a personal view about the ideal circumstances in which the ERA could pass, not a legal view about what is required.

It is probably better to remember that Justice Ginsburg has been a champion for the ERA since it was approved by both Houses of Congress in a bipartisan way in the 1970s. And as she reiterated just yesterday, ''The union will be more perfect when that simple statement—that men and women are persons of equal citizenship stature—is part of our fundamental instrument of government.''

Please note, this is a tactic of distracting and dividing. Last night I asked our colleague if he would be willing to vote for the ERA if, in fact, we were to start over, which he said he would not. And we certainly do not see members of the Republican party saying that they would vote for the ERA if it would be reintroduced.

What we are seeing here is simply an effort to quash the ERA, to end it, to put it to rest, to not have it be made part of our Constitution.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE).

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I rise today in order to form a more perfect union, and I do that by supporting today's rule and the underlying

resolution which will finally allow for the 28th Amendment to the Constitution, the equal rights amendment.

The equal rights amendment will enshrine the fundamental principle that every American be afforded equal rights under the law, including women.

In 1971 and 1972, Congress overwhelmingly passed the equal rights amendment. And just a few weeks ago Virginia became the 38th State to ratify it and the last State needed to amend our Constitution.

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H.J. Res. 79 would remove the deadline for States to ratify the equal rights amendment, clearing the path for full equality of rights for women.

Because women are still subject to significant pay disparities and sexual harassment, our work is far from over.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support today's rule and the underlying resolution and join me in voting for a more perfect union.

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), my good friend.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to oppose H.J. Res. 79. This resolution seeks to unconstitutionally remove the deadline for ratification of the equal rights amendment.

In 1972, Madam Speaker, when I was 10 years old, Congress originally set the deadline for ratification at 7 years by two-thirds vote. Before the original time period expired, Congress then passed a 3-year extension, which also passed before the necessary number of States ratified the amendment.

Today, 37 years after the constitutional time has expired, it is quite clear that, because of a new focus on a so-called right to taxpayer-funded abortion, the equal rights amendment does not have support from a two-thirds majority of Congress or, likely, from two-thirds of the States, certainly, as we have seen at least five States have already rescinded.

Instead of following the guidance of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and starting the amendment process over again as the Founders intended—and this is, let me just say, Madam Speaker, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg's legal view as a member of the U.S. Supreme Court. It is her legal view. It is her constitutional view. Instead, Democrats are attempting, today, to retroactively and unconstitutionally remove this deadline by a simple majority vote.

For decades, Congress has expressed the will of the American people and not used taxpayer dollars for abortion. Whether they were Democrat or Republican Presidents, split Chambers of Congress or one party in control of both branches of government, there has been bipartisan agreement on appropriations language to limit taxpayer-funded abortions and support basic pro-life protections across our country.

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

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Missouri.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, if the Democrat majority wants to test that bipartisan agreement and upend decades of precedent, they are welcome to use the simple, clear process laid out in Article V of the Constitution to propose and adopt a new and legal ERA amendment.

Let me be clear, Madam Speaker. I support equal rights for women, as does the U.S. Constitution, but skirting that process for partisan gain sets a dangerous and un-American precedent.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to protect our democracy and to vote ''no.''

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

I include in the RECORD a January 15 New York Times article, entitled: ''Why the Equal Rights Amendment is Back.''

[From the New York Times, Jan. 15, 2020]

WHY THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT IS BACK

(By Patrick J. Lyons, Maggie Astor and Maya Salam)

Of all the laws the Virginia legislature may pass now that Democrats have won control of it, none have been so long in the making as the Equal Rights Amendment. First proposed almost a century ago and passed by Congress in 1972, the E.R.A., which would add a provision to the Constitution guaranteeing equal rights to men and women, could have sweeping implications if it takes effect.

Both houses of the Virginia Legislature approved the ratification resolution on Wednesday. Supporters hope that will lift the amendment over the threshold to become part of the federal Constitution. But there is considerable dispute over whether the state's action will have any legal effect or merely be symbolic.

Here's what it is all about.

What does the amendment say?

The E.R.A. is three sentences long, and the key one is the first: ''Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.'' The other two are about putting it into effect.

By some estimates, 80 percent of Americans mistakenly believe that women and men are already explicitly guaranteed equal rights by the Constitution. But it currently does so only for the right to vote. The amendment is intended to remedy that omission.

Supporters say adopting the E.R.A. would, among other things, sweep away discrimination in the workplace; help women to achieve pay equality and allow men to get paid paternity leave; require states to intervene in cases of domestic violence and sexual harassment; and guard against discrimination based on pregnancy and motherhood. It may bolster protections for gay and transgender people as well.

Opponents have argued that the amendment would, among other things, undermine family structure; intrude on religious practice; and lead to the outlawing of separate men's and women's bathrooms, single-sex college dormitories and other accommodations. Some also argue that the E.R.A. is unnecessary because the 14th Amendment already guarantees everyone the ''equal protection of the laws.'' The Supreme Court has indeed read the 14th Amendment to ban many forms of sex discrimination. But supporters of the E.R.A. say there are still gaps in existing laws, both at the federal and state level, that need to be addressed comprehensively.

How did the amendment stall, and come back to life?

Amendments to the Constitution require the assent of three-quarters of the states—these days, 38 out of 50—to take effect. When Congress passed the amendment in 1972, it set a deadline for reaching that goal—originally 1979, later extended to 1982. But only 35 states ratified the amendment in time, in large part because of an opposition campaign led by Phyllis Schlafly, a proudly anti-feminist Republican.

There the issue lay until 2017, when a Democratic state senator in Nevada, Pat Spearman, persuaded the Legislature to ratify the amendment, even though the deadline had long passed. That move revived interest across the country, and Illinois followed suit in 2018. An effort in Virginia fell short a year ago, but after Democrats won in November, they promised to try again.

Is Virginia's assent enough to get to 38 states?

That's a bit cloudy. Virginia is the 38th state to approve the Equal Rights Amendment, but over the years, five of those states—Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, South Dakota and Tennessee—have voted to rescind their ratifications, and it is possible that opponents would challenge the amendment on that basis.

They would not have precedent on their side. After the Civil War, several states tried to take back their ratifications of either the 14th or 15th Amendments, but they were counted in the Yes column anyway, and all of those states later re-ratified the amendments.

What about the deadline?

That is the big question now. It could be repealed, or challenged in court, or both.

Most amendments to the Constitution have not had explicit ratification deadlines. The most recent one, the 27th, had been pending for more than 200 years before it was finally ratified in 1992.

Supporters argue that the deadline for the E.R.A. is unenforceable because it is stated only in the preamble to the amendment, and not in the amendment itself.

The Supreme Court said in 1921 that amendments had to be ratified within a reasonable time after passage, and that Congress had the authority to set a deadline, as it has almost always done since then. But in 1939, the court ruled that the question of whether ratification of an amendment was timely and valid was ''non-justiciable''—in other words, it was up to Congress, and none of the courts' business.

Congress extended the deadline for the Equal Rights Amendment once—by three years—and supporters say it could do so again, or repeal the deadline entirely. A bill to do that was introduced in the Democratic-controlled House in April and attracted broad support. It would also have to pass the Republican-controlled Senate, where its prospects are less clear, though it has sponsors there from both parties.

Legal experts disagree, however, on whether Congress has the power to remove the deadline retroactively, and that issue could land in court.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, for nearly a century, advocates have tried to add a provision to the Constitution guaranteeing equal rights to men and

women. By some estimates, 80 percent of Americans mistakenly believe that women and men are already explicitly guaranteed equal rights by our Constitution, but it currently does so only for the right to vote. The equal rights amendment will help remedy that omission.

It is necessary that Congress consider this amendment to the Constitution to help women achieve pay equality, require States to intervene in cases of domestic violence and sexual harassment, and guard against discrimination based on pregnancy and motherhood.

Contrary to the arguments we are hearing today, this is not an abortion amendment; this is equal rights for women.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I am waiting for another speaker, but I will yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, there are a couple of things that my colleague from the Rules Committee, Ms. SCANLON, said. She said something to the effect of nothing in the Constitution sets a deadline. Well, I have to disagree with that. Actually, it is not just me; it is the Supreme Court. A 1921 Supreme Court decision, Dillon v. Gloss, affirmed that:

> Congress has the power to fix the definite time limit for ratification of a proposed constitutional amendment under its authority to determine the mode of ratification for an amendment under Article V of the Constitution.

As I said before, this expired back in 1979. I mean, that is 41 years ago. Then, of course, back then, Congress came forward, and my understanding is they just did a majority vote instead of the two-thirds that I believe is needed to deal with a constitutional amendment.

But no other States had ratified. In fact, by the 1979 deadline, five States had withdrawn their ratification. So you were at 35, then it went down to 30, and it is dead.

When my colleague says Justice Ginsberg supports the ERA, I know that. That is my point. She does support the ERA. But even she said we need to start all over again because the deadline has passed.

Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to make in order a resolution to prevent any moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracking on Federal lands unless authorized by Congress.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, this amendment would affirm that States should maintain primacy for the regulation of hydraulic fracturing and prevent any President from imposing a ban on hydraulic fracturing.

Many of the Democratic candidates for President have pledged to ban hydraulic fracturing in the United States, a campaign promise straight out of the ''keep it in the ground'' playbook.

While this widely used practice is often vilified by proponents of the Green New Deal, in fact, hydraulic fracturing is heavily regulated by the States and governed by stringent industry standards throughout the country.

Thanks to hydraulic fracturing, U.S. gas bills have fallen by $13 billion collectively every year from 2007 to 2013. The U.S. is leading the way in emissions reductions through innovation in the energy sector. In 2017, U.S. carbon emissions reached the lowest level ever since 1992, and per capita emissions reached the lowest level since 1950.

And, very importantly, the U.S. has become an energy exporter, and we no longer have to rely on OPEC oil like we did in the 1970s. Fracking and U.S. energy independence strengthens our national security.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG), my good friend.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for yielding, and I join the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO) in urging my colleagues to defeat the previous question so we can consider H. Res. 659.

Hydraulic fracturing provides enormous benefits to the American people, including energy security, national security, economic growth, and reduced carbon emissions.

The Baaken oil patch, stretching across western North Dakota, is an essential contributor to producing 1.5 million barrels of oil per day and over 2 billion cubic feet of associated gas per day.

The United States is uniquely situated in the world economy. We are one of the very few if not the only country that is both food and energy secure. I am proud that North Dakota is a big part of that energy security.

Let us not forget that a mere 10 years ago, if Iran would have shot down a U.S. drone, seized the British ship in the Strait of Hormuz, conducted a terrorist attack on a Saudi oil facility, and shot rockets at U.S. troops in Iraq, oil would have skyrocketed to over $115 a barrel and stayed there.

Do you know what happened the day after those attacks? Oil went down $1.29.

Fracking directly employs over 2 million Americans, including 35,000 people in my home State.

In 2020, the U.S. is expected to become a net energy exporter.

In 2019, we doubled our natural gas exports.

Fracking offsets other carbon energy sources, which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has noted was an important reason for reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.

With continued technological advancements like carbon capture storage and utilization, we can continue to develop these American energy reserves while decreasing carbon emissions.

Simply put, America is stronger and our enemies are weaker because of fracking. Any attempt to ban or limit fracking makes us less safe and less prosperous.

A fracking ban will do nothing to reduce carbon emissions—in fact, it will do the opposite—but it will destroy my entire State's economy and send us back to the days where we rely on OPEC to fuel our economy.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, may I inquire if the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO) is prepared to close. We are prepared to close.

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), my good friend.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Part of one of the underlying bills, H.R. 2546, the Protecting America's Wilderness Act, includes language to expand the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by some 191,000 acres, an area known as the Rim of the Valley Corridor.

In 2008, Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to study whether to designate all or a portion of the Rim of the Valley Corridor as part of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. In 2016, the National Park Service recommended an expansion of 173,000 acres.

The bill today expands the area by more than that to 191,000 acres, including new areas that were not listed in the study. They are completely disconnected from the Rim of the Valley Corridor; yet they are included in the exclusion.

□ 1300

In addition, the National Park Service testified in June 2019 against the proposed expansion of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, citing a need to focus resources on the deferred maintenance backlog.

The proposed land expansion would include Soledad Canyon, a mineral-rich area where the Bureau of Land Management has issued contracts to mine millions of tons of sand and gravel for southern California. Our strong economy has led to an increase in manufacturing and construction. The problem is that the supply of construction materials, like those that can be found in this area, is declining.

This legislation, the underlying legislation, would make it incredibly onerous for contracted companies to move forward with agreed-upon projects. Democrats often talk about the importance of a large infrastructure bill, yet the passage of this bill would increase the costs of essential materials that such projects do require.

The bottom line is that the land under consideration is currently in dispute, and decisions that will significantly change the landscape and activity of an area should not occur without consensus.

Last night, the Rules Committee reported a rule that included consideration of two amendments that may help address these concerns. Representative MCCLINTOCK offered an amendment to allow the Secretary of Agriculture or Secretary of the Interior to exclude from wilderness designations any areas that do not meet the definition of wilderness as defined in the Wilderness Act.

Representative WESTERMAN offered an amendment to strike all designations of potential wilderness under the bill.

Those are commonsense amendments, and when the appropriate time comes, I urge all Members to support the amendments. The underlying bill is flawed, and I will oppose it on passage.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close if the gentlewoman from Arizona is prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to urge my Democratic colleagues to halt their attempts to change the rules and bring back an expired amendment that would rewrite our Constitution. Not only is this unprecedented, but it is wrong, and it is unconstitutional.

I believe Congress should oppose pointless legislation to remove the deadline and focus, instead, on upholding women's rights, dignity, and opportunity.

I urge my colleagues to reject this resolution and work together to promote truly helpful legislation for women.

Madam Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on the previous question and ''no'' on the underlying resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.J. Res. 79 is a long-overdue, bedrock civil rights effort, while the Protecting America's Wilderness Act is an effort that took input from a broad coalition of stakeholders to end up with a bill to positively impact local communities and further our national interest in preventing climate change.

As Members of Congress, we have a duty to uphold and protect the Constitution and the charge of our Founders to continue to form a more perfect Union. Passing the equal rights amendment is truly representative of that oath to ensure that all Americans are treated equally and afforded equal rights under the law.

I would like to recognize some of the women in organizations who have gotten us to this point: Alice Paul, who graduated from college in my district; Crystal Eastman; Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, who issued the first public call for women's equality at Seneca Falls in 1848; the National Organization for Women and the League of Women Voters, which organized and activated so many Americans of both parties in support of this movement; and so many of the other countless advocates who have fought tirelessly for women's equality.

This resolution is for all of them and for all the women and girls seeking to further advance equality and fighting for a more just America.

This resolution is a bold step forward in the ongoing fight for equal rights. I recognize that I would not be here without the sacrifices made by the women who came before me. Their passion and strength paved the way for me and for so many of my colleagues to get to where we are today.

But the battle is not yet won. Let's pass this rule, pass this resolution, and show our children that all Americans deserve equal rights and protection under the Constitution.

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

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

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 844

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 6. That immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall resolve into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 659) affirming that States should maintain primacy for the regulation of hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas production on State and private lands and that the President should not declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing on Federal lands (including the Outer Continental Shelf), State lands, private lands, or lands held in trust for an Indian Tribe unless such moratorium is authorized by an Act of Congress. The first reading of the resolution shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the resolution are waived. General debate shall be confined to the resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the resolution shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the resolution are waived. When the committee rises and reports the resolution back to the House with a recommendation that the resolution be adopted, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and amendments thereto to adoption without intervening motion. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the resolution, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the resolution.

SEC. 7. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H. Res. 659.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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.

SMITHSONIAN WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1980) to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1980

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 ''Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Since its founding, the United States has greatly benefitted from the contributions of women.

(2) Historical accounts, monuments, memorials, and museums disproportionately represent men's achievements and contributions and often neglect those of women. For example—

(A) a study of 18 American history textbooks concluded that 10 percent of the material documented contributions of women;

(B) 9 statues out of 91 in the United States Capitol's National Statuary Hall depict women; and

(C) only one of the 44 monuments operated by the National Park Service specifically honors the achievements of women after the 2016 designation of the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument.

(3) There exists no national museum in the United States that is devoted to the documentation of women's contributions throughout the Nation's history.

(4) Establishing a comprehensive women's history museum representing a diverse range of viewpoints, experience, and backgrounds is necessary to more accurately depict the history of the United States and would add value to the Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF MUSEUM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, to be named by the Board of Regents in consultation with the council established under section 4.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the museum established under this section shall be to provide for—

(1) the collection, study, and establishment of programs relating to women's contributions to various fields and throughout different periods of history that have influenced the direction of the United States;

(2) collaboration with other Smithsonian Institution museums and facilities, outside museums, and educational institutions; and

(3) the creation of exhibitions and programs that recognize diverse perspectives on women's history and contributions.

SEC. 4. COUNCIL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Smithsonian Institution a council to carry out the duties set forth under subsection (b) and other provisions of this Act.

(b) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The council established under this section shall—

(A) make recommendations to the Board of Regents concerning the planning, design, and construction of the museum established under section 3;

(B) advise and assist the Board of Regents on all matters relating to the administration, operation, maintenance, and preservation of the museum;

(C) recommend annual operating budgets for the museum to the Board of Regents;

(D) report annually to the Board of Regents on the acquisition, disposition, and display of objects relating to women's art, history, and culture; and

(E) adopt bylaws for the operation of the council.

(2) PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—The council, subject to the general policies of the Board of Regents, shall have sole authority to—

(A) purchase, accept, borrow, and otherwise acquire artifacts for addition to the collections of the museum;

(B) loan, exchange, sell, and otherwise dispose of any part of the collections of the museum, but only if the funds generated by that disposition are used for additions to the collections of the museum; or

(C) specify criteria with respect to the use of the collections and resources of the museum, including policies on programming, education, exhibitions, and research with respect to—

(i) the life, art, history, and culture of women;

(ii) the role of women in the history of the United States; and

(iii) the contributions of women to society.

(3) OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.—The council, subject to the general policies of the Board of Regents, shall have authority—

(A) to provide for preservation, restoration, and maintenance of the collections of the museum; and

(B) to solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, and devises of personal property for the purpose of aiding and facilitating the work of the museum.

(4) ENSURING DIVERSITY OF POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS IN EXHIBITS AND PROGRAMS.—In carrying out its duties, the council shall ensure that the exhibits and programs of the museum reflect the diversity of the political viewpoints held by women of the United States on the events and issues relating to the history of women in the United States.

(c) COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The council shall be composed of 25 voting members as provided under paragraph (2).

(2) VOTING MEMBERS.—The council shall include the following voting members:

(A) The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

(B) One member of the Board of Regents, appointed by the Board of Regents.

(C) 23 individuals appointed by the Board or Regents. In appointing members under this subparagraph, the Board of Regents should give special consideration to appointing—

(i) members of the Congressional Commission;

(ii) board members of the National Women's History Museum, a nonprofit, educational organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that was incorporated in 1996 in the District of Columbia and that is dedicated for the purpose of establishing a women's history museum; and

(iii) scholars and representatives of organizations that are committed to the study of women's history.

(3) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Board of Regents shall make initial appointments to the council under paragraph (2) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) TERMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this subsection, each appointed member of the council shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(2) INITIAL APPOINTEES.—As designated by the Board of Regents at the time of appointment, of the voting members first appointed under subparagraph (C) of subsection (c)(2)—

(A) 8 members shall be appointed for a term of 1 year;

(B) 8 members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

(C) 7 members shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(3) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member of the council may be reappointed, except that no individual may serve on the council for a total of more than 2 terms. For purposes of this paragraph, the number of terms an individual serves on the council shall not include any portion of a term for which an individual is appointed to fill a vacancy under paragraph (4)(B).

(4) VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the council—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the council; and

(ii) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(B) TERM.—Any member of the council appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of that term.

(e) COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a member of the council shall serve without pay.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the council shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the council.

(f) CHAIRPERSON.—By a majority vote of its voting members, the council shall elect a chairperson from its members.

(g) MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The council shall meet at the call of the chairperson or on the written request of a majority of the voting members of the council, but not fewer than twice each year.

(2) INITIAL MEETINGS.—During the 1-year period beginning on the date of the first meeting of the council, the council shall meet not fewer than 4 times for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the council under this subchapter.

(h) QUORUM.—A majority of the voting members of the council holding office shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business, but a lesser number may receive information on behalf of the council.

SEC. 5. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF THE MUSEUM.

(a) DIRECTOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The museum established under section 3 shall have a Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary, taking into consideration individuals recommended by the council established under section 4.

(2) DUTIES.—The Director shall manage the museum subject to the policies of the Board of Regents.

(b) STAFF.—The Secretary may appoint two additional employees to serve under the Director, except that such additional employees may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service.

(c) PAY.—The employees appointed by the Secretary under subsection (b) may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

SEC. 6. EDUCATIONAL AND LIAISON PROGRAMS.

(a) PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED.—The Director of the museum established under section 3 may carry out educational and liaison programs in support of the goals of the museum.

(b) COLLABORATION WITH SCHOOLS.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall carry out educational programs in collaboration with elementary schools, secondary schools, and postsecondary schools.

SEC. 7. BUILDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) LOCATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Board of Regents shall designate a site for the museum established under section 3.

(B) SITES FOR CONSIDERATION.—In designating a site under subparagraph (A), the Board of Regents shall select from among the following sites in the District of Columbia:

(i) The site known as the ''South Monument site'', located on the National Mall and bordered by 14th Street Northwest, Jefferson Drive Southwest, Raoul Wallenberg Place Southwest, and Independence Ave Southwest.

(ii) The Northwest United States Capitol site, bordered by 3rd Street Northwest, Constitution Avenue Northwest, 1st Street Northwest, and Pennsylvania Ave Northwest.

(iii) Any other appropriate location as identified by the Board of Regents in consultation with the council established under section 4.

(C) AVAILABILITY OF SITE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The sites described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B) shall remain available until the date on which the Board of Regents designates a site for the museum under subparagraph (A).

(ii) TRANSFER TO SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—If the site designated for the museum is in an area that is under the administrative jurisdiction of a Federal agency, as soon as practicable after the date on which the designation is made, the head of the Federal agency shall transfer to the Smithsonian Institution administrative jurisdiction over the area.

(D) FACTORS CONSIDERED.—In designating a site under subparagraph (A), the Board of Regents shall take into consideration each of the following factors:

(i) An estimate of the costs associated with each potential site.

(ii) An assessment of the suitability of the space of each potential site, including size, proximity to other buildings and transportation, and other external environmental conditions, as appropriate.

(iii) The recommendations of the Congressional Commission.

(E) CONSULTATION.—The Board of Regents shall carry out its duties under this paragraph in consultation with each of the following:

(i) The Chair of the National Capital Planning Commission.

(ii) The Chair of the Commission on Fine Arts.

(iii) The Chair of the Congressional Commission.

(iv) The chair and ranking minority member of the Committees on Appropriations and Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(v) The chair and ranking minority member of the Committees on Appropriations, House Administration, and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(F) PRIORITY.—In designating a site under subparagraph (A), the Board of Regents shall give priority to a site which is on or near the National Mall.

(b) CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING.—The Board of Regents, in consultation with the council established under section 4, may plan, design, and construct a building for the museum, which shall be located at the site designated by the Board of Regents under subsection (a).

(c) NONAPPLICABILITY OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO MONUMENTS AND COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.—Chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code, shall not apply with respect to the museum.

(d) COST SHARING.—The Board of Regents shall pay—

(1) 50 percent of the costs of carrying out this section from Federal funds; and

(2) 50 percent of the costs of carrying out this section from non-Federal sources.

SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) The term ''Board of Regents'' means the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

(2) The term ''Congressional Commission'' means the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, established under section 3056 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3810).

(3) The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Smithsonian Institution to carry out this Act, including the planning, design, construction, and operation of the museum established under section 3, such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each succeeding fiscal year.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization under this section shall remain available until expended.

(c) USE OF FUNDS FOR FUNDRAISING.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization under this section may be used to conduct fundraising in support of the museum established under section 3 from private sources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1980, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act.

H.R. 1980 will establish a comprehensive women's history museum within the Smithsonian Institution. We cannot tell the story of America without telling the story of women in America.

From the days leading up to our founding through today, the United States has benefited from the contributions, accomplishments, and sacrifices of women.

In the 1760s, the Daughters of Liberty came together to protest unjust laws like the Townshend Acts, helping to spark the American Revolution. Soon after the Revolution, Abigail Adams urged her husband, John, and other Members of the First Continental Congress to: ''Remember the ladies.'' She would later become one of President Adams' most influential advisers and confidants.

In the years leading up to the Civil War, Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery and guided dozens of slaves to freedom throughout the Underground Railroad, and she didn't stop there. She went on to raise money for newly freed slaves and joined other women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony in their fight for women's suffrage.

During World War II, 6.5 million women entered the labor force to support the war effort, including my own late mother, who helped build airplanes in south San Francisco to fight the Nazis. They were exercising new power with jobs outside the home, and this power has continued to grow over time, albeit more slowly than many of us would like.

Later in the 20th century, Rosa Parks sparked the Montgomery bus boycott, and Sandra Day O'Connor took the bench as the first woman ever appointed to the Supreme Court.

More recently, Speaker NANCY PELOSI became the first and second female Speaker of the House. In 2018, a record 102 women were elected to the House of Representatives.

However, these and countless other accomplishments by women notwithstanding, historical accounts, monuments, and museums disproportionately represent the achievements of men while neglecting those of women. Furthermore, studies have shown that history textbooks discuss the accomplishments of men exponentially more often than those of women. This should change.

The contributions and experiences of American women deserve celebration and recognition, and I can think of few better ways to celebrate and recognize American women than by establishing a women's history museum at the Smithsonian, our country's preeminent museum and research institution.

The Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act mirrors the highly successful National Museum of African American History and Culture Act. Like that bill, this bill calls for a 50–50 split between Federal and non-Federal funding, a model that worked very well for the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The House Administration Committee considered this legislation at a hearing with Secretary Lonnie Bunch in September. During our markup in November, we agreed to an amendment offered by the minority to ensure diversity of political viewpoints in exhibits and programs.

Women have come a long way since the Daughters of Liberty began boycotting British goods and organizing protests in the 1760s. But despite how far we have come, we still have a long way to go. I am hopeful that today, a century after women were granted the right to vote, we will take a critical step in creating a museum to recognize these achievements and inspire our daughters and our daughters' daughters to follow in the footsteps of the incredible women who came before them as we continue our unending work to form a more perfect Union.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1980, which would establish a national women's history museum within the Smithsonian Institution.

Throughout our history, women have made enduring and significant contributions to our Nation's scientific, cultural, economic, artistic, and civic life. It is critical to preserve and share these stories because women's history is America's history.

That is why I, like the 293 bipartisan cosponsors of this bill, support a museum in our Nation's Capital dedicated to showcasing these contributions.

This bill is the result of much hard work. A bipartisan commission extensively studied the complex issues surrounding the establishment of a museum. Their final report, issued in 2016, recommended the creation of a comprehensive national women's history museum and that it be part of the Smithsonian Institution. H.R. 1980 embodies this recommendation.

It is critical that the eventual new museum reflects the full spectrum of views among American women, including conservative voices and opinions. During committee markup of this bill, my colleague MARK WALKER's amendment to ensure the diversity of political viewpoints in the museum's exhibits and programming was unanimously adopted.

The Smithsonian faces a challenging task ahead. Creating a new museum

takes an enormous amount of effort and resources, with cost estimates approaching $650 million.

Further, the Smithsonian has ongoing major capital improvement projects, a nearly $1 billion deferred maintenance backlog, and storage capacity issues.

As I have stated before, I think it is imperative that we, as policymakers, holistically consider all the multifaceted components with these projects and how they fit into the long-term strategic plan of the Smithsonian.

These are challenges but should not be obstacles to moving forward. With strong leadership at the Smithsonian and the partnership of Congress, a Smithsonian women's history museum can become a reality. I look forward to one day visiting it and sharing that experience with my own daughter.

Before I yield, I would like to commend my colleague across the aisle, Representative MALONEY, and my colleague standing to my right, the lead Republican sponsor, Mr. FITZPATRICK, on their dedication to pushing this bill through the legislative process. I thank both of them and their staffs for their hard work to get here.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, we are fortunate that the author of this bill, the gentlewoman from New York, is here with us today. She is someone who has been pursuing this idea for our country for so many years, and she would never give up until we got to this day.

Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), who has been tireless and persistent. We would not be here today without the effort of Chairwoman MALONEY.

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Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend, ZOE LOFGREN, for her leadership in so many ways and for being part of this success today. It would not have happened without the gentlewoman, and I am deeply grateful.

There is a saying that women hold up half the sky. I would say that is an understatement. Women have made an incredible, lasting contribution to our country since its founding, yet there is not one comprehensive women's museum dedicated to women's achievements and their contributions to our great country anyplace in America.

We have sliver museums like an arts museum or First Ladies museum or an Annie Oakley museum or Women of the West, but not a comprehensive museum, which the Smithsonian is planning with research and the ability to have exhibits across the country to tell the story of American women.

Under the leadership of Speaker NANCY PELOSI and Majority Leader STENY HOYER, we will be changing that today by voting on H.R. 1980, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act.

This is a bipartisan effort. We have an overwhelming number of cosponsors—293—thanks to the efforts of all of my colleagues, including Congressman BRIAN FITZPATRICK, who is the lead on the other side of the aisle; Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE; Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, who is chairing a committee meeting now; and the Problem Solvers Caucus led by JOSH GOTTHEIMER and TOM REED—bipartisan—Congresswoman SUSAN BROOKS; and many, many others.

I am particularly grateful to Congressman FITZPATRICK for reaching out to me before this Congress even began to tell me he wanted to be a leader—as his brother was—on this bill and get it across the finish line.

I also express my appreciation to Michael Fitzpatrick, BRIAN's brother, who supported this bill as a leader for many years. He is greatly missed. He was a great statesman, and he is part of the success with us today.

The journey of this moment started for me with a walk around the National Mall. I was looking at all the museums, and I saw them dedicated to air, space, spies, law enforcement, textiles, the Postal Service, arts—all enriching institutions.

But I found myself asking: Where are the women?

Where is half the population of this country?

Today, with the passage of H.R. 1980, the House is taking a step toward changing that.

Unfortunately, women have been left out of the telling of our Nation's history. Sadly, if you walk around this Capitol, Madam Speaker, and you count the over 100 statues, only nine are of women.

If you look at our 2,500 National Historic Landmarks across our Nation, only 5 percent of our national landmarks honor women. And studies have shown women are underrepresented in the textbooks that we use in our public schools.

Getting to this point has been a very long road that took from 1998 to 2014 for Congress to finally pass my bill that I worked on for years with then-Representative MARSHA BLACKBURN to create a congressional commission to study the establishment of a women's museum.

This bipartisan commission was appointed by Republican and Democratic leadership and chaired by Jane Abraham, a Republican, who has become an incredible partner in this effort. Eighteen months later, the commissioners submitted a unanimous report that the U.S. needs and deserves—and it is long past due—a Smithsonian women's history museum and set out a vision of how to build it.

We took those recommendations and put them into a bill, with the Smithsonian's input, that is before us today.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today we will pass this important bill, and I hope the Senate will quickly do the same. I am grateful for the leadership of Senators COLLINS and FEINSTEIN who are leading this effort in the Senate.

My response to those who ask why this museum is so important is, if we do not even recognize women, how can we empower them?

We need the efforts and the ability to excel, but from all of our residents, male and female, to win in a competitive world. That is why this bill should be supported by every Member of this House and, hopefully, the Senate.

This is not about politics, it is not about partisanship, and it is not a Democrat or a Republican issue. It is an American issue recognizing the contributions of our mothers, our sisters, and our daughters. This is about giving all women our rightful place in history.

Madam Speaker, I thank ZOE LOFGREN so much, and I urge a strong, strong vote in support of this bill.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, again, I thank my colleague, Mrs. MALONEY, for making this bill a reality in partnership with my good friend, as I mentioned in my opening statements, Mr. FITZPATRICK.

This is the epitome of bipartisanship here on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Levittown, Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), who left his favorite job out in the world as a special agent fighting corruption at the FBI.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member DAVIS for yielding, and I thank Chairwoman MALONEY for her leadership, her partnership, her friendship, and passion that she has shown to get us here today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly support the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act. I was proud to join the chairwoman in introducing this legislation last year. I am even happier to be here today to support it on the floor.

Madam Speaker, women's contributions to the development of our Nation are immense, however, only 5 percent of the approximately 2,400 national monuments honor women, and as the first museum in the United States dedicated to the full story of women's history, this museum will tell the diverse story of the women who helped shape the United States of America.

H.R. 1980 will finally establish a comprehensive women's history museum in the Smithsonian Institution. The museum will honor and document women's contributions to United States history and exhibit diverse perspectives across our history. For too long the contributions of women and the contributions that they have made to our

Nation have been overlooked and underappreciated. This is unacceptable. Women have been making contributions to America since our founding, and it is time that they get the recognition they deserve.

This bipartisan bill sends a message loud and clear that women deserve an entire museum to show the important role that they have played in building the greatest Nation on Earth. It is time for Congress to authorize the creation of this national museum, and I am proud to stand with Chairwoman MALONEY and all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, as the saying goes, if you can see it, you can be it. Let's show women across America, young and old, the contributions that they and their predecessors have made to the United States of America can be theirs as well.

Again, I thank Chairwoman MALONEY so much for engaging our bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus to be very instrumental in getting us here today.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), who is a leader for women in Congress and in the country.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, it is with great excitement today that I stand in strong support of the bill to establish the women's museum in the Smithsonian chain of museums in our country.

I want to share a story with you, Madam Speaker. When I walked through the doors of the Smithsonian African American Museum, someone asked me: How do you feel?

I said, I feel like this country has finally recognized the contributions and who I am in this country.

We have not been able to make that commitment to women. When we all walk into museums in this great country, it is a reflection for the generations to come of the struggles and the accomplishments that different cultures and populations have had on this great country.

I stand here today because of the women before me who have struggled and fought. I stand on their shoulders. I want to be a woman of whom the girls behind me will be able to say: Because of her, I can be.

This is a vote for our children, the girls who are coming after, and the little boys who need to learn and respect the history of women in this great country.

I stand in support, and I ask all my colleagues to please support this. This is a step that we, as women, must not let go of.

I want to recognize my colleague, Chairwoman MALONEY, who has never given up on this.

Madam Speaker, as women, we know we have to work twice as hard, but we get the job done.

Vote on this museum.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN), who is a fighter for her whole territory.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am here today standing in support of H.R. 1980, because I firmly believe in honoring women trailblazers who have shaped history and the story of our country, women who demonstrate leading by example.

It is just what BRENDA LAWRENCE was saying: we need to demonstrate how we can achieve that empowerment tool, and I think this museum is going to be just that.

Women like our first female Supreme Court Justice from Puerto Rico, Sonia Sotomayor; our first Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor; civil rights activist Rosa Parks; astronaut and astrophysicist, Sally Ride; the first Latina to be elected to Congress, former Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen; and Representative Jeannette Rankin, the first woman elected to Congress; are the better examples.

Each of them in her respective field illustrated the strength and the commitment of women when they set themselves a goal. They are just a few of the women who transformed the American landscape, making it possible for me to be here today as the first female representative of Puerto Rico and now the vice-chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus.

According to the Census, women are 50 percent of the total population of the country—165 million women in America—yet there is not one comprehensive museum dedicated to the history of women in the United States; and of the 2,400 national monuments, only 120—just 5 percent—honor women.

The role of women in the building of this Nation was not properly recognized while it was happening. We must create a space where that history that was not told in their own time can be studied, propagated, and given the high relief it deserves.

Madam Speaker, I support this bill because I think it is time to honor how women shaped what is America today.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, speaking of women leaders in this institution, it is bittersweet because she is not coming back after this year, but I stand here and yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), who is my good friend and my classmate from the 2012 and 2013 cycle.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 1980, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act.

I want to thank Representative MALONEY for championing this important legislation. Her determination to honor American women, which started back in 1998 and the fact that she has brought this type of legislation forward ever since then is a true testament to her grit.

I also want to thank the chairwoman of the House Administration Committee. I want to thank the ranking member of the House Administration Committee. I really welcome their leadership, and they have seen the importance of this legislation.

The Smithsonian Institution was established in 1846 to increase the diffusion of knowledge, and I can think of no better subject matter on which to increase and diffuse knowledge today in 2020 than educating Americans and those who visit our country about the amazing American women who have come before us.

A museum dedicated to American women's history will help ensure that my daughter and my son—future generations—understand the impact that our women have had on our country's past; and with a greater understanding of our country's past we can better navigate the future.

Establishing this museum to collect, study, and establish programs covering historical contributions of women will inspire generations of women to come—women like Jeannette Rankin, the first woman to ever come to this body, the U.S. House, from Montana in 1916 before women even had the right to vote.

□ 1330

Women like Lucille Ball, and we all love Lucy, she was the first woman to run a television studio and capture the attention of viewers around the globe.

Women like Dr. Mae Jemison, an engineer and physician, she was the first African American woman to travel to space.

Women like these three—and there are thousands more—who deserve to have their stories shared with folks around the world and people here at home.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this strong bipartisan piece of legislation to create this national museum dedicated to American women's history. It will celebrate the achievements of American women.

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I think it is important to note that in this 116th Congress, where you had a record-breaking number of women come to this body—101 women, more than ever before, and hopefully, even more will be coming in future Congresses—I urge passage of this important piece of legislation.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), my good friend, classmate, a leader on women's issues, and somebody I knew before we both got elected to this institution.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from

across the river in Illinois. I have the great privilege of representing Missouri's Second Congressional District, and he is a leader in this Congress, but most of all, he is a wonderful friend and colleague.

Madam Speaker, I also commend my good friend, Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY from New York. We have worked in a bipartisan fashion on so many issues, especially when it comes to the scourge of human trafficking, violence against women, taking care of the most vulnerable in our society. I thank her for her commitment.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1980, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act. This important bill will honor the immense contributions that women have made to our country by establishing the first national women's history museum.

Women from my hometown of St. Louis have a proud history of service and heroism. During the First World War, a brave group of St. Louis women volunteered to go to war-torn France to start a hospital for injured Allied soldiers. They were among the first Americans to deploy to Europe and some of the very last to leave. When they departed for France in May 1917, the United States had not even entered the war, and many remained in France for a year after the armistice. They treated more than 60,000 patients before they returned home to St. Louis.

Through their courage, ingenuity, determination, and integrity, American women have been instrumental in the growth of the United States as a global force for good. I am so proud that their stories will be remembered for the next generation of women leaders.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan piece of legislation.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, our speakers have all been detained at markup so I would invite the gentleman to close, and then I will also close.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I support this wonderful piece of legislation. It is talking about leadership. You can't get much better leadership than Chairwoman MALONEY. This is an issue she has been tenacious on.

It is one I am proud to work with the majority party on. At a time when America doesn't think we are a bipartisan institution, I hope today is one of those instances where they can turn on C–SPAN, or maybe it will get reported in the 24-hour news cycle, but we are going to come together to do something that is great, not just for America but America's history.

Madam Speaker, since I have some time left, we are talking about women, strong women who have been a part of this institution. She doesn't know I am doing this because she is sitting right next to me, but we are going to see the retirement of an institution here in this House. Come April 1, my House Administration minority staff is going to lose our institution, our institutional knowledge, Ms. Mary Sue Englund.

Mary Sue has worked for government for 31 years, 27 years here in the House. Working with the likes of Bill Thomas makes me look easy, I think. I don't know all the rest of them before I got here, but the chairpersons of the committee before I got here, I know Mary Sue, when I met her, she was working for then-Chair Candace Miller, and she worked for Chairman Gregg Harper. For her to stay on and work with us in the minority, I am honored.

It is people like Mary Sue who make this institution great. It is people like Mary Sue who are going to be missed. And it is people like Mary Sue who I enjoy embarrassing today because I didn't tell her I was going to do this.

Madam Speaker, if the folks in the gallery would rise today to give Mary Sue the sendoff that she deserves.

Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Clearly, I will not use that all, but you want to talk about empowered women? I am joined here in this House today by three young ladies who are the daughters of somebody I used to work with when I was a staffer.

Ray Fitzgerald died too soon, in 2009. Ray, a former staffer, went back home to Naperville, Illinois. When his youngest daughter, Lucy, was 1, he succumbed to a deadly stomach cancer.

Those three girls, along with their mom, Kristin, are fighting the fight to eradicate stomach cancer and working with us each and every day.

I am proud to see that we are going to have a museum that is going to recognize the people like Mary Sue and the Fitzgeralds—Kristin, Nora, Maggie, and Lucy.

We have to make sure that we continue this fight. Even after today's bipartisanship is shown, we have to make sure that we stand together in a bipartisan way, because if we don't, then we don't have the ability to get a brighter future for Nora, Maggie, and Lucy Fitzgerald, along with their mom, Kristin.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill, please, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I will just say a few words here in closing.

First, I again thank CAROLYN MALONEY, who, for the last 22 years, has worked to be here on this day.

I think it took CAROLYN 22 years, a female Speaker of the House, 101 women in the House, and a female chair of the Committee on House Administration to come together and get to this day where I believe we are going to finally approve this bill and send it over to the Senate. Hopefully, it will be such a large vote that the Senate will feel a degree of pressure to do the right thing.

Madam Speaker, just a word of caution on how long it takes after we vote to approve this and the Senate, hopefully, and the President, hopefully, will sign it, if we pass it.

Secretary Lonnie Bunch is the secretary for the Smithsonian Museum. He has done a fabulous job. But one of his claims to fame is that he brought the National Museum of African American History from an idea to reality. He knows how to do this. And he cautioned us that from the moment you say go to the moment you open the doors to the museum, it is about 10 years.

You have to raise the money. You have to get the scholars to do the scholarship and the exhibition. So unless you take that first step, you don't get there.

That is the advice he gave us last September: If you don't take the first step, you never get there. So this is the first step, and it is an important one.

Madam Speaker, I want to say that along with the fabulously important and famous women who this museum will honor, it is also going to go to the heart of America, the women who maybe weren't famous but built the country, the women like my mother, who walked out of their homes and built airplanes so the United States could win World War II; the women who raised their children, who worked many jobs, who ran the PTA, who helped form the next generation; the women who are the beating heart of this country will be honored by this museum.

Madam Speaker, you really don't know where you are going unless you have some sense of where you came from. That is why this museum will help all American women and men to have a brighter American future.

I will just say this: We do not fool ourselves that having this wonderful museum will solve all the problems that American women face. We still have no family leave policy in this country, so women are squeezed between taking care of their children, taking care of aging parents, not having an opportunity to get time off from work to do the things that life calls them to do. We still have pay disparity in this country. We still lack constitutional protections under the equal rights amendment until we resolve the issue on the latest wonderful vote in Virginia. All of those things remain.

But this museum will be a point of pride. It will be a touchstone. It will be something that every boy and girl in America will be able to know about because it is not going to be just a building. It is going to be a virtual reality, Secretary Bunch has told us, a virtual reality throughout the United States.

Madam Speaker, this is a proud day for this institution. We can support this bill. We can send it to the Senate and look forward to the day when we join Congresswoman MALONEY in walking through the doors of the women's history museum.

Madam Speaker, I urge that we support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1980, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act.

On March 31, 1776, future First Lady Abigail Adams wrote to her husband, John Adams, urging him and the other members of the Continental Congress to "remember the ladies" when fighting for America's independence from Great Britain and drafting a new form of government.

Unfortunately, despite this nation's great history, we were slow to take Abigail Adams' advice to heart. It took 144 years to grant women the right to vote, an historic event I talked about a week ago in a floor speech commemorating the 100th anniversary of New Jersey's ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Even this Congress has downplayed the contributions of women in history as evidenced by the treatment of Portrait Monument, the statue in the Capitol of the three greatest leaders of the suffrage movement, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott.

The Portrait Monument was unveiled with great fanfare in 1921 shortly after the ratification of the 19th Amendment, but for decades it was relegated to an isolated area of the Crypt without a plaque explaining the contributions of the three women or a description of the female artist who sculpted it.

For decades, Congress cited the cost of moving the statue as reason enough for keeping it in the Crypt. In the 1990s, the sponsor of today's bill, Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY of New York, led an effort to raise the funds to move the statue upstairs to the Rotunda. It was not until 1997 that the statue was moved to its current place of honor.

That date is significant for our purposes today. Susan Whiting, the chairman of the board for the National Women's History Museum organization has stated that "[The statue] was the beginning of the entire process of eventually building a museum,"

It's been a long road since 1997 to build a Women's History Museum but passing this bill today will be one giant step closer to our goal.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1980, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act. This legislation will authorize the Smithsonian Institution to establish a Women's History Museum, which will be located alongside our existing Smithsonian museums in our nation's capital.

The contributions by women to the history and advancements of the United States are historic and consequential. Women have always served this nation, from nurses in the Revolutionary War to the ceaseless quest today for equal pay, civil liberties, and equal access to health care.

I am particularly determined to ensure that the contributions and perspectives of women of color are reflected in this proposed institution, as our country must demonstrate their historic and unquestionable significance. The creation of the Smithsonian Women's History Museum will allow all people in this nation and the world to better recognize and appreciate the significant contributions women have made throughout history.

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to pass the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act unanimously and immediately.

First, I congratulate my friend and colleague, Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, on her decades of hard and successful work making the case for a women's museum.

Women are underrepresented in our nation's historical accounts, monuments, memorials, and museums.

Our past, present and as of now, our future are all marked by the absence of women's stories.

From Native American women and early pilgrims; to Abigail Adams when she wrote to her husband to "remember the ladies"; to the suffrage movement; to the one thousand, one hundred, and two Women Airforce Service Pilots that revived our World War II effort; to Rosa Parks to Title Nine.

And I could go on and on and on.

Clearly, women have transformed the history of our country.

But the story of American women is not just in the historical moments. It is also the contributions of women in every aspect of our society.

There is a missing contextualization of the enormous impact that women have had in film, literature, science, government, education, culture, sports, and more.

We have the opportunity to tell the full story, so why are we only telling half of our history?

With these contributions showcased in a museum, we will no longer ask—Why don't we have a woman's National Museum?

But instead, we will celebrate how fitting it is for every girl and every woman to identify with our country's past and want to play a significant role in our future.

You can't be what you can't see.

Frankly, I cannot believe that this museum does not already exist.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the passage of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1980, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 844;

Adoption of House Resolution 844, if ordered; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1980.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 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, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 222, nays 186, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 57]

YEAS—222

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Axne
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)

Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rose (NY)
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—186

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

NOT VOTING—21

Bass
Bilirakis
Byrne
Cohen
Emmer
Gabbard
Graves (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Kirkpatrick
LaHood
Lewis
Meadows
Mullin
Payne
Pence
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rouda
Scalise
Walker
Wright

□ 1409

Messrs. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee and GONZALEZ of Ohio changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 222, nays 185, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 58]

YEAS—222

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Axne
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Richmond
Rose (NY)
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—185

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

NOT VOTING—22

Bass
Byrne
Cohen
Emmer
Gabbard
Graves (GA)
Hollingsworth
Johnson (LA)
Kirkpatrick
LaHood
Lewis
Meadows
Mullin
Payne
Pence
Rice (NY)
Rodgers (WA)
Rouda
Rush
Scalise
Walker
Wright

□ 1420

Mr. WITTMAN changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I inadvertently missed a vote on H. Res. 844. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 58.

SMITHSONIAN WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM 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. 1980) to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, 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 California (Ms. LOFGREN) 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 374, nays 37, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 59]

YEAS—374

Abraham
Adams
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Axne
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cline
Clyburn
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comer
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Dunn
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
Gooden
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Guest
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Holding
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)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
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
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marshall
Mast
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Olson
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Richmond
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—37

Aderholt
Amash
Arrington
Babin
Banks
Biggs
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Budd
Cheney
Cloud
Conaway
Davidson (OH)
Duncan
Estes
Fulcher
Gosar
Grothman
Harris
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
LaMalfa
Marchant
Massie
McClintock
Murphy (NC)
Norman
Palazzo
Palmer
Ratcliffe
Rice (SC)
Rouzer
Roy
Steube
Thornberry
Weber (TX)
Yoho

NOT VOTING—19

Byrne
Cohen
Emmer
Gabbard
Graves (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Kirkpatrick
LaHood
Lewis
Meadows
Mullin
Payne
Pence
Rice (NY)
Rouda
Scalise
Velázquez
Walker
Wright

□ 1431

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.

Stated for:

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, I regret not being present for one vote session. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act, H.R. 1980, rollcall No. 59.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I was absent today due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 57, "yea" on rollcall No. 58, and "yea" on rollcall No. 59.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Miss RICE of New York. Madam Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes Tuesday, February 11, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 57, "yea" on rollcall No. 58, and "yea" on rollcall No. 59.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, due to a medical appointment, I was unable to vote on the following three Roll Call Bills on February 11, 2020.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 57 (Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule (H. Res. 844); "yea" on rollcall No. 58 (H. Res. 844—Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 2546—Protecting America's Wilderness Act and H.J. Res. 79—Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment); and "yea" on rollcall No. 59 (H.R. 1980—Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act, as amended) (Rep. CAROLYN MALONEY—House Administration) Suspension bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF NELSON MANDELA'S RELEASE FROM PRISON

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the former South African President Nelson Mandela's release from jail.

Mandela worked tirelessly to abolish apartheid, empower his fellow citizens, and fight the injustices against the disenfranchised people of South Africa.

Mandela's efforts led not only to his 27-year imprisonment and subsequent ascent to the presidency, but it also transformed the consciousness of a generation and precipitated a more acute international focus on human rights. I hope we are all informed by his wise words: ''May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.''

Here in this Chamber and around the world we should all feel indebted to him for his service and commitment to justice.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL

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

Mr. STEWART. Madam Chair, I am honored today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the National Intelligence Council. This is an amazing organization that has provided invaluable contributions to the security of the United States.

On December 3, 1979, the NIC was created to serve as a source of extensive expertise on intelligence issues, facilitate collaboration, conduct outreach to other experts beyond government, and to connect intelligence and policy communities through a wide variety of intelligence products.

The work the NIC does is important. It really does matter. These products include the National Intelligence Estimate, the annual threat assessment in the form of Statements for the RECORD, the unclassified Global Trends report, and including oral remarks that the Director of National Intelligence gives to us as Members of Congress.

The NIC's 18 intelligence officers serve as the primary advisers to the intelligence leader, and their expertise and advice is greatly appreciated and greatly respected.

As a member of the House Intelligence Committee, I am grateful for them and for their 40 years of dedicated service and protecting the American people.

COMMEMORATING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF ''LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING.''

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

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 120th anniversary of ''Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing.''

This hymn was first performed this week 120 years ago by 500 school children at the segregated Stanton School in Jacksonville, Florida.

Today this song is widely known as the Black national anthem and is performed at churches, schools, sporting events, and meetings around the Nation.

Brothers James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson wrote this song at their home in the LaVilla community of Jacksonville in the Fifth Congressional District, the district I represent.

It was there that James Weldon penned the words that inspired hope, strength, and faith. It also reminded us to never forget the obstacles of the past.

I am honored to represent the birthplace of this great song that will live on for generations to come.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ANNE COX CHAMBERS

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mrs. Anne Cox Chambers, who passed away on January 31 at the age of 100.

Her friends and family remember Mrs. Chambers as a wonderful, kind, and elegant lady, whose influence spanned the globe.

An influential businesswoman, legendary philanthropist, and dedicated public servant, her many talents included co-owning the family media company, Cox Enterprises, for 33 years, and serving as the United States ambassador to Belgium.

Mrs. Chambers was Atlanta's first female bank director, as well as the first woman to serve as a director of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Chambers was also a director of The Coca-Cola Company.

Mrs. Chambers supported many causes anonymously, but was especially dedicated to the arts with her contributions to the High Museum of Art.

A force to be reckoned with who made Atlanta and the world a better place, Mrs. Chambers will be dearly missed. Her family and friends are in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

SUPPORTING THE SMITHSONIAN WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

(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, there are always special moments in this House, particularly when something draws the support of Members from both sides of the aisle. I have been supporting this legislation for a long time, and that is H.R. 1980, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act carried by my colleague Representative CAROLYN MALONEY and so many cosponsors who evidenced the importance of the history of women in this Nation.

This is the 100th year of women's right to vote, and I am reminded of the suffragettes who decided to take a chance and be courageous and to fight against the denial of women's right to vote.

Early in the 1800s, we know that women of color stood up, like Sojourner Truth, and said, ''Ain't I a woman?'' to demand the right to vote; she was a suffragette and an abolitionist fighting for freedom and justice.

Now, this particular museum will open our eyes to the extensive history of women, starting from the Revolutionary War that fought for this country, stood for this country, and helped build this country.

I am excited about being part of the support and history of the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act. I look forward to its doors opening for women to be acknowledged and recognized in the greatness of this country.

HONORING THE SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of touring the Susquehanna County Career & Technical Center.

Located in the heart of Pennsylvania's natural gas boom, Susquehanna County's CTC is helping to provide low-cost education opportunities for in-demand jobs.

During our tour, we heard stories of students graduating in a matter of weeks or months to enter the workforce with little to no student debt making significant six-figure annual salaries.

Careers in trucking, the natural gas industry, and other blue-collar positions are highly in demand in Pennsylvania's Twelfth Congressional District.

It was also great to see Cabot Oil & Gas, one of the largest natural gas producers in the country, investing in the school's commercial driver's license program to create a pathway from learning directly into a career.

This is another tremendous example of the natural gas industry being terrific community partners while paving the way for America's energy independence.

With February being Career and Technical Education Month, it is important to remember that we should not be forcing our students into a one-size-fits-all system, especially when programs like those at Susquehanna County Career & Technical Center are providing a low-cost option for in-demand opportunities.

COMMEMORATING AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN OUR NATION'S FIGHT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an important milestone in our Nation's fight for environmental justice.

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, making it the Federal Government's first major action on this issue.

Today, I have introduced a resolution to honor Chicago native Mrs. Hazel M. Johnson, whose contributions were the necessary keys to this order.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Johnson worked as the ''mother of the environmental justice movement'' to address racial injustices and improve environmental protections fundamental to this action.

Therefore, I take pride in introducing legislation to celebrate the month of April as Hazel M. Johnson Environmental Justice Month.

□ 1445

HONORING JAMES RING

(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 honor U.S. Army veteran James Ring.

After graduating high school, James enlisted in the Army and served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He later joined the Reserve Forces and, at the same time, began a 13-year career as a City of Lakeland police officer.

Now, in addition to serving as CEO for his own small business, James is active with the Lakeland Chamber, promoting issues important to the small business community.

Very soon, James will be returning to Active Duty and deploying again. Now, that is commitment.

People like James make me proud not only to be an American, but proud of my district. The spirit and the drive that propel him to serve our community as a small business owner and our Nation as a uniformed servicemember are unique and invaluable.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you, James. And thank you Ring family for your service and your sacrifice. I know I speak on behalf of the entire district when I say that we are so very proud of you.

WE ARE GETTING THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE DONE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I am here in the House of Representatives. I have had the honor to have been elected to this incredible body for, now, four terms. But I just want to report to you, Madam Speaker, that we have, in fact, passed 275 bipartisan bills in the last 12 months in these Chambers.

Madam Speaker, I thank my Republican colleagues, my Democratic colleagues, and, yes, the one Independent colleague who is part of every single one of those votes.

I just want to say, that is the business of the House of Representatives. I just want to remind you, Madam Speaker, that we are serious here, from all parties, to make sure that we adhere to the needs of the entire American people and, in some cases, to the world.

We have addressed issues such as reducing drug pricing to all Americans. We have addressed issues when it comes to making sure that children have a safe place to go to school.

We have many issues that we are faced with here in the House of Representatives, and I am proud to say that, although the media says that we just can't get along, and, yes, we disagree at times, but, at the same time, we are, in fact, getting the work of the people done in the House of Representatives.

I pray that we see the same go on in the Senate and, in addition to that, see many of those bills get signed by the President of the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANNON LODGE 104

(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 recognize Cannon Lodge 104, which, on February 26, will be celebrating 150 years as a chartered Masonic lodge.

Cannon Lodge had its first outreach on October 27, 1869, from Henry Cannon, whom the lodge is named after. On February 26, 1870, a Masonic charter was granted, and Cannon Lodge 104 came into existence.

In January 1960, through the generosity of Brother Elmer Smith, the present location of the lodge was donated and dedicated to his father, Captain Charles S. Smith.

In 1995, Sea Isle City Lodge No. 280 was merged with Cannon; and, in 1999, Arbutus Lodge No. 170 of Cape May Court House did the very same thing.

I am a proud member of Cannon Lodge 104, and we live by the motto: ''Making Good Men Better.'' These men around me there have made me a better man. We are dedicated to the betterment of ourselves, our community, and giving to charity.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to the continued work we will do in the community, and I thank them all for the work my fellow brothers do. They are truly heroes in south Jersey.

REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE'S GEAR TASK FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MCBATH). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to hold this Special Order on the Republican Study Committee's GEAR Task Force.

I thank MIKE JOHNSON, chairman of the Republican Study Committee, for his leadership to make this task force possible.

We started GEAR, which stands for Government Efficiency, Accountability, and Reform, to develop a playbook of commonsense, nonpartisan solutions for improving our government. We came up with more than 100 improvements. They are all recorded in our report, which is now available, and I am excited to yield to my colleagues to talk about them here today.

We will start with my good friend from North Dakota, Representative KELLY ARMSTRONG, who was a member of the task force and really led our efforts to find these areas where we could reform.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG).

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman JOHNSON and Congressman GIANFORTE for their efforts to make our Federal Government more efficient and accountable with these commonsense reforms.

The Republican Study Committee's GEAR Task Force report is a solutions-based plan to reduce the government's size and inefficiency.

Anyone who has dealt with the Federal Government knows the frustration that the bureaucratic process can bring. Unnecessary government delays to infrastructure projects have a particularly damaging effect on economic growth and job creation.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Republican Study Committee for including my bill, H.R. 3671, the Federal Permitting Reform and Jobs Act, in the report. This bipartisan bill will streamline and modernize the Federal infrastructure permitting process.

The Federal Permitting Reform and Jobs Act will build on the reforms that were included in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015, otherwise known as FAST–41.

My bill would make permanent the FAST–41 provisions and enact additional reforms, such as a 2-year deadline for the permitting process.

FAST–41 ensures coordination among several Federal agencies to streamline the permitting process for the largest infrastructure projects.

The Federal Permitting Reform and Jobs Act would expand these types of projects that would qualify for this streamlined process: simply put, more projects completed in a shorter period of time at a reduced cost.

This is a win for jobs; this is a win for infrastructure improvements; this is a win for reforming the Federal bureaucracy and providing Americans with a more efficient and effective government.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. ARMSTRONG for his work. Permitting is an area where we can really make advances to make the process more deterministic so we can get projects on the ground going. I thank the gentleman for his leadership there.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan's Seventh District, Representative TIM WALBERG,

and I want to recognize him for his work on the Taxpayers Right-to-Know effort. I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman JOHNSON, Task Force Chairman GIANFORTE, and my colleagues at RSC for their leadership on this task force and putting together a document that has answers if we are willing to accept them and move them forward. Moving them forward will make an impact for the better of this country and its taxpayers.

Making government more efficient and accountable to the people is something we all should be able to rally behind. It shouldn't be a partisan issue. After all, we are a government of, by, and for the people.

We are here today to talk about a series of commonsense solutions that will return power to the folks back home. I am proud that one of them is my bill, H.R. 3830, the Taxpayers Right-to-Know Act, which unanimously passed the House last week and now is over in the Senate. It is a pretty simple bill.

American taxpayers deserve to know where, when, why, and how the government is spending their hard-earned dollars, and they deserve to have those dollars spent in an efficient, smart manner.

My bipartisan legislation requires Federal agencies to supply online accounting of their program activities in an easily searchable inventory so that Americans can keep tabs on where and how their tax dollars are being spent. All of the information provided for the inventory will be updated regularly to provide for a more realtime accounting of Federal programs and dollars.

The Taxpayers Right-to-Know Act will help cut down on waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal Government by allowing policymakers to better identify areas where any programs duplicate and put a stop to it.

Congress needs to do more to lighten the load for the next generation. We need to streamline efficiencies, increase effectiveness, institute more transparency, and provide better accounting across the Federal Government.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the GEAR Task Force for highlighting these proposals and working to make our government better serve the people we represent.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this.

Taxpayers do have a right to know, and hopefully as that bill moves to the President's desk, it will actually happen.

At this time, I welcome the gentleman from Texas' 27th Congressional District, Representative MICHAEL CLOUD, here today. He was a member of the GEAR Task Force and really brought a number of ideas to the table, and he is here today to reflect on a number of those.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD).

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his work and leadership on this task force. It has been a worthwhile project, to say the least.

Madam Speaker, with over $23 trillion in national debt and annual deficits at $1 trillion, it is obvious that Washington has a spending problem. We must do something to rein in this problem that we are leaving for our children, and we must do it soon.

Every day, taxpayer dollars are wasted on unnecessary expenses. For example, as part of the ''use it or lose it'' last-minute spending sprees of 2018, Federal agencies spent over $4 million on lobster tails and crabs, $673,000 on golf carts, $308,000 on alcohol, and $53,000 on china tableware.

Another example is that, despite the efforts to address the issue, the Federal Government makes over $800 million in payments to people who are no longer on this Earth.

And, finally, right now, there are duplicative programs, including 91 Federal programs that train healthcare workers and more than 40 workforce development programs. Some of these may be good, but consolidating them might be a great idea.

We owe it to the American people to do better with their hard-earned tax dollars, and we owe it to future generations not to borrow against their future.

On the Government Efficiency, Accountability, and Reform Task Force, our aim is to make Washington take real steps toward returning the government to its proper constitutional boundaries.

The recommendations compiled today are not flashy. They won't lead in the nightly news; they won't dominate your social media feeds; but they are important, and it is incumbent upon us to look past the 15-second sound bites and get serious about the business of governing.

Here are just a handful of solutions:

We could sell unused Federal office space;

We can consolidate duplicative programs and agencies;

We can identify programs that are not working and eliminate them.

The President's budget has an entire chapter on highlighting our government's wasteful spending and some of the efforts his administration is making to eliminate it.

All of America understands that we need to balance our budget, but no administration, Republican or Democrat, can do it without that commitment from Congress.

We are elected and given very specific authority under the Constitution to control how taxpayer dollars are spent. We must roll up our sleeves and do everything we can to rein in this Washington spending machine.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership here in highlighting some of these wasteful programs. Clearly, we can do better, and I thank him for bringing them forward.

At this time, I will yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona's Eighth Congressional District, Representative DEBBIE LESKO. She has brought to us some of the reforms related to improving our immigration system, and I look forward to her sharing that with us.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my friend, Mr. GIANFORTE, for giving me the opportunity to speak about this bill.

I am from Arizona, so border security has been for years and still is the number one issue that people in Arizona care about. They welcome legal immigrants, but they also want to make sure that Arizona and our Nation are secure and that illegal drug trafficking is mitigated.

We used to see mostly single male adults crossing our border, and they would evade the Border Patrol officers; but, recently, however, thousands and thousands of illegal migrants are coming from Central America, and they are being coached by the cartels, who charge them $5,000 to $8,000 a person. They are saying: Let's go up there and turn yourselves in to the Border Patrol officers, because there is a loophole, and just claim asylum.

And they know that, once they are in, they are in the United States and they can stay.

□ 1500

Instead of running away from Border Patrol, they turn themselves in, claiming asylum, so our immigration courts are overloaded and legitimate asylum claims languish amidst frivolous claims.

This backlog is severe. It is a nonpartisan challenge facing our immigration courts. A recent report stated that backlog cases in immigration courts exceeded 1 million claims.

This backlog has rapidly increased over the last decade, and as the backlog increases, so do wait times. Sometimes, it takes years for these cases to proceed through the courts.

We currently have approximately 400 immigration judges. That is about 2,500 cases per judge. This backlog strains housing facilities and prevents judges from granting asylum to legitimate asylum seekers and from swiftly removing those who have frivolous claims and are abusing the loopholes in our laws.

This is a big national security and humanitarian crisis. We need efficiency in the Federal Government, especially when it comes to immigration.

That is why I introduced H.R. 3859 to help reduce the immigration court backlog and help legitimate asylum seekers.

This bill provides an additional 100 immigration judges to reduce the asylum backlog. Adding more judges will allow these cases to be adjudicated faster and help reduce the backlog.

I thank the task force chairman, GREG GIANFORTE, and the Republican Study Committee chairman, MIKE JOHNSON, for their hard work to increase efficiency and accountability in our government, especially when it comes to immigration.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman, especially for bringing attention to this issue of immigration. It is top of mind for so many Americans, and having the judges necessary to pursue these cases to final outcome is so important.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), from the 12th Congressional District, a task force member who helped bring forward many of the ideas that are in this collection of commonsense government efficiency ideas just published recently.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Montana, the chairman of this committee. It was a real privilege to serve on this committee.

Over the years, the size of the Federal Government has ballooned. While it excels in some ways, like keeping our Nation safe, oftentimes, it does not serve the American people well, and that keeps my constituent services office very busy back in the district.

As a small business owner, I know how important it is to run effective and efficient operations. If you don't serve your customers well, you won't stay in business. But because the Federal Government is largely unaccountable, the only people who suffer from government inefficiency are the people it is intended to serve: the American people.

For far too long, we have let the executive branch seize authority and empower unelected bureaucrats. I am proud to serve on the Republican Study Committee's Government Efficiency, Accountability, and Reform Task Force, whose goal is to develop reforms to improve the Federal Government in order to better serve American families.

Prior to my service here in Congress, I served as the Georgia co-chair for the Fix the Debt committee, which was a nationwide bipartisan effort to identify ways that we could balance our budget.

Our new report here in the GEAR Task Force highlights strategies to streamline government practices and remove waste, much like the Fix the Debt committee identified.

For example, we all know that Washington has a spending problem. If something isn't working, many of my colleagues would prefer just to throw more money at the problem. But when has that worked? We need serious government reform.

In my business, we emphasize the importance of streamlining processes so we can maximize every dollar. We have a 5-year lookback procedure where we look at every dollar we spend to make sure that we are using every dollar in an efficient manner so that those who invest—in this case, the American taxpayers—get the most bang for their buck.

Also, in our business, we have a balance sheet, an income statement, where we can actually run ratios that we can compare and see how we are doing against our peers.

I mentioned that to someone on the Budget Committee and they said: I don't think we have seen that in the Federal Government.

I come from the business community, and I came to Washington because we have to get down to business. I have identified, again, working on this task force, on the Budget Committee, and on the RSC, so many areas where, frankly, we can be much more efficient at spending every dollar.

Every taxpayer should be treated like a shareholder. They should know exactly where and how their money is being spent.

That is why I have a big problem with the appropriations process here in Congress. Yes, we kind of go through the motions here on the House floor, but we bog down, and it becomes a four-corner deal where leadership on both sides decides: Okay, these are the caps, and this is how we are going to spend the money.

The appropriators appropriate to that number, and then we are given a 1,200-page spending bill 24 hours before we have to vote on it. That is ridiculous.

I have emphasized to my leadership that I will not vote on a bill like that again, that we should stand right here through the appropriations process and show the American people every place we are spending a dollar.

The GEAR report lays the groundwork for this type of reform. Our report highlights specific ways we can make government more efficient and accountable to the people, including improving metrics to better inform decisionmaking, utilizing excess Federal office space, leveraging duplicative government contracts, consolidating data centers, reducing security clearance processing delays, and much more.

These solutions are common sense, and they should garner bipartisan support. I encourage my colleagues who have not yet read the report to do so. We have highlighted over 100 ways we can improve government and better serve the American people.

We must change the status quo. That is why I came to Washington.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia. I particularly appreciate his business experience here in the House and his participation on this task force.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. TIMMONS), from the Fourth Congressional District. He has also been a task force member, and his fingerprints are on this report.

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Montana for yielding.

A decade ago, Congress passed a law directing the executive branch to inform them within 2 years of how many Federal programs existed within the Federal Government. We are still waiting for that answer today.

Since 2010, I think we can all agree that the size of the Federal Government has grown exponentially and has overreached in places it should not. This unchecked scope of power and inefficient bureaucracy affects every aspect of our lives and is a threat to our well-being and to the foundation of our Republic.

The Government Efficiency, Accountability, and Reform Task Force, or GEAR, of the Republican Study Committee has worked over the last year on ways to rein in wasteful and unnecessary government overreach and spending, make the Federal Government more transparent and accountable, and get back to the basics of the legislative branch, to be a government that works for the American people.

Today, I would like to speak to the reform aspect of the task force. In order to promote and advance efficiency within the Federal Government, government practices must be reformed.

All Americans want a government that is efficient and that delivers results. One of the ways that we can reform the Federal Government is to address our cybersecurity shortcomings.

Every day, hackers, criminals, terrorists, and foreign countries seek to exploit our cybersecurity systems. Earlier this year, a group of Iranian-affiliated hackers infiltrated a U.S. Government website, wrote pro-Iranian messages, and wrote a message about Iranian cyber capabilities.

The threat landscape is constantly changing, and the cybersecurity needs are evolving along with it. The government must continue to reform and update its cyber practices to best defend against adversaries.

The GAO has made over 3,000 recommendations since 2010 regarding the U.S. Government's cybersecurity policies. As of GAO's last full survey of these concerns in 2017, only 448 recommendations have been implemented. This is unacceptable, and it puts our Nation at unnecessary risk.

I am pleased that the Trump administration has made cybersecurity a priority, recognizing that protecting cyberspace is key to our national security and economic ability. Congress should utilize its oversight authority to support cybersecurity initiatives, including requiring that the outstanding GAO recommendations be implemented.

While I touched briefly on one of the many important ways the Federal Government can work toward reform, there are many crucial steps that Congress can take to ensure it is continuing to work for the people and not the other way around.

The work of the GEAR Task Force is important, and I hope that every Member will take some time to read through the report. We all made a promise to our constituents to come to Washington to work for them and prioritize their needs.

This report is not meant to be Republican or Democratic. This report is something that all Members of Congress, regardless of party, should be able to get behind. It is a blueprint for good government, the kind of governing that was intended by our Founding Fathers.

Let's work together to make Congress and the Federal Government, as a whole, work for the people. We can start by enacting necessary reforms to make the government more efficient and accountable.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for his leadership on the GEAR Task Force.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), from the First Congressional District, for his thoughts on government efficiency and reform.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) for his leadership on this.

It is really a commonsense issue, isn't it? Government efficiency, accountability, and reform is something that all Americans can get behind because, let's remember for just a moment, who pays for all of this? Who pays to keep the lights on here, all of these buildings in Washington, D.C., all of the people working in them, all of them out in the districts, all of them out there in the forests, what have you? It is the American taxpayer.

What is the American taxpayer faced with? Trying to take care of their own business, their home, their family, their mortgage, car payments, saving for college, whatever their priorities are, maybe going on a vacation once in a while, saving up so they can have a week or two off.

What is it that we are doing with their money in Washington, D.C., or my home State of California in Sacramento? How are we respecting what they earn? How are we respecting that by the priorities we are putting on spending what they earn?

And it isn't a contribution, like sometimes it is talked about. I love to hear the talk around here: the contributions you make, and the investments we are going to make. No, tax dollars are not voluntary. They are taken from you per a formula.

So, how are we treating them? That is an important charge to me.

This is a big place, and there are a lot of Members, and there is a lot of government, after 230-plus years of layers. So getting back to just a little more efficiency, I think, tells those hardworking folks that there is somebody in Washington, D.C., like this GEAR committee, like these folks, who are trying to somehow work toward balancing the budget someday.

The President's budget that he is talking about, he is going to take a lot of hits for that right now. At least he is putting the concept out there that is trying to work toward balance instead of deficit spending. We will be consumed one day by the service on the debt if interest rates go wild. It will eclipse our spending.

Let me just break it down, in my couple of minutes here, on a couple of things that I think are important about this more locally, more for the Western States that myself, Mr. GIANFORTE, and others share.

The RSC plan lays out more than 100 solutions for GEAR reform, including modernizing NEPA and the Endangered Species Act, especially important in my State, as well as the West.

□ 1515

NEPA is Big Government at its best. It has been manipulated into something that is a monster and that it should never have been as far as protecting the environment. It is often the largest hindrance on forest management, water management, water storage, and for simple power line clearing projects; like are so desperately needed in my district since the town of Paradise burned a little over a year ago, and we are trying to rebuild. There are more towns I could name in the district that that same catastrophe could happen to because of overcrowded forests, and in some cases proximity to power lines.

According to this report, the NEPA review can take nearly 6 years on average to get a NEPA report.

We are talking about forestry, Madam Speaker.

How long does it take to study replacing a simple culvert in a Forest Service road?

Why does that even need a study?

If you built the thing to begin with, just replace it. No. We have got to study it to death. We have to study and get permits to clear trees around power lines that might be hazardous, a leaning tree or a dead tree.

Now, thankfully, we got bipartisan legislation, me and Mr. SCHRADER from Oregon, to help speed that process up, and we are going to work on another bill to speed it up even more so we can do a simple, basic, commonsense thing like that.

Californians don't have a lot of time to wait for the government to do the forest management on its lands and infrastructure overhauls needed to protect them from wildfires and droughts. Indeed, when the Pacific Gas & Electric Company says that it might be up to 10 years before we can get out of this power shutoff situation that we are facing because of other issues that they are battling through with green power mandates and getting permission to do the lines.

Ten years of power shutoffs for my constituents?

Are you kidding me?

We need to narrow that down to almost nothing, because we can't have another year like that.

So I applaud the Trump administration for recently proposing reforms to NEPA, but we should not have had to wait 40 years for the executive branch to act. This executive branch is doing so.

Congress should be in the business of addressing inefficiency in government, having much more oversight, like GEAR, like my colleagues are all working on here as well, including ending the cumulative effects and indirect impact statements required by NEPA.

The Endangered Species Act also poses a unique set of problems to California, specifically with critical habitat designations.

Take the valley elderberry longhorn beetle. Fish and Wildlife recommended, I think about 15 years ago, to finally delist that. Here we still are waiting to delist that and all the habitat issues with elderberry plants that inhibit the ability to fix flood control projects and to fix levees, because you have to plant back 15 to 1 for every elderberry bush you might disturb because it is possible critical habitat, even if you have never seen an elderberry beetle land there.

The Shasta Dam project would raise the dam 18 feet and supply about 650,000 more acre-feet of water for Californians, whether it is for agriculture, people, habitat or whatever—18 more feet. That is a lot of water to an existing dam. It has been halted due to a lawsuit calling for the protection of the Shasta salamander. The 3-inch long salamander makes its home on the banks of Lake Shasta which has been designated as a critical habitat.

Now, when there is a lot of rain coming into Lake Shasta, the fastest the lake can rise is about one-quarter inch per hour during heavy rain. So all the salamander has to do is be able to move at one-quarter inch per hour to stay ahead of the lake level.

Where is the sense here?

Eighteen feet above an already existing lake which the salamander already thinks is pretty cool to live next to.

Critical habitats unnecessarily delay critical infrastructure projects like the Shasta Dam, and their designation standards need to be reformed for whatever habitat is.

The RSC GEAR report has done an excellent job at addressing these necessary changes, including reforms to NEPA and the ESA. I sincerely hope Congress—both sides of the aisle—will take these suggestions and hold bureaucracy more accountable to the American people who pay for all this.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for his remarks.

I agree we have seen the impacts of an overly lengthy NEPA process that just ties projects in knots, and the weaponization of the Endangered Species Act has allowed it to drift away from its original intent of protecting species. So I appreciate the gentleman's leadership on this.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the 21st District of Texas (Mr. ROY) for his thoughts on government efficiency and reform and also his leadership on national emergency reform.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Montana for his leadership on this and my colleagues who have been working together on this important effort.

Madam Speaker, things like government efficiency, accountability, and reform are things you would think we would all be able to get behind. I am certainly of the belief that the American people who are watching—even if it is just a handful in their living rooms—are a lot more than are watching here in the Chamber.

I am also interested, when you look at the C–SPAN cameras, if you pan back, nobody is here to talk about what I am about to talk about. Yet we saw last week a Senate Chamber with 100 Senators sitting there debating what?

They were debating failed Articles of Impeachment.

Here we are trying to figure out how to make our government accountable, make it efficient, and make it effective. Reclaiming power from elected bureaucrats, reforming government practices to curb inefficiency and waste, and reemphasizing and rewarding innovation is something I think all Americans could get behind.

But I would like to talk about something that I think is critically important, which is restoring Article I and restoring the primacy of this body and the Senate in governing our Nation.

We shouldn't be looking to the executive branch, no matter who is in power, to be making decisions that should be reserved to the Members of this body and the Senate.

Congress ceded some of our power in 1976 with the passage of the National Emergencies Act, which pulled together a number of different powers contained in the 130 different statutes at the time giving the President unilateral authority to declare emergencies.

Madam Speaker, there are currently 33 emergencies in effect, some of them dating back to the Carter administration. Now, think about that. It is an emergency. It is an emergency, and it dates back to the Carter administration. This is no way to govern.

I learned this how?

Well, last spring when we were having a robust debate about securing the border of the United States—by the way, a sovereign nation should not need to have a debate about ensuring that our border is secure when you have 900,000 individuals being apprehended on our southern border last fiscal year alone, 900,000—600,000 of whom were caught and released into our country. The President of the United States is working to secure our border, to put up physical barriers, to build a wall, and to build a fence which is desperately needed. And it is working where it is being implemented.

The President is right to do so. He is right that there is an emergency at our southern border, and he is right that the Members of this body led by Democrats refuse to acknowledge the crisis at our southern border. He was right to defend our southern border.

But the question that popped into my head is: All right, we have an emergency. Now what?

This body, Article I, should do its job. It is incumbent upon Congress to act. We shouldn't allow an emergency to be declared and then operate our policies under it, even if I agree with the policy, and I do. I do agree with the policy of what the President is doing.

So I implore my Democrat colleagues, who are not in the Chamber, to come have a debate about restoring Article I and about all of the different issues that may occur.

I introduced H.R. 1755 which is the companion legislation to that which was offered by my friend, Senator MIKE LEE of Utah, in the U.S. Senate, and that bill would take a President's emergency declaration and terminate it after 30 days unless Congress affirmatively authorizes an extension. The bill would also terminate the emergency declaration after 1 year unless a new resolution of approval is enacted. It requires the President to report to Congress on how the President is exercising emergency powers.

Senator LEE's bill has been passed out of committee, but we have had nary a debate here in the body about restoring Article I. We have had a lot of speeches and a lot of complaints about the President of the United States and a lot of complaints about what is happening at our border, but not one serious debate about restoring Article I.

Let's do it. Let's come together right now and let's stand up as a body in Congress and say: Do you know what? If there is an emergency, great, Mr. President, go act in the emergency; but 30 days later we can agree it is time for Congress to decide how money is going to be appropriated and how we are going to enforce and implement the laws that we think are important for this body.

This is critical to government reform. This is critical to making sure we are making government more efficient and more accountable. This body is the body, this House is the people's House and most responsive to the American people.

I would beg, literally, my Democratic colleagues to engage in debate, as we sit here in an empty Chamber, about the kinds of things that I know the American people would love for us to debate.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Montana for yielding to me and for organizing this activity.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, particularly for reminding us of the need to rebalance and reclaim our Article I authority from the runaway bureaucracy that we have here in Washington.

Madam Speaker, we started the Government Efficiency Accountability and Reform Task Force for one simple reason: only 17 percent of Americans today say they can trust the government in Washington. We have to get the government working for the people again.

Madam Speaker, I was in Billings, Montana, and a gentleman who has been drilling natural gas wells for 30 years told me a story. He said 30 years ago when he wanted a permit to drill a well, he would go into the field with a clipboard, a single piece of paper, and a ballpoint pen. He would fill out that application. The government official would review it in the field and say: That will be all right.

Today, Madam Speaker, that same form is 48 pages long, requires an engineer and a lawyer to fill it out, tens of thousands of dollars, and months to process.

Clearly, we can do better.

Our three branches of government have drifted from their original purpose to cultivating a culture of waste. That is why we have produced this playbook of 100 commonsense, nonpartisan solutions for efficiency, accountability, and reform of our Federal Government.

Over this last year, the Republican Study Committee GEAR Task Force has been meeting with outside experts and the administration and internally to produce a playbook of commonsense solutions for efficiency, accountability, and reform of our Federal Government.

I want to thank the task force members, the chairman of the RSC, MIKE JOHNSON; BARRY LOUDERMILK; DOUG COLLINS; BRUCE WESTERMAN; RICK ALLEN; JOHN CURTIS; MICHAEL CLOUD; KELLY ARMSTRONG; WILLIAM TIMMONS; and DENVER RIGGLEMAN for their engagement and their leadership in pulling together this playbook through which we hope to run these commonsense ideas.

The report is broken into three sections. The first section refers to the comments made by my colleague who just finished on the Article I power in the Constitution to restore the people's control over an unchecked bureaucracy by returning the constitutional balance between the branches of government.

Our Founding Fathers never anticipated the size of the bureaucracy we have today. That is why we need provisions like the REINS Act, so that the statutes passed in this House get reflected in rules consistent with our intent.

The second section of the report has to do with government practices to streamline Federal programs and operations to promote efficiency and eliminate waste.

Madam Speaker, in 2015 the Social Security Administration told us we had sent benefit checks to over 6 million Americans who were over the age

of 112. Now, either they are drinking some special elixir of life or they are not with us anymore. That is why I have introduced a piece of legislation titled stop paying dead people. I think that would be a good reform. It would save American taxpayers and make sure the benefits are there for those who do need Social Security.

The third section of the report is on personnel, to transition government personnel accountability and compensation toward more of a merit-based system. I operated a number of businesses in the private sector, and there are many HR practices in the Federal Government which are very different than they are in the private sector, things like merit-based pay, the way we do performance reviews, and making sure we have market-based pay for our good, dedicated Federal workers. Those are contained in the third section.

In total, there are over 100 commonsense ideas in this report that we will run as plays here in the House to make the government start working for the people again.

I appreciate the opportunity for the Members of the task force and others who have engaged on this issue to come today and share their commonsense ideas. I look forward to partnering to put these ideas into practice to get government working for the people again.

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

□ 1530

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the adoption of House Resolution 844 earlier today, House Resolution 842 is considered as adopted.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 842

Resolved, That an affirmative vote of a majority of the Members present and voting, a quorum being present, shall be required on final passage of House Joint Resolution 79.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3761. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of The President, transmitting the Office's Final Sequestration Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2020, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 904(f)(1); Public Law 99-177, Sec. 254(f)(1); (99 Stat. 1078); to the Committee on Appropriations.

3762. A letter from the Program Specialist, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulatory Capital Rule: Revisions to the Supplementary Leverage Ratio To Exclude Certain Central Bank Deposits of Banking Organizations Predominantly Engaged in Custody, Safekeeping, and Asset Servicing Activities [Docket ID: OCC-2019-0001] (RIN: 1557-AE60) received February 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3763. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval and Designation of Areas; FL; Source-Specific SO2 Permit Limits and Redesignation of the Hillsborough-Polk 2010 1-Hr SO2 Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Mulberry Unclassifiable Area to Attainment/Unclassifiable [EPA-R04-OAR-2018-0510; FRL-10005-23-Reigon 4] received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3764. A letter from the Program Specialist, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Other Real Estate Owned and Technical Amendments; Amendment of Effective Date and Correction [Docket ID: OCC-2019-0004] (RIN: 1557-AE50) received February 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3765. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standardized Approach for Calculating the Exposure Amount of Derivative Contracts [Docket ID: OCC-2018-0030] (RIN: 1557-AE44) received February 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3766. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's guidance — Commission Guidance on Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations [Release Nos.: 33-10751; 34-88094; FR-87] received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3767. A letter from the Senior Legislative Officer, OCIA, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Nondisplacement of Qualified Workers Under Service Contracts; Rescission of Regulations (RIN: 1235-AA02; 1235-AA33) received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

3768. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Guidelines for Determining the Probability of Causation under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000; Technical Amendments [Docket Number: CDC-2019-0050; NIOSH-329] (RIN: 0920-AA74) received February 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3769. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Georgia: Revisions to Cross-State Air Pollution Rule [EPA-R04-OAR-2019-0462; FRL-10005-28-Region 4] received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3770. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; ID: Idaho Portion of the Logan UT-ID 2006 24-Hour PM2.5 Nonattainment Area; Moderate Plan Elements [EPA-R10-OAR-2018-0597; FRL-10005-17-Region 10] received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3771. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Revisions to the State Implementation Plan Approved by EPA Through Letter [EPA-R04-OAR-2019-0391; FRL-10005-22-Region 4] received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3772. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Delaware; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills [EPA-R03-OAR-2019-0160; FRL-9999-79-Region 3] received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3773. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Pinal County Air Quality Control District; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills [EPA-R09-OAR-2019-0345; FRL-10001-02-Region 9] received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3774. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — International Traffic in Arms Regulations: U.S. Munitions List Categories I, II, and III [Public Notice: 10603] (RIN: 1400-AE30) received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3775. A letter from the Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2019 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3776. A letter from the Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting a letter written in response to the Office of the Ombudsman's 2018 Annual Report, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 7385s-15(e)(2); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3777. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Class E Airspace; Grundy, VA [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0785; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AEA-14] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3778. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Winona, MN [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0764; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AGL-25] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3779. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0442; Product Identifier 2018-NM-171-AD; Amendment 39-19826; AD 2020-02-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3780. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0702; Product Identifier 2019-NM-118-AD; Amendment 39-19825; AD 2020-02-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3781. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0860; Product Identifier 2019-NM-123-AD; Amendment 39-19827; AD 2020-02-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3782. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0725; Product Identifier 2019-NM-099-AD; Amendment 39-19829; AD 2020-02-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3783. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0610; Product Identifier 2019-NM-094-AD; Amendment 39-21022; AD 2019-26-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3784. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0858; Product Identifier 2019-NM-145-AD; Amendment 39-19816; AD 2020-01-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3785. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-1078; Product Identifier 2019-NM-207-AD; Amendment 39-19822; AD 2020-01-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3786. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0721; Product Identifier 2019-NM-150-AD; Amendment 39-19828; AD 2020-02-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 7, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3787. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Return Due Date and Extended Due Date Changes [TD 9892] (RIN: 1545-BN12) received February 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3788. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Revenue Procedure 2020-8 received February 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. BOST, Mr. COOK, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BACON, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. WALKER, Mr. PENCE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. MAST, Mr. TURNER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. HUDSON):

H.R. 5840. A bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to ensure that absent uniformed services voters serving at diplomatic and consular posts of the United States are able to receive and transmit balloting materials in the same manner and with the same rights and protections as other absent uniformed services voters under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 5841. A bill to decrease the incidence of food waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, 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. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 5842. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants to entities to enable such entities to participate in decisions impacting the health and safety of their communities in connection with the release of certain hazardous air pollutants and the permitting of solid waste disposal facilities and hazardous waste facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Mrs. RADEWAGEN):

H.R. 5843. A bill to provide the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs testimonial subpoena authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RIGGLEMAN:

H.R. 5844. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to revise the shareholder threshold for registration under that Act for issuers that receive support through certain Federal universal service support mechanisms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COHEN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CASE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 5845. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Transportation and Infrastructure, and 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 Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 5846. A bill to provide for working with allies to seek increased compliance by China with certain OECD export credit standards; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina):

H.R. 5847. A bill to provide for the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp in honor of George Henry White; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. COX of California (for himself, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. GOMEZ):

H.R. 5848. A bill to eliminate asset limits employed by certain Federally-funded means-tested public assistance programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor, 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. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 5849. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a Border Enforcement Security Task Force unit to investigate transnational criminal organization arms smuggling across the international border between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. COLE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 5850. A bill to expedite and streamline the deployment of affordable broadband service on Tribal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Natural Resources, 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. HIGGINS of New York (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5851. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain qualified over-the-counter securities to be treated as readily traded on an established securities market for the purpose of diversification requirements for employee stock ownership plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 5852. A bill to redesignate the Weir Farm National Historic Site in the State of Connecticut as the ''Weir Farm National Historical Park''; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCEACHIN (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mrs. LURIA):

H.R. 5853. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 5854. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to eligible schools to assist such schools to discontinue use of a derogatory or discriminatory name or depiction as a team name, mascot, or nickname, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (for himself and Mr. KINZINGER):

H.R. 5855. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program supporting trauma center violence intervention and violence prevention programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:

H.R. 5856. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a decentralized wastewater grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H. Con. Res. 89. Concurrent resolution encouraging the Trump Administration to maintain protections under the National Environmental Policy Act and reverse ongoing administrative actions to weaken this landmark law and its protections for American communities; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 845. A resolution recognizing that international education and exchange programs further national security and foreign policy priorities, enhance economic competitiveness, and promote mutual understanding and cooperation among nations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. RUSH:

H. Res. 846. A resolution urging the people of the United States to observe the month of April of each year as Hazel M. Johnson Environmental Justice Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. HIMES:

H. Res. 847. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 12, 2020, as ''Darwin Day'' and recognizing the importance of science to the betterment of humanity; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. UPTON, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. BUCK, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. DEAN, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. COLE, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H. Res. 848. A resolution expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the designation of ''Public Radio Music Day'' and its deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities in the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

160. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 123, urging the Congress of the United States to establish and fund programs that support positive health practices for minority mothers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

161. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Maine, relative to H.P. 1440, memorializing the United States Congress to provide access to banking and insurance services to legal cannabis and cannabis-related businesses; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services.

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. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 5840.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 5841.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 5842.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Miss RICE of New York:

H.R. 5843.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RIGGLEMAN:

H.R. 5844.

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

Article I, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 5845.

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

Article IV, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution

''The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.''

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 5846.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 5847.

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

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

By Mr. COX of California:

H.R. 5848.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 (which provides Congress with the power to ''lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises'' in order to ''provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States.'')

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 (which allows Congress to make all laws ''which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution'' any of Congress's enumerated powers, including Congress's powers over appropriations).

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 5849.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 5850.

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

Artile I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York:

H.R. 5851.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 5852.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCEACHIN:

H.R. 5853.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 5854.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER:

H.R. 5855.

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

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to institute legislation which is necessary and proper for the protection of the American people.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:

H.R. 5856.

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

Section 8, Clause 3, of the United States Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 571: Mr. MAST, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 573: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 663: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 779: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 846: Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 906: Mr. BUDD and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 919: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 948: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 969: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. GOODEN, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

H.R. 1043: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 1195: Mr. MALINOWSKI and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1325: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1379: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 1400: Mr. LAWSON of Florida and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 1450: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 1461: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 1692: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 1695: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 1814: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1846: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 1953: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 2117: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 2148: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2178: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 2245: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 2283: Mr. KINZINGER.

H.R. 2339: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 2420: Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. BRADY, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. GOLDEN, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 2442: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 2599: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2607: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. RIGGLEMAN.

H.R. 2620: Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 2651: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 2653: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 2731: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 2775: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2850: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 2897: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. GOODEN.

H.R. 3040: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 3136: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 3219: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 3315: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 3550: Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 3588: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 3633: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3663: Mr. HUFFMAN and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 3735: Mrs. MCBATH.

H.R. 3749: Mr. KILMER and Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 3794: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 3964: Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 4078: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 4230: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 4340: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 4348: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 4519: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 4563: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 4569: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 4644: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.

H.R. 4681: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 4705: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 4820: Mr. COSTA, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 4821: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 5002: Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 5041: Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 5042: Ms. BONAMICI and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 5052: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 5117: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 5170: Mr. RYAN and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 5229: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 5231: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 5234: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 5296: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.

H.R. 5319: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 5342: Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 5413: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 5421: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. COMER, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 5481: Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 5491: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 5549: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CHABOT, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 5581: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 5589: Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 5605: Mr. CURTIS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KINZINGER, and Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 5694: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 5700: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 5712: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 5719: Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 5727: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 5744: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 5770: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 5814: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 5821: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 5825: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 5831: Mr. BUDD and Mr. MCHENRY.

H.J. Res. 20: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.J. Res. 84: Ms. NORTON.

H. Res. 374: Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. BARR, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. BUCK.

H. Res. 792: Mr. SCALISE and Mr. SERRANO.

H. Res. 810: Mr. COLE.

H. Res. 815: Mrs. LURIA.

H. Res. 822: Mr. GRIJALVA.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open and all desires known, we put our trust in You.

Today, abide with our lawmakers. Teach them to speak the right words at the right time. Make their speech like precious gold set in silver. May they seek to persuade with patient and gentle words. Lord, give them the wisdom to be friends of that which is eternal and abiding. Fill them with reverence for the transcendent as You induce them to ascribe all good things to You.

We pray in Your gracious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, our colleague Senator MARTHA MCSALLY, of Arizona, announced her support yesterday for the bipartisan Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act. I like to refer to it as the Grassley-Wyden prescription drug bill, reducing prices. Senator MCSALLY and I worked together on several parts of the bill. Her Arizonans should know that Senator MCSALLY's leadership is making all the difference in moving this bill forward. I thank her for her cosponsorship.

President Trump, Vice President PENCE, and nearly a dozen Senate Republicans have, so far, endorsed this bill. Several other Senate Republicans will soon announce their support as well. I expect to introduce an updated version in the coming weeks.

I am confident that, if this bill were to be brought up for a vote, it would pass overwhelmingly. Let's not miss an opportunity then to deliver real progress for Americans. This always shows up—in other words, drug pricing legislation—as one of the three, four, or five top issues of the upcoming election.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, with the impeachment trial behind us, the Senate can now get back to the business of the American people.

As the President laid out in his bold speech last Tuesday, the state of our Union is strong. Over the past 3 years, a combination of major Republican policy victories and important bipartisan achievements have helped to create a historic economic moment for working Americans and middle-class families.

Unemployment remains right around its lowest point in half a century. The percentage of Americans aged 25 to 54 who have jobs is the highest it has been in 20 years. The market for American workers is hot, and it is pulling people off of the sidelines. As the New York Times recently explained, ''Employers are hiring candidates with disabilities, criminal records and other barriers to employment, and are offering perks to attract workers.'' No wonder the percentage of Americans who say they are financially better off now than they were a year ago just hit a 44-year high.

We have finally seen a drop in opioid deaths. In my home State of Kentucky, we recently saw the largest decrease in fatal drug overdoses in a decade. We are rebuilding and modernizing the world's greatest military, and we are continuing to renew our Federal judiciary with thoroughly qualified men and women who understand that a judge's job is to interpret our laws and our Constitution as they were actually written.

There is plenty more for the Senate to do to keep up this momentum for the American people, so we are glad to get back to business.

We will start this week by confirming more of President Trump's well-qualified nominees to lifetime judicial appointments. The first up is Judge Andrew Brasher, of Alabama, to serve on the Eleventh Circuit. Judge Brasher currently serves on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. He is a Harvard Law graduate who previously clerked on the Eleventh Circuit, excelled in private practice, and found his way into public service as solicitor general for his home State. In that role, he was recognized by the National Association of Attorneys General for his legal writing, and his nomination earned a unanimous ''well-qualified'' rating from the ABA.

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

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I look forward to confirming Judge Brasher to his next post this afternoon.

WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, this week, we expect the Senate will take up a War Powers Resolution by the junior Senator from Virginia that would severely limit the U.S. military's operational flexibility to defend itself against threats posed by Iran. I will strongly oppose our colleague's effort and urge the Senate to defeat it.

First, let's discuss what prompted this: the President's successful decision to remove Soleimani from the battlefield last month. This limited yet decisive precision strike eliminated the terrorist mastermind who had been responsible for more American military casualties than anyone else alive.

This was not some reckless act. It was a calculated and limited response to a significant, growing threat of attack against U.S. personnel in Iraq by an emboldened adversary. Years ago, Soleimani had concluded America was a paper tiger whose people he could kill with relative impunity. It was a strike designed to stop an escalation cycle we all knew was underway and to restore deterrence and reduce the risk of war.

Yet, when Soleimani's record of brutality was brought to an end, some Washington Democrats immediately suggested President Trump was leading us into World War III. While the Middle East masses rejoiced at the death of a principal architect of Iran's campaign of terror, the Washington elites fretted.

Yet, thus far, it appears the Soleimani strike has, indeed, had the intended effect. As I observed back in January, ''We appear to have restored a measure of deterrence in the Middle East. So let's not screw it up.'' Well, I am afraid that is just what our colleague's resolution would do. Just as we have successfully sent Iran the strong signal of our strength and resolve, a blunt and clumsy War Powers Resolution would tie our own hands.

With China's and Russia's watching, is it really a good idea to suggest that we are willing to let a meddling power like Iran push us around? This self-flagellation and self-limitation would be tantamount to snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

For 8 years, President Obama and Senate Democrats, like my friend the Democratic leader himself, frequently said that, when it comes to Iran, we should never take the military option off the table. Yet, now that someone else is in the Oval Office, they seem to want to remove all options from the table. Lest we forget, the fact is that we are not conducting ongoing hostilities with Iran. This was a one-off operation to disrupt and deter planned attacks—not a campaign, not a conflict, not a war.

This discrete and limited exercise of American power pales in comparison to the ways in which past Presidents of both parties have routinely used Presidential authorities to utilize our military might without their having the prior consent of Congress—President Clinton in Kosovo, President Obama in Libya, and so on.

Do most of my distinguished Democratic colleagues really agree with several of their party's leading Presidential candidates who have suggested President Trump made a mistake by taking this sort of Executive action to eliminate this brutal terrorist?

Do my colleagues really agree with the prominent voices on their side who have proposed to exit the Middle East altogether rather than to continue to work to support our local partners and defend our national security and national interests in this critical region?

I have been trying to have this broader debate for more than a year now. I have repeatedly sought to give my Democratic colleagues the opportunity to go on record about their actual, big-picture strategic vision for the Middle East.

Are they willing to support a continued military presence in Syria? in Iraq? Do they believe we can magically support our partners, like the Kurds, without having a military presence; that we can counter Iranian and Russian influence if we are nowhere to be found in the region? Do they believe Israel will be safer in a region without American influence?

Ill-conceived potshots at Presidential authorities—in the wake of a strike that succeeded—by using the blunt instrument of a War Powers Resolution is no substitute at all for answering these broader questions.

I will oppose my colleague's resolution tomorrow, and I encourage our colleagues to do likewise.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 5687

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative 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. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the 2020 primary elections are ongoing. The national election is only 9 months away. If there is anything we can say for certain about our elections at this point, it is that foreign entities—Putin, China, perhaps others—are already implementing their schemes to undermine the public confidence and the integrity of those elections and to bend social media in favor of their chosen outcome. FBI Director Wray, former DNI Coats—virtually every member of our national security and intelligence community has warned us of this danger.

As we have heard over the past weeks, the threat of foreign interference in our election dates back to the founding days of the country. George Washington warned that foreign interference is one of the most baneful foes of republican government. Adams wrote that as long as elections happen, the danger of foreign influence recurs.

The warnings of our Founders hold a new and startling relevance today. The current President of the United States, far from having the same fears about foreign interference as our Founders, has been very public about his openness to foreign assistance and manipulation in support of his election. If a foreign power had dirt on one of his opponents, the President said, ''I think I'd want to hear it.'' At different times, the President has invited Russia, Ukraine, and China to investigate his political opponents.

Of course the President was just impeached over this issue, and the Senate just concluded a trial in which it appeared a bipartisan majority of Senators broadly accepted the fact that the President leveraged hundreds of millions of dollars of military assistance to Ukraine to compel its government to investigate one of his political rivals.

The trial of President Trump exposed in great detail the President's willingness to accept foreign help in the elections. It also revealed just how little Senate Republicans were willing to do about it. Senate Republicans wouldn't even fairly examine the charges against the President by allowing witnesses and documents in his trial.

The end of the President's impeachment trial does not mean that the end of the issue of election security is somehow over—far from it. We now have even a greater need to safeguard our elections than we had before.

The President tried to cheat in our elections, and the Senate majority of

his party decided to look the other way. What do you think the President will conclude? He will conclude that he can get away with anything. He could try to cheat again—ask China or North Korea or Russia to investigate the Democratic nominee, whoever it is.

We know we can't trust this President to stand up for the integrity of our elections, so Congress must. Democrats are not going to stop fighting to put up additional safeguards before the 2020 elections.

Later today, a group of my colleagues will come to the floor to ask unanimous consent to pass crucial election security legislation. Much of this legislation is bipartisan. Some of it has already passed out of committee. Some of it has passed the House, but it has languished for years—years—because Majority Leader MCCONNELL has refused to bring any of these bills to the floor.

Senator WARNER and Senator BLUMENTHAL have duty-to-report bills—commonsense measures to require Presidential campaigns to report offers of foreign help to the FBI. Senator WYDEN and Senator KLOBUCHAR have the SAFE Act—another commonsense measure to authorize funding to harden election infrastructure and protect voting machines from hacking and other intrusions.

Neither of these bills should be controversial. There is nothing partisan about them—nothing at all—but they have consistently been blocked by Senate Republicans and denied time and consideration on the floor by Republican Leader MCCONNELL. That doesn't mean Democrats are going to stop trying. Later today, we will try again to pass these bipartisan, noncontroversial bills. We will see if our Republican colleagues are willing to do what is necessary to protect our elections.

NOMINATION OF ANDREW LYNN BRASHER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on the nomination of Andrew Brasher for the Eleventh Circuit, the nomination is truly a disgrace—a disgrace—to our judiciary. I urge every single Senator to reject it.

Mr. Brasher is laughably inexperienced. He was confirmed as a district court judge only 9 months ago. That is the sum total of his experience as a judge at any level—9 months. Now Leader MCCONNELL wants to elevate him to an appellate court. In Leader MCCONNELL's desperate rush to pack the courts with hard-right judges, his party is asking the Senate to confirm judicial novices to the most austere and important seats on the Federal bench.

Worse than this nominee's inexperience, though, are his views, which are so far outside the American mainstream.

In his 5 years as solicitor general in the State of Alabama, Brasher defended the indefensible on issues ranging from women's reproductive rights, to marriage equality, to gun safety. Mr. Brasher has also amassed a career's worth of experience undermining voting rights. Brasher signed on to an amicus brief that argued in favor of gutting the Voting Rights Act—arguably the most important piece of civil rights legislation in our Nation's history. His arguments in defense of an Arizona voter ID law were roundly rejected by the Supreme Court, including Justice Scalia. As the solicitor general for Alabama, Brasher defended the State's voter suppression efforts, including State district lines that courts later concluded were drawn explicitly to discriminate against African-American voters. This is who the Senate Republicans want to put as a circuit court of appeals justice.

Whether it is covering up for President Trump and his attempts to cheat in our elections or confirming judges like Mr. Brasher with a history of race-related voter discrimination, Senate Republicans are showing outright contempt for the very wellspring of our democracy—the right of American citizens to vote in free and fair elections.

Mr. Brasher clearly, obviously, and certainly does not belong on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I urge every Senator to vote against his nomination.

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

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

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, last Tuesday, the President delivered his State of the Union Address. He discussed some of our biggest accomplishments over the past 3 years, and, of course, chief among those accomplishments is the economic progress we have made.

During the Obama administration, our economy spent years in the doldrums. American families and American workers struggled to advance in a historically slow recovery that left some experts predicting that a weaker economy would be the new normal. Yet Republicans didn't believe we should be resigning ourselves to that future. In fact, we knew that the real strength of the American economy, American business, and American workers was still there.

But we also knew that burdensome regulations and an outdated tax code were preventing our economy from thriving the way it should, so we took action. We cut burdensome regulations and passed historic reform of our Tax Code. We cut tax rates for families, doubled the tax credit, and nearly doubled the standard deduction.

Then we took aim at the parts of the Tax Code that were holding back American workers and American businesses. We lowered tax rates across the board for owners of small and medium-sized businesses, farms, and ranches. We lowered our Nation's massive corporate tax rate, which was the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world. We expanded business owners' ability to recover the costs of investments they make in their businesses, which frees up cash they can reinvest in their operations and their workers. We brought the U.S. international tax system into the 21st century so that American businesses are not operating at a competitive disadvantage next to their foreign counterparts.

Tax reform is working. Unemployment is near its lowest level in 50 years—50 years. Think about that. For the past 12 months, unemployment has been below 4 percent, a record that was last achieved in the 1960s. African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans all saw record low unemployment in 2019. Strong economic growth has also given discouraged workers the confidence to come off of the sidelines and to join the workforce.

Currently, the labor force participation rate is at its highest level in 7 years. Last month, the economy created 225,000 jobs, well above market expectations. All told, the economy has created an average of 171,000 jobs per month over the past 12 months—a strong number.

Wages are growing. For the past 18 months, wage growth has been at or above 3 percent. And as the President said in his State of the Union Address, this is a ''blue-collar boom.'' In contrast to the Obama administration, in this economy, it is blue-collar workers who are seeing the strong wage growth.

Gains in the stock market have been good news for American workers' 401(k)s and pensions. The list goes on.

Of course, while we have made a lot of progress, our work isn't done. While our economy as a whole has thrived, our Nation's farm economy continues to struggle. Low commodity and livestock prices, natural disasters, and protracted trade disputes have made the last few years challenging ones for farmers and ranchers.

One of the most important things we can do to help the farm economy is negotiate trade deals that expand markets for American agriculture products and give our farmers and ranchers certainty about what markets will look like going forward. That is why I pushed for passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement, which the President signed last month. This agreement will maintain and expand farmers' and ranchers' access to the two biggest markets for American agricultural products and provide certainty about what these markets will look like for the foreseeable future.

I am particularly pleased about the improvements the agreement makes

for the dairy industry, which is a growing industry in my State of South Dakota. We need to conclude more strong trade agreements going forward that will expand markets for American agriculture products.

The President also mentioned the trade agreement we are negotiating with China. The President recently signed phase one of the agreement, which includes a pledge from China to substantially increase its imports of American agriculture products. That is excellent news for farmers and ranchers, but we need to make sure that China actually lives up to its commitments. As we know, China doesn't have the best record in this regard, and it is important that the United States make clear that any agreements must be honored.

We have made a lot of progress for the American people over the past 3 years, but, as I said, there is more work to be done. I hope to work with my colleagues of both parties this year to continue to build on the economic progress we have made and create more opportunities for American workers. I will continue to make the needs of our Nation's farmers and ranchers one of my top priorities. I am committed to seeing our Nation's farm economy catch up to our economy as a whole.

I am proud that Republican economic policies have made life better for American workers. I will continue to work to ensure that every American has access to the benefits of our strong economy.

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 the call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. LOEFFLER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING BILLIE SUE HOGGARD

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, our Nation functions thanks to the extraordinary devotion and patriotism of the American people. Every city, every county, every State, and every party has a few patriots who go above and beyond, dedicating their whole lives to making sure that our system works and that our way of life is preserved so that we can pass on our Republic as a precious inheritance to our children and our grandchildren.

Billie Sue Hoggard was just such a patriot. She devoted her life to her neighbors and fellow citizens in Jonesboro in northeast Arkansas. Billie Sue went home to be with the Lord on Sunday at age 76.

Billie Sue loved America, she loved Arkansas, she loved the Republican Party with all of her heart, and she devoted all of her energy to making them great.

As a young child, sadly, Billie Sue knew the meaning of sacrifice. Her adoptive father was killed in action during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. Although they had not met, he kept her baby photo in his wallet. No doubt, he was proud to know the baby girl he adopted grew up to carry on his legacy of service to others. I bet he told her that on Sunday when they were reunited.

Billie Sue worked as a teacher in northeast Arkansas for decades, helping young people grow up to become better citizens. Her career as an educator was just one part of her commitment to public service. She also served as a justice of the peace and the Republican Party committee chair for Craighead County, where she brought energy and joy and a little bit of feistiness to every meeting and every local gathering.

Billie Sue was also a Republican well ahead of the pack, back in the day when many counties didn't even have committees and some counties could probably meet in a telephone booth. Her energy and commitment were instrumental in helping our party win the trust and support of our candidates in Jonesboro, in Craighead County, in northeast Arkansas, and all around our State. It is thanks in no small part to her efforts that RICK CRAWFORD now represents northeast Arkansas in the House of Representatives, the first Republican to hold that seat since reconstruction.

I met Billie Sue shortly after my election to the House. She encouraged me to run for the Senate. She promised to deliver Craighead County if I did, and I can tell you, she kept that promise and then some, as she always did.

Of course, Billie Sue was most committed of all to her family. Her four children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren were the loves of her life. In a fitting turn of fate, Billie Sue, the adopted daughter of a servicemember, served herself as guardian to two of her young granddaughters in her later years. She was in her seventies when she raised those two young girls. In an act of love, she stepped up for her family in its hour of need.

Billy Sue's health declined over the last year of her life. We all know how the battles of illness can rob people we love of their vitality in their final days. But while cancer could ravage her body, it could never dampen Billy Sue's spirit. When I called her over this last year to check on her, I always heard the same energy and passion—and, yes, feistiness—as she wanted to skip over quickly how she was doing and talk about the latest legislative battles here in Congress and political campaigns in Arkansas.

Now Billie Sue has gone back to be with the Lord, but she is not forgotten. Arkansans will remember her as a local leader and a patriot who made her community and our State better through decades of tireless service. May she rest in peace.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

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 and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the 2020 primary elections are already underway, and the national election is only 9 months away. We know that foreign entities—Putin, China, perhaps others—are already scheming to undermine the public confidence in our elections. The threats to our next elections are real and growing nearer each day.

Last week the Senate concluded an impeachment trial of the President, who was accused of abusing the powers of his office to solicit the help of a foreign power in his reelection—solicit the help. It didn't just happen. He was soliciting it.

My Republican Senate friends refused to hold the President accountable for his misconduct—refused to even hold a fair trial. Now, what do we think the President will conclude after the Senate Republican majority let him off the hook for trying to cheat in our elections? He will conclude that he can try to do it again. Anyone who knows him knows that is what he will do.

Because Senate Republicans chose to look the other way, the need for election security legislation is greater now than ever before. We cannot trust this President to stand up for the integrity of our elections. So Congress must stand up in his stead.

In a few moments, my colleagues Senator WARNER, Senator WYDEN, and

Senator BLUMENTHAL will ask for unanimous consent to pass crucial election security legislation. They will talk about what their legislation will do. But know this: Protecting our elections should not be partisan. It should not be controversial. It should earn the unanimous support of every Member.

The very wellspring of our democracy is the principle of free and fair elections. Will our Republican colleagues stand up for free and fair elections today or will they once again block commonsense legislation to defend our democracy?

I yield to the Senator from Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the Democratic leader.

I am here today because I think, as we all know, our elections remain vulnerable to foreign election interference. Russia attacked our democracy in 2016, with the goal of undermining confidence in our system, a system of free and fair elections—literally, the bedrock of our democracy.

Their cyber attacks and disinformation efforts continue to this day, and our own FBI Director, Christopher Wray, has reassured or, potentially, warned us that they will be back in full force this year. Not only that, but we will have to contend with potential interference from China, Iran, North Korea, and others who have basically copied the Russia playbook.

The threat is real, it is ongoing, and we are not doing enough to be ready. Time and again we hear these same warnings from our intelligence community leadership, from companies like Facebook, from the special counsel, and many others. The truth is that the alarm bells are going off, and we are running out of time to actually do something about it.

Unfortunately, the White House and the U.S. Senate seem to be the only ones not taking this threat seriously. Since 2016, this body, which we all have the honor to serve in, has failed to vote on a single piece of standalone election security legislation. Three times last year I came to the floor in an attempt to pass bipartisan election security legislation by unanimous consent, and each time these efforts were blocked by some of my Republican colleagues—blocked and actually earned applause from the President on Twitter for their actions.

Well, I am back again today because the security of our elections cannot wait. In a moment, I will ask unanimous consent to pass my legislation known as the FIRE Act. This bill would simply say to all Presidential campaigns going forward that if a foreign power reaches out to your campaign offering assistance or offering dirt on a political opponent, the appropriate response is not to say thank you. The appropriate response is to call the FBI.

I introduced this bipartisan legislation months before the facts came to light about the President pressuring Ukraine into announcing a politically motivated investigation into the Bidens.

Now, I am not here to rehash the impeachment trial, but I do want to note one thing. A number of my Republican colleagues justified their votes by saying that, while not impeachable, it was wrong for the President to solicit foreign interference in our elections. I take my colleagues at their word that they believe foreign interference has no place in our elections, but if I take you at your word, you have got to put your money where your mouth is. We are under attack from our adversaries, who see this new era of cyber warfare and disinformation as a unique and golden opportunity to undermine American democracy.

We cannot afford to have a system that allows any Presidential candidate to welcome this kind of interference with open arms. If we can't trust the President of the United States and his campaign to do the right thing and report foreign interference, then we need to require it by law.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2242

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2242, the FIRE Act; that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I would like to articulate the reason for the objection to the legislation brought forward by the minority.

You would think that, after spending weeks in this Chamber litigating the finer points of their disagreements with the President's foreign policy, our friends in the minority would be weary of picking another partisan fight. But here we go again.

They are attempting to bypass this body's Rules Committee on behalf of various bills that will seize control over elections from the States and take it from the States. And where do they want to put it? They want it to rest in the hands of Washington, DC, bureaucrats.

As I have said on this floor before, I served on a local election commission. I know how hard our friends and neighbors and our local election commissions and our State election commissions work to ensure the integrity of the ballot box.

What would these bills that are going to be brought forward this morning do? They would centralize control over the vote, and what we have seen is big centralized out-of-control government. We would end up having a less safe electoral process. It would be more vulnerable to attack.

It is absolutely baffling to me that the minority would fight so hard for such a disastrous vision, but, as I said, here we go again. Their actions show complete contempt for the progress that Congress, the intelligence community, and State-level authorities have made to protect our elections without resorting to a Federal power grab.

Since fiscal year 2018, Congress has invested $805 million in protecting the vote. This is the largest investment in elections since the 2002 Help America Vote Act. And do you know what? It is making a difference. It is making a difference.

Why, then, would the minority continue to demand changes that would redirect that investment to support groups like the Iowa Democratic Party, whose mishandling of their own caucus ended in what has been termed by everyone as an unmitigated disaster?

They know it is not necessary, and yet time and again they are trying to force this issue. They feel like only the bureaucrats in Washington, DC, can handle this.

So in response to this gross hypocrisy, today I am filing my own bill directing the Government Accountability Office to look into the debacle in Iowa.

I send a bill to the desk, and I ask that it be appropriately referred.

This is not an attack. This is a recognition that any complex process comes with the risk of mistakes or mismanagement. We are all vulnerable. We must recognize this. We must investigate allegations of fraud and mismanagement, and, of course, there should be lessons learned from the past. To ignore these problems is to resign ourselves to a fatally flawed democratic process.

On that note, I do object to the motion, and I ask my colleagues to remember that we have reached a bipartisan consensus on the importance of securing our elections. We are all against election interference. We are all against foreign interference in elections. We are all for free and fair elections, and we are all for protecting the ballot box.

So I hope my Democratic colleagues do not resort to sending out more fundraising letters saying that the Republicans are opposed to a secure election process, because that is a falsehood. We are not. We are for a fair process. We do not believe federalizing that process and taking the power away from local governments and State governments is the way to do that.

So let's focus on the bipartisan consensus, and let's not throw that away in the name of having another partisan grudge match.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague's comments about

State and local election security, which I support.

I see two members of the Senate Intelligence Committee on the floor, and I am extraordinarily proud of the bipartisan, unanimous work that we have done to point out what happened in 2016 and to lay out with a great deal of specificity what we need to do as a nation to protect ourselves in 2020.

This legislation I am proposing today is really kind of the simplest, lowest hanging fruit. I think we all say that we don't want foreigners interfering in our elections. All this legislation says is if a foreign government or foreign agents interfere to try to help or hurt any Presidential candidate, we ought to make sure there is no ambiguity that the appropriate response is not to say thank you but the appropriate response is to call the FBI.

That is the message we have heard from Director Wray. That is the message we have heard from the intelligence community. If we can't agree on that, gracious, where are we?

And, candidly, in other times we might not have needed this kind of legislation. It seems so patently obvious.

I am disappointed with the objection. We will keep trying.

With that, I yield the floor to my colleague from Oregon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2238

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to thank the vice chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence and pick up on his remarks.

For my colleagues, I believe they have asked that I give my remarks before I offer my unanimous consent request, and that is what I will do.

Mr. President, America is 266 days away from the 2020 elections, and Majority Leader MCCONNELL has yet to take any concrete steps to protect our foreign elections from hacking or foreign interference. Thanks to this legislative blockade, the Senate has been totally derelict in its duty to stop foreign cyber attacks on our election.

I want to give just one concrete example, having listened to my colleague from Tennessee. There is not one single nationwide, mandatory election cyber security standard on the books. That means there is not even a prohibition on voting machines having an open connection to the internet. Colleagues, that is the equivalent of stashing our ballots in the Kremlin. There is no such cyber security prohibition.

The election security debacle of 2016 was 4 years ago, but still this body has refused to act. We know Russian hackers probed all 50 State election systems. They hacked at least one election vendor. Russians penetrated two Florida county election systems, according to Florida's Governor. That is just what we know about.

Despite all the ways foreign hackers have already made it into our election infrastructure, the Congress has refused to arm State and county officials with the knowledge and funding they need to secure their systems.

I will state what I tell my constituents at townhall meetings at home—and I have more of them scheduled this weekend—I believe, as of today, the 2020 election is going to make 2016 look like small potatoes. The list of threats and vulnerabilities ought to be a wake-up call—a wake-up call—for every Member of this Senate. There were the ES&S voting machines that for years came with preinstalled remote-access software. There is the fact that Russia hacked an election vendor called VR Systems in the summer of 2016. VR Systems electronic poll books in North Carolina malfunctioned on election day that year, and one polling place had to shut down for hours. It was 2½ years before the Department of Homeland Security even investigated what had happened, and the government still has not adequately responded to questions I and Senator KLOBUCHAR have asked about this.

Right now, many election officials across the country are buying election systems that they believe in good faith are high tech, but they are in fact vulnerable to hacking and are outdated the moment they come out of the box. There is the alarming trend of states using mobile voting apps, like Voatz, that haven't been vetted by top security experts.

This is the reason why so many cyber security experts have been sounding the alarms for years, warning that putting computers between a voter and their ballots is a prescription for disaster. What happens when a ''glitch'' changes a candidate's vote totals by just 2 percent or 5 percent instead of 50 percent? What happens when a glitch shuts down machines in some precincts and not others, disenfranchising voters and skewing election results?

Five States still exclusively use hackable, paperless voting machines, and nine other States still use paperless machines in some counties.

These are serious problems, but there are some clear solutions. I proposed a bill called the PAVE Act, which has three key priorities that are universally supported by people who are knowledgeable in the election security field: paper ballots, routine post-election risk-limiting audits, and mandatory Federal cyber security standards for election systems.

Last year, the House passed a major election security bill called the SAFE Act, which included most of the PAVE Act. Senator KLOBUCHAR and I, on behalf of colleagues on this side of the aisle, introduced the Senate version of the SAFE Act. The SAFE Act has all three key elements recommended by our Nation's top cyber security experts—paper ballots, security standards, and postelection audits—as well as the funding necessary to make sure States can live up to the new standards.

The SAFE Act, in my view, represents the most comprehensive commonsense defense against foreign election hacking. I strongly urge my colleagues to reconsider their opposition to this vitally important legislation.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules and Administration Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2238, the SAFE Act; that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Just to give a brief response, I think it is unfortunate that my colleague is not even willing to engage in this discussion with respect to this.

I just want my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to think about their claims. They are saying, for example, that, well, they are sympathetic to the idea that there should be more money for election officials. The recent appropriations funding doesn't even have a requirement that it be spent on election security. States can buy brand new, insecure paperless voting machines that are pretty much useless when they come out of the box. They can even use the money to buy office chairs or a water cooler for the election office.

Again, I come back, and I hope my colleague from Tennessee will reflect on this because she is somebody who has spent a lot of time on technology issues.

The idea that this Senate is willing to say ''You know, we are not even going to do something. We are not even going to act'' when you can have voting machines with an open connection to the internet—it is just like stashing our ballots in the Kremlin. Something really is out of whack, and we ought to be coming together and passing the SAFE Act. We at least ought to be talking about it. What we have is a specific, documented case for an important piece of legislation, and the majority just says: That is the way it is. We are happy to say that you can have voting machines with an open connection to the internet. We are not even going to talk about it.

I think it is very unfortunate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1247

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules and Administration Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1247 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and

passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I really regret there is an objection again to this bill which we have been seeking for floor consideration in this body to debate and pass.

We have been asking for floor consideration of various election security bills in the last several months—the PAVE Act, the Honest Ads Act, and the SHIELD Act—but, sadly and unfortunately for the country, the majority continues to stonewall. Our decisions are under attack, our elections are under siege, and 2016 was only a dress rehearsal.

Just yesterday, Attorney General Barr announced that Trump's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, is going to be feeding the Department of Justice unverified dirt from Ukraine on the President's political rival. In effect, the Department of Justice will become a political tool for the President. He is weaponizing law enforcement for his personal political end, and the Attorney General of the United States is becoming an aider and abettor to that polarization and politicization of the Department of Justice.

Only last week, for the first time in our Nation's history, we saw bipartisan support for removing the President from office. The basis for that bipartisan vote was, in fact, President Trump's illegal solicitation of election interference from a foreign government.

As Senator ROMNEY put it last week, Trump's demands of Ukraine constitute a ''flagrant assault on our electoral rights, our national security and our fundamental values,'' noting that ''corrupting an election to keep oneself in office is perhaps the most abusive and destructive violation of one's oath of office that I can imagine.'' He is right. We cannot allow this abuse to become the new normal, and it is fast becoming normalized.

My other Republican colleagues are running out of time to be on the right side of history. Others have conceded that what the President did was ''wrong. Inappropriate . . . crossing the line,'' as Senator ALEXANDER put it.

Senator MURKOWSKI stated that she believed that ''the President's behavior was shameful and wrong. His personal interests do not take precedence over those of this great nation.''

Senator COLLINS, who first claimed that Trump learned his ''lesson,'' has since admitted that she ''may not be correct on that'' after the President refused to admit any wrongdoing.

Now that Senate Republicans have let President Trump off the hook, there is no doubt that he will only be emboldened in his efforts to illegally enlist foreign governments in his reelection campaign.

What is happening with Rudy Giuliani, Senator GRAHAM has said, may be that he has been ''played by the Russians.'' That, in fact, is likely what is happening, but the President's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, may also be playing the President, and the President most certainly will be playing the country if he uses the Department of Justice for his personal political aims and enlists foreign interference in our election.

That is why this bill is so critically important. The Duty to Report Act offers my Republican colleagues the opportunity to start redeeming themselves for their votes last week.

If they really believe the President's actions were wrong, they should support this legislation. It is a very simple idea. Really, it is so simple that a lot of people believe it is already the law—if you see something, say something. If you see a violation of law with a foreign government interfering in our election, if you see an attempt to enlist that foreign government, if you see an acceptance of assistance, report it.

The Duty to Report Act would require campaigns, candidates, and family members to immediately report to the FBI and the Federal Election Commission any offers of foreign assistance. Simple. It codifies into law what is already a moral duty, a patriotic duty, and basic common sense.

It is already illegal to accept foreign assistance during a campaign. It is already illegal to solicit foreign assistance during a campaign. All this bill does is require campaigns and individuals to report what is already illegal to the FBI so law enforcement can protect our great Nation. This legislation would ensure that if the Trump campaign or any campaign were offered assistance from a foreign, hostile government in a future election, the FBI would be informed and could act to protect our country.

Let me repeat: 2016 was a dress rehearsal for what our intelligence community is already reporting as ongoing right now in election interference, and it is more than Russia. It is other nations. Already, Iran has proved to be an active and present disrupter, and other nations will follow their lead.

With the 2020 election looming, we need to stop this kind of foreign interference and ensure that it is the American people, not Russia, China, Iran, or any other nation, who decides who our leaders will be and the direction of our democracy—and not just decide but also influence and impact in ways that are opaque and concealed, pernicious and insidious. We need to act to provide a duty to report.

I regret the objection to our unanimous consent request, and I, certainly, along with my colleagues on this side of the aisle, will continue this effort to fight to protect our Nation against foreign interference.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that before we recess, I be allowed to finish my remarks.

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

NOMINATION OF ANDREW LYNN BRASHER

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today in the U.S. Senate in support of Andrew Brasher of Montgomery, AL, whom I recommended and was later nominated by President Trump to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, a very important post.

I believe Judge Brasher to be an esteemed choice for this high honor. Formerly Alabama's solicitor general and currently a U.S. district judge for the Middle District of Alabama, Judge Brasher is no stranger to the courtroom. I have the utmost regard for his vast legal ability and his commitment to the rule of law, and I believe he is well suited for this respected position.

Judge Brasher excelled academically from a young age. He earned his bachelor of arts with honors from Samford University in Birmingham, AL, where he graduated summa cum laude and met his wife Julia there. He currently serves on the school's board of overseers.

Judge Brasher went on from Samford University in Birmingham to graduate cum laude from Harvard Law School and was the first in his family to receive his juris doctorate. While in law school at Harvard, he was a member of the Harvard Law Review and received the Victor Brudney Prize. The Presiding Officer probably recalls this, but this is a high honor at Harvard granted annually at the law school to the best student paper on a subject associated with corporate governance. This is a very high honor.

Upon graduation, Judge Brasher served as a law clerk to Judge William H. Pryor, Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, making him neither a stranger to the courtroom nor to the Eleventh Circuit. Following his clerkship with Judge Pryor, Andrew Brasher practiced law in Birmingham, AL, with the law firm Bradley Arant Boult Cummings. During his time with Bradley Arant, he worked in the firm's litigation and white-collar criminal defense practice groups. He eventually joined the Alabama attorney general's office, serving for several years as the deputy solicitor general and then went on to become the solicitor general for the State of Alabama.

Judge Brasher's experience speaks for itself. He has argued and won cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the Supreme Court of Alabama. While serving as solicitor general of the State of Alabama, Judge Brasher won two Best Brief Award honors from the National Association of Attorneys General. This accomplishment, as the Presiding Officer knows,

is no easy feat. He proved to be an exceptionally skilled attorney, but his ambitions did not stop there.

In 2018, the Presiding Officer probably will remember, I recommended and President Trump nominated Andrew Brasher to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. Last year, he was confirmed by the full Senate to sit on the court as a Federal district judge.

Since his confirmation, Judge Brasher has served the State of Alabama and the Nation with integrity and purpose. I am confident that in his new capacity, he will continue to do so. I believe Judge Brasher is very worthy of this nomination. His judicial temperament and respect for the law, as it is written, will help him exhibit, I believe, impartiality and fairness with tact.

President Trump, I believe, has made the right decision in selecting Judge Brasher for this important job. I believe he will be an asset to our judicial branch on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

I am hopeful that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will vote to confirm Andrew Brasher without reservation later today. I remain confident that his dedication to justice will contribute to the respected standards of our Nation's judicial system. I wish Judge Brasher and his wife Julia—along with their two boys, Hank and Drew—all the best as they take on this new opportunity and responsibility.

I yield the floor.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week, Senator MCCONNELL has scheduled votes on five judicial nominees.

Some of these nominees, I will oppose, including 11th Circuit nominee Andrew Brasher. Some, I will support, including John Kness, a nominee for the Northern District of Illinois, who was part of a bipartisan package of nominees in my State.

But first, I want to point out that, under this Republican majority, the Senate simply doesn't do legislation any more. There are literally hundreds of bills that have passed the House of Representatives and are gathering dust on the Senate desk.

These bills deal with critical issues like reducing prescription drug prices, protecting pensions, securing our elections from foreign interference, and closing gaps in our gun background check system, but time and again, when Senate Republicans have the opportunity to bring bills to the floor, they take a pass. They just don't want to do the hard work of legislating. Last year, the Senate voted on only 22 amendments all year. I remember when we used to vote on that many amendments in a single day.

Sadly, under this Republican majority, the Senate is becoming an appendage of the White House and no more than a conveyor belt for President Trump's judicial nominees. We are abdicating our responsibility to legislate on matters of importance to the American people.

The Constitution assigns the Senate important roles as part of a coequal legislative branch. We are not rising to meet these challenges. When we look at this week's nominations votes, we are reminded yet again of how the Senate is abdicating its authority.

Andrew Brasher is the 18th Trump circuit court nominee who has been moved through the Senate Judiciary Committee without blue slips from both home State Senators. For a century, blue slips served as a critical check in the system, helping ensure that Senators, as the elected representatives of their State's citizens, have a role in choosing the Federal judges who will serve lifetime appointments in their State.

But Republicans, who used blue slips to obstruct many of President Obama's nominees, cast aside the blue slip once President Trump came into office. Now, circuit court nominees are routinely being rammed through the Senate over the objections of home State Senators. Some of these nominees are lightly qualified, to put it nicely. Some have barely practiced law in the State in which they have been nominated to serve. Some have barely seen the inside of a courtroom.

Today's nominee, 38-year-old Andrew Brasher, was confirmed as a district court judge last year without bipartisan support. Less than a year later, he is being put forward for the 11th Circuit. A former solicitor general of Alabama, he worked on controversial efforts to restrict voting rights, limit reproductive rights, and undermine gun safety laws.

But beyond the controversial advocacy that he undertook on behalf of his clients, Andrew Brasher also made comments in his personal capacity that call into question his impartiality and temperament. This includes a 2015 blog post he wrote in opposition to same-sex marriage and a speech he gave at a 2014 pro-life political rally where he said, ''The ACLU and Planned Parenthood want a fight and we will give them one.''

I will oppose the Brasher nomination, and I will also oppose Alaska district court nominee Joshua Kindred, who has a lengthy record of opposition to environmental protections. Mr. Kindred once described environmentalists as being driven by ''passionate ignorance.''

I will vote in support of the nomination of John Kness to the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Kness is the final part of a package of four Illinois district court nominees that was agreed upon between myself, Senator DUCKWORTH, the Illinois Republican congressional delegation, and the White House. It is a good bipartisan package.

Mr. Kness is a graduate of Northwestern and Northwestern Law and a former Assistant U.S. Attorney. He is currently the general counsel for the College of DuPage. He is diligent, thoughtful, and principled, and I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:38 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

NOMINATION OF ANDREW LYNN BRASHER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Andrew Brasher for an Alabama seat on the 11th Circuit. This is over the objection of Senator JONES, who was not meaningfully consulted by the administration and did not return a blue slip. Senator JONES is as reasonable as they come; the fact that he was denied a voice in this process shows just how disinterested the White House is in being reasonable when it comes to selecting judges who will shape the laws in our States for decades to come.

It is clear the President views the courts as a mere extension of his power, not as an independent body critical to the checks and balances of our constitutional system. The President knows that no matter who is nominated, whether or not qualified or within the mainstream, the Judiciary Committee of today and the Senate of today—led by a majority leader who describes the Senate's role as a mere conveyor belt for President Trump's nominees—will confirm them.

The President likes to brag about the number of judges that have been confirmed under his administration. Less attention is paid to the cost. Of the last 20 circuit court nominees the Judiciary Committee has reported, 15 have been along party lines, and 13 had a negative blue slip. My friends across the aisle apparently no longer care about the constitutional principle of providing advice and consent to nominees in your home State, a tradition that, until recently, had been guarded by members of both parties.

Blue slips aside, Andrew Brasher had served as district court judge for just 7 months before receiving this Presidential promotion. Every single Democrat opposed his nomination when it was reported out of the Judiciary Committee and again when it was considered on the Senate floor. During his short tenure as a district court judge, he has presided over only three cases that have gone to verdict or judgment. In his questionnaire, when asked what significant opinions on Federal constitutional issues he has written, he simply wrote ''none.''

But of course, the President did not select Brasher for his judicial experience. A partisan judicial philosophy, along with youth, seem to be the only qualifications of many of this administration's nominees. Before becoming a judge, Brasher spent his short legal career systematically restricting the

rights of vulnerable populations, including opposing voting rights and LGBTQ rights and supporting an unconstitutional law mandating universal drug testing for food stamp applicants, which the 11th Circuit slapped down as stripping away peoples' privacy simply because they are poor.

Brasher is opposed by literally hundreds of civil and human rights groups who represent millions of Americans. They all are afraid that with this elevation, he will continue to be a rubberstamp for the President's radical agenda and negatively impact 37 million residents of Alabama, Florida and Georgia—States that have often been on the frontlines of systemic voter disenfranchisement for years.

For these reasons, I will oppose the nomination of Andrew Brasher. We all must commit to considering each nominee carefully and on his or her individual merit. I hope this body can reverse course and return to its historic roots: tackling our Nation's most serious problems in a bipartisan way, displaying comity even when we disagree, and treating our unique role in approving lifetime judgeships with the seriousness of purpose required by the Constitution.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brasher nomination?

Mr. SASSE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 36 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Cramer	Inhofe
Barrasso	Crapo	Johnson
Blackburn	Cruz	Kennedy
Blunt	Daines	Lankford
Boozman	Enzi	Lee
Braun	Ernst	Loeffler
Burr	Fischer	McConnell
Capito	Gardner	McSally
Cassidy	Grassley	Moran
Collins	Hawley	Murkowski
Cornyn	Hoeven	Paul
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Perdue
Portman	Sasse	Tillis
Risch	Scott (FL)	Toomey
Roberts	Scott (SC)	Wicker
Romney	Shelby	Young
Rounds	Sullivan	
Rubio	Thune	

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schatz
Booker	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Jones	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kaine	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	
Harris	Reed	

NOT VOTING—5

Bennet	Klobuchar	Warren
Graham	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Joshua M. Kindred, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska.

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.

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the votes in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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 Joshua M. Kindred, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 37 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Roberts
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Loeffler	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Toomey
Crapo	McSally	Warner
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young
Enzi	Paul	
Ernst	Perdue	

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Harris	Peters
Blumenthal	Hassan	Reed
Booker	Heinrich	Rosen
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Jones	Schumer
Cardin	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Leahy	Smith
Coons	Manchin	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tester
Duckworth	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	

NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Sanders	Warren
Graham	Tillis	
Klobuchar	Udall	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Matthew Thomas Schelp, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

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 (Mrs. BLACKBURN). By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Matthew Thomas Schelp, of Missouri, to be United States District

Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), 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 72, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 38 Ex.]

YEAS—72

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hassan	Reed
Blunt	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Burr	Inhofe	Rosen
Capito	Johnson	Rounds
Carper	Jones	Rubio
Cassidy	Kaine	Sasse
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	King	Scott (SC)
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Shaheen
Cotton	Leahy	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sinema
Crapo	Loeffler	Sullivan
Cruz	Manchin	Tester
Daines	McConnell	Thune
Duckworth	McSally	Tillis
Durbin	Moran	Toomey
Enzi	Murkowski	Warner
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Paul	Wicker
Fischer	Perdue	Young

NAYS—22

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Schatz
Blumenthal	Harris	Schumer
Booker	Heinrich	Smith
Brown	Hirono	Stabenow
Cantwell	Markey	Van Hollen
Cardin	Menendez	Wyden
Casey	Merkley	
Coons	Murray	

NOT VOTING—6

Bennet	Klobuchar	Udall
Graham	Sanders	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 77 and the nays are 22.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John Fitzgerald Kness, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of John Fitzgerald Kness, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), 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 82, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 39 Ex.]

YEAS—82

Alexander	Fischer	Peters
Baldwin	Gardner	Portman
Barrasso	Grassley	Reed
Blackburn	Hassan	Risch
Blumenthal	Hawley	Roberts
Blunt	Heinrich	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rosen
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Sasse
Cardin	Jones	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Casey	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	King	Shaheen
Collins	Lankford	Shelby
Coons	Leahy	Sinema
Cornyn	Lee	Smith
Cortez Masto	Loeffler	Sullivan
Cotton	Manchin	Tester
Cramer	McConnell	Thune
Crapo	McSally	Tillis
Cruz	Menendez	Toomey
Daines	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murkowski	Wicker
Enzi	Murphy	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Feinstein	Perdue	

NAYS—12

Booker	Harris	Schumer
Brown	Hirono	Stabenow
Cantwell	Markey	Van Hollen
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Bennet	Klobuchar	Udall
Graham	Sanders	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 82 and the nays are 12.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Philip M. Halpern, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Philip M. Halpern, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), 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 75, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 40 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hassan	Reed
Blunt	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Brown	Inhofe	Rounds
Burr	Johnson	Rubio
Capito	Jones	Sasse
Cardin	Kaine	Schumer
Carper	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	King	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Shaheen
Coons	Leahy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Sinema
Cotton	Loeffler	Stabenow
Cramer	Manchin	Sullivan
Crapo	McConnell	Tester
Cruz	McSally	Thune
Daines	Menendez	Toomey
Durbin	Moran	Van Hollen
Enzi	Murkowski	Warner
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Paul	Wicker
Fischer	Perdue	Young

NAYS—18

Baldwin	Duckworth	Merkley
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Murray
Booker	Harris	Rosen
Cantwell	Heinrich	Schatz
Casey	Hirono	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Wyden

NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Sanders	Warren
Graham	Tillis	
Klobuchar	Udall	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 75, the nays are 18.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Philip M. Halpern, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

THE 2020 ELECTION

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor as the Democrats seem to be in complete disarray with the voting right now that is underway in New Hampshire. For all of their anger and for all of their outrage, they have failed to tap into all of the great things that I and the people of Wyoming see happening all across America. The Democratic primary voters in New Hampshire seem to be on the verge of nominating a Socialist for President of the United States. Any way you look at it, we have a strong, healthy, and growing economy, and a Socialist is now the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination for President.

Socialist policies would bankrupt our country. What is the Democrats' top priority? It seems to be a complete government takeover of healthcare in America. That means, for the 180 million Americans who get their health insurance through their jobs, each and every one of them would lose it. Also, to pay for it, taxes would go up. They would go up significantly. This would be a crushing blow to the economy.

The Democratic Party's sharp left turn has President Clinton's long-term strategist James Carville ''scared to death.''

On Friday, James Carville said: ''We have candidates . . . talking about open borders.''

He said: ''They're talking about doing away with nuclear energy and fracking.''

Then he added: ''You've got BERNIE SANDERS talking about letting criminals and terrorists vote from jail cells.''

During Friday's debate in New Hampshire—the one that was nationally broadcast—there was hardly a positive word from the Democrats about our country. Our booming economy continues to create jobs at a record pace—millions of jobs. In the last month alone, there were 225,000 new jobs. We have a 50-year low in unemployment in our country right now. It is a historical number. We have created opportunity for all Americans. Everyone is better off. Middle-class wages and blue-collar wages are way up. We have a middle-class and a blue-collar boom in this country. Americans realize it, and they have high hopes for the future.

Still, the 2020 Democrats seem to have nothing positive to say about our economy and our country—no positive ideas, no positive vision, no positive agenda for the American people. Clearly, when I listen to them, it is all about grandstanding, not about governing.

The Republicans, however, have a results-driven agenda. The economic renaissance that we are seeing is a direct result of Republican pro-growth policies. Tax and regulatory relief is what has mattered to this economy. Energy independence is what has mattered to this economy. Pro-worker and pro-farmer trade deals are what have made a difference for this economy. We remain focused on priority issues, like lowering the cost of healthcare, lowering the cost of prescription drugs, securing our border, and building and rebuilding our aging roads and bridges.

As the President said just last Tuesday night during the State of the Union Address, ''The best is yet to come.''

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TAX REFORM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, since tax reform was enacted in December of 2017, our economy has grown and strengthened with American families' and businesses' seeing real benefits, and you just heard Senator BARRASSO say some of the same things about how the economy is booming.

Unemployment rates have dropped dramatically, with unemployment among Hispanic, Latino, and African-American workers at record lows. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, average hourly earnings have grown at a rate of 3 percent or higher for 16 consecutive months, with the largest wage gains being concentrated in the bottom quarter of the wage scale. We should duly note that production workers' wages are growing much faster than are the wages for the manager class. In short, lower income workers are seeing the highest wage growth.

Yet, instead of looking at the positive economic effects of tax reform, our Democratic colleagues insist that large corporations have received a massive giveaway and that only the wealthy have benefited. That is simply not true. Tax reform has addressed a number of issues that have been frequently highlighted by both political parties. In particular, tax reform has made enormous progress toward creating a more competitive environment for American companies. Before tax reform, the combined U.S. Federal and State corporate tax rate was the highest in the developed world—15 percentage points higher than the average of the other 35 advanced economies that are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which we commonly refer to around here as OECD.

Over the last few years and before the tax bill, you heard of companies going overseas. We had inversions, foreign acquisitions of U.S. companies, and the erosion of the U.S. tax base. These were all very significant problems that we addressed in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. With our worldwide tax system, companies were actually incentivized to store corporate profits in low-tax jurisdictions overseas rather than to reinvest them back here in the United States.

How can that help the U.S. economy?

We had perverse incentives to keep wealth out of this country. Ironically, even the Democrats highlighted these same issues in the lead-up to tax reform—a bipartisan recognition that we shouldn't have a tax system that encourages the storing of money overseas but rather one that brings that money and capital back to the United States to create jobs here. They are only partisan issues now, as it turns out, because tax reform was a Republican effort, but both sides of the aisle knew that these issues had to be addressed in order for U.S. companies to remain competitive and for the U.S. economy to continue leading the world.

Critics of tax reform complain that the 21-percent rate is too low, but with the average corporate tax rate of 21.7 percent among the OECD countries today, the United States is finally in line with its peers. In other words, we can be competitive.

As a result, U.S. companies are competitive, and investments in the United States are more attractive not only to foreign companies but to U.S. companies that used to store money overseas. After tax reform legislation passed in 2017, business investment rose by 6.4 percent in 2018.

While a weaker global economy, tariffs, and other factors subdued growth last year in 2019, business investment in 2018 and 2019 combined was still $5.7 trillion, hitting record highs.

Capital expenditures of S&P 500 companies have risen by 17 percent since tax reform, and research and development expenditures of S&P 500 companies rose by 18 percent. All of this is showing that our law accomplished what we wanted it to accomplish. It is hardly, then, the anemic response to tax reform that the Democrat critics would have us believe.

Tax reform has changed our international tax rules to remove barriers that previously prevented companies from bringing foreign earnings home. In the seven quarters since enactment of tax reform, U.S. companies have brought back to the United States more than $1 trillion of foreign earnings.

Obviously, U.S. companies are using these earnings to finance new capital expenditures, increase research and development, increase payrolls, pay down debt, and return cash to shareholders and retirement accounts. Companies are putting those earnings to work in this country, not leaving them abroad. That economic gain and the jobs created as a result of it are because of the 2017 tax cut legislation.

But we also took care to ensure that companies wouldn't be able to take advantage of the new U.S. tax system. Tax reform made signature strides to address inversions, foreign takeovers of U.S. companies, and base erosion. You will remember the outrage we had before the tax bill when there were inversions and foreign takeovers of U.S. companies, and then the result of the erosion of our tax base.

Together, the lower tax rate and new international rules have changed the way that companies structure their business operations. For example, Assurant, a global insurance company, changed its acquisition agreement so that its new parent company remains here in the United States.

Broadcom, a technology firm, announced that it would return its headquarters to the United States, and this came after tax reform.

Similarly, several energy and pharmaceutical companies that had previously moved out of the United States also made the decision to return, primarily because of tax reform.

You know, the old, old saying can apply to this tax legislation. What we wanted to accomplish was accomplished, and that old saying is: The proof is in the pudding.

So tax reform has leveled the playing field and made the United States a far more attractive place to do business—hardly the dire consequences that critics would have us believe. Now, you know critics never give up. Not to be deterred, the critics continue to look for misleading information to distort the picture.

Most recently, they pointed to the Congressional Budget Office projections as evidence that tax reform and recently issued U.S. Treasury Department regulations have provided a windfall to corporations. I hate to see the Congressional Budget Office's professional work and nonpartisan work manipulated to say something it clearly does not—and I meant to use the word ''manipulated.''

First and foremost, CBO's—that is the Congressional Budget Office—downward adjustment of expected corporate tax receipts does not imply that CBO scores particular Treasury regulations or that a regulation departs from congressional intent. Rather, CBO's adjustments broadly reflect significant economic factors and changes in government data.

In particular, CBO adjusted its projections because we now know that Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates of corporate receipts between 2016 and 2018 were actually overstated. So you have to make adjustments for that. In short, even pretax reform projections of corporate profits were really too high. So when the estimate of corporate profits is corrected, it translates into lower tax receipts, but the other side doesn't seem to acknowledge this.

CBO also took into account current economic factors, like recent trade actions and tariffs, strengthening of the U.S. dollar, and the softening of foreign economies, all of which affected expected corporate profits and ultimate tax receipts. But our critics don't seem to acknowledge that fact.

In addition, the Congressional Budget Office revised its projections to reflect everything that we are learning about implementation of the new tax rules, including regulatory guidance, new forms and instructions that go with the tax forms, and modeling improvements to better reflect updated economic projections.

CBO is only beginning to take into account how U.S. businesses are responding very positively to the new tax rules and Treasury guidance.

As many regulations are still being finalized, businesses are only starting to have needed certainty to invest in new property and equipment, to engage in mergers and acquisitions, and to enter into new business transactions.

The Congressional Budget Office's projections are also based upon preliminary data. Tax returns for the first year of the new law were filed less than 6 months ago, but the critics don't take that into consideration. The final data will not be available from the IRS until later this year, and, even then, it will still take time to fully analyze, but our critics don't recognize that.

All of these factors go into CBO's revised projections of corporate tax receipts, and none of them support the claim that Treasury provided a windfall to corporations. I think the critics ought to go the extra mile to study and understand the impact of the tax cut law.

There simply is no basis, then, for the critics' claim that the revision to CBO's estimate of corporate receipts means that Treasury has given away the store to big corporations through its regulations.

Despite the critics' relentless attacks, the benefits of tax reform are, in fact, proving out. All you have to do is look at the good economy to know that that is the case.

I am encouraged by the promising economic data that I just referred to that suggests that American workers, American families, and American businesses are seeing positive effects.

Now, we must continue to promote policies that encourage U.S. businesses to keep operations on American soil—the 2017 bill does that—increase wages—the 2017 bill did that—and reinvest foreign earnings in the United States, instead of leaving them overseas—and the 2017 tax bill does that.

I hope that my Democratic colleagues will stop criticizing the policies that have strengthened our economy and, in fact, consider how we can work together to make our tax laws work even better for American businesses and workers.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here again, as the Senate returns to regular business, to call us again to respond to the threat of climate change. Here on the floor today, things seem back to normal. The floor is empty. We have a Senator instead of a Chief Justice in the chair. The quorum calls descend between the speeches. Our new pages are figuring out the nonimpeachment routines of the floor.

Outside of the Senate, things are anything but normal. The threat of climate change worsens by the minute. Carbon emissions continue to rise globally. We hurtle toward calamity. Yet we do not act. What is stopping us? The biggest, most powerful, most motivated force preventing climate action is the fossil fuel industry, and, of course, it would be. The fossil fuel industry reaps the biggest subsidy in the history of the planet. The International Monetary Fund estimates the global subsidy for fossil fuel in the trillions of dollars every year. In the United States alone, the fossil fuel industry got a $650 billion subsidy in 2015, according to the most recent report from the IMF. That is about $2,000 from every woman, man, and child in the country.

You wrote the check, and they will spend big bucks to defend that subsidy. In fact, to maintain their grip on that subsidy, fossil fuel companies deploy lots of propaganda on the American people. They swamp us in advertising. The game isn't just to sell you more gas. It is much bigger than that.

Professor Robert Brulle of Drexel University—now in Rhode Island at Brown University—together with his coauthors, wrote a recent article, ''Corporate Promotion and Climate Change,'' looking at oil companies' carefully crafted public relations campaigns deployed way back since legendary muckraker Ida Tarbell chronicled the greed and cruelty of the Standard Oil Company. To offset their reputation for greed and nastiness, ''fossil fuel companies have attempted to burnish their image in various ways,'' Brulle and his colleagues write, ''[including] contemporary multimedia promotional campaigns . . . to project the corporation as a positive, responsible, and legitimate social actor.'' Hah.

The public began to catch on to the harms of industrial pollution in the 1960s and 1970s, and Big Oil deployed public relations campaigns to stem the public opinion tide.

One example Brulle uses is Mobil Oil, pre-ExxonMobil merger. In 1970, Mobil began buying space on the opinion page of the New York Times. They called these things advertorials—not advertisements, not editorials, but

advertorials. They ran in the same section as real opinion pieces. Every Thursday, those ads promoted Mobil's image as a good corporate citizen and boosted its public policy priorities, like reduced regulation of Mobil's operations. Meanwhile, Mobil worked hard to place rosy ''earned media'' stories on airwaves and in print. ''Between 1975 and 1977 alone, Mobil representatives appeared on 365 TV shows, 211 radio shows, and gave 80 newspaper interviews,'' the study authors observe.

I will pause to note some good news, which is that, just recently, The Guardian announced that it will no longer accept advertising that props up fossil fuels like oil and coal. The Guardian urged its colleagues in the media to do the same. Acting chief executive Anna Bateson and chief revenue officer Hamish Nicklin said in a statement: ''Our decision is based on the decades-long efforts by many in that industry to prevent meaningful climate action by governments around the world.''

Welcome to our experience here in the Congress. As we have seen here in the Congress, the fossil industry companies have done that with dark money, they have done that with raw political muscle, they have done that through fake science, and they have done it through advertising campaigns. So bravo to The Guardian for shutting off that spigot of fossil fuel nonsense. I hope American media outlets follow suit.

Dr. Brulle then turns to recent decades. Using spending figures from 1986 to 2015, he and his scientists find that corporate promotional spending for the five major oil companies in the United States—ExxonMobil, Shell, ChevronTexaco, BP, and ConocoPhillips—totaled nearly $3.6 billion. That is an average of $120 million per year, and the trend is upward.

After $35 million in spending in 1996, from 1997 to 2004, annual spending rose to an average of $102 million per year. Then Brulle and his team chronicled that spending averages leaped again between 2008 and 2016 to an average of $217 million per year.

These spending figures themselves are pretty eye-popping, but what is important here is the patterns of spending. Brulle and his coauthors write:

> The bulk of this spending . . . corresponds to the increased public and congressional attention to climate change in recent years. Not unexpectedly, the major oil companies spent $315 million in 2010 alone, which is when the highest possibility of binding climate legislation occurred.

That is no coincidence. Here in this building, something was occurring that the fossil fuel industry saw as a threat.

Brulle and his colleagues continue:

> This high level of corporate promotional spending took place in response to the legislative battle from 2009 to 2010 over the House of Representatives' passage of the Waxman-Markey climate bill and the subsequent Senate consideration of the Kerry-Lieberman climate legislation.

This pattern shows Big Oil's purpose: to block climate action in Congress.

While we are talking about that period, right over there in the Supreme Court, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and others, on behalf of their Big Oil funders, urged the Supreme Court to open up our politics to unlimited special interest spending, and the five Republican Justices on that Court, led by Chief Justice Roberts, did. From that decision forward, we have seen a disaster in the Senate on climate legislation. Before that decision, we had four or five bipartisan climate bills going in the Senate at any given time. We had a Republican candidate for President—John McCain—who campaigned for President on a strong climate platform. But right after that decision came out, right after the fossil fuel industry got handed that huge new hammer to knock any dissent on climate out of the Republican Party, they did so. We have had a lost decade since then. So it is not just their advertising, but their PR spending certainly helped the fossil fuel industry block the Waxman-Markey bill and obstructed efforts since to solve the climate crisis.

Another study by Professor Brulle just last month chronicled the full sweep of this industry's fight against climate legislation. Brulle describes how this polluting industry used ads, webs of phony front groups, bogus science, and that massive Citizens United political and PR artillery to fend off any meaningful action by Congress.

Professor Brulle breaks this process down to its component parts; one, shaping the direction of research efforts into nonthreatening areas; two, concealing information about the harmful aspects of a corporate product; three, attacking scientific findings and the scientists who produce research that threatens corporate interests; four, packaging their own carefully constructed interpretations of the science to appear legitimate; and, five, aggressive efforts at spinning the media to promulgate favorable press.

A typical example of the first tactic is oil company ads touting research and investments in alternative low-carbon fuels or renewable energy. For instance, we have seen ExxonMobil ads touting ExxonMobil's research into algae biofuels, and we have seen BP ads touting renewable energy under its label ''Beyond Petroleum.'' ''Badly Polluting'' would be a better term.

So how much do these renewable investments represent? According to Reuters, Exxon will spend roughly $30 billion this year—$30 billion this year—in capital expenditures. That is Exxon's capital budget. Investments in green technologies round to zero percent of Exxon's 2020 capital expenditures. You see the ads, but that investment, they call it, rounds to zero percent of ExxonMobil's capital investments.

BP will spend more than $15 billion in capital expenditures. Its renewable energy investments is 3 percent—3 percent—of that.

I challenge Exxon to disprove that it spent more on advertisements touting its renewable investments than it does on the renewable investments themselves. These investments are a prop for an advertising campaign, like the Potemkin villages that were built for the czar when he was taken out of Moscow to go see how happy the peasants were, and they built phony villages near the railroad with dressed-up peasants to dance and wave at the czar so he wouldn't know that revolution was coming and that fury and anger raged through his country. This is a TV version of a Potemkin village.

You go through National Airport right now, you will see the most foul nonsense up on the walls of that airport designed to convince people passing through National Airport at our Nation's Capital that these companies are responsible about climate change. People walking in forests looking natural, the phony-baloney investments designed to prop up ad campaigns, they are immense in the PR space. You can see why the Guardian will not take this poison any longer.

For decades, these ads blared these phony articles at the newspapers. Their paid-for pundits populated the talk shows, just as the fossil fuel companies polluted our atmosphere and our oceans. While they did this, they knew better than anyone what they were causing.

Back in 1982, Exxon projected that by 2019, atmospheric CO_2 would reach between 390 and 420 parts per million. Sure enough, as 2019 drew to a close, guess where carbon dioxide in our atmosphere was. It had just crossed 410 parts per million. They predicted this, and they were right. But instead of acting on what they knew, they rammed all this public relations nonsense—this has been the atmospheric carbon dioxide climb. But instead of reacting to this in a responsible way and trying to really do something with renewable fuels, they did fake renewable investments to prop up advertising campaigns to convince the public that they were on it. These are the phrases right now from the American Petroleum Institute: We are on it. Don't worry. Don't get mad. Don't get involved. We are on it.

And then they shower this body with money and with threats, powered up by Citizens United from the five Republican judges across the street there.

Not only did Big Oil correctly model this increase in CO_2 in our atmosphere that their product would cause, they also understood what this meant. They predicted the hotter temperatures. They predicted the melting ice sheets. They predicted the rising seas that Louisiana and Rhode Island are so menaced by. They predicted the massive damage that climate change would cause. Exxon knew its business was ultimately toxic to our planet. And the Exxon CEO who led them through this, the craftsman and CEO of so many of these campaigns of lies, now sits happily on the board of J.P. Morgan—J.P.

Morgan which claims to be seriously and sincerely interested in climate response. J.P. Morgan, a major investor that has been warned over and over again by now more than 30 sovereign banks of the danger of an economic crash from this carbon bubble popping—they give the man who led this campaign of lies sanctuary and fees on their board.

So what is the purpose of spending all that money? The reason Big Oil spends billions on its ads is to implant favorable perceptions of fossil fuels into what Robert Brulle calls the ''collective unconscious,'' and it does that to support its other great influence project, which is spending hundreds of millions of dollars on lobbying and on elections to control the politics of climate change and to ensure that Republicans block any serious efforts to limit carbon pollution. That is a scheme that deserves infamy, and it is a scheme being perpetrated as I speak, right now, today.

Right now, the American Petroleum Institute—the largest trade association for the oil and gas industry—has a seven-figure ad campaign called ''We're On It.'' They run ads on the internet, on TV, and on billboards—the ones I mentioned all over the DC airport—designed to fool the public and policymakers that the oil and gas industry is ''on its'' carbon and methane emissions problem. Not only are they not on it, they are cheating about even reporting their methane leaks.

This is an ad in the Washington Post's ''Energy 202'' newsletter just last week. It reads: ''Let's create climate solutions together.'' Content from the API.

Seriously? What a joke. API, the same trade association that is furiously lobbying against efforts to control methane pollution from oil and gas facilities don't even want to report it fairly. When Trump got in, job one was to take down the methane leakage reporting regulation that was coming. They are lobbying for expansion of offshore drilling, and they are lobbying against any price on carbon to offset that $650 billion subsidy, and they want to create climate solutions together? It is unreal—unreal.

Let's take a walk back into history. In 2006, here in Washington, in the U.S. district court, a judge named Gladys Kessler wrote a long, long opinion—well over 100 pages. It was a commanding opinion, and it was an opinion that was upheld afterward by the U.S. court of appeals. It was an opinion in relation to a case that had been brought by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The U.S. Department of Justice had sued the tobacco industry, and they had asked Judge Kessler to find the tobacco companies' PR efforts fraudulent and to order them to knock it off. They were committing fraud. Stop it. You are lying to people, enough already.

In her opinion, Judge Kessler found in favor of the U.S. Department of Justice. Indeed, she found the tobacco companies' fraudulent PR campaigns to have amounted to racketeering. It was a civil racketeering lawsuit. I will quote her decision here. She said the tobacco industry ''coordinated significant aspects of their public relations, scientific, legal, and marketing activity in furtherance of a shared objective—to . . . maximize industry profits by preserving and expanding the market for cigarettes through a scheme to deceive the public.''

So swap out ''cigarettes'' and plug in ''fossil fuel,'' and you have described exactly what big oil companies do: coordinate their public relations, scientific, legal, and marketing activity in furtherance of a shared objective to maximize industry profits by preserving and expanding the market for fossil fuel through a scheme to deceive the public.

What the fossil fuel industry is doing is precisely the conduct that was racketeering activity when done by the tobacco industry, but don't expect Bill Barr's Department of Justice to pursue any type of legal action like that. The fossil fuel industry is too strong, and the fix is too far in.

This is all rotten stuff. It is gross. It is banana republic behavior. It is not what we expect here in the United States of America.

It is on us. It doesn't have to be this way. We can stop it. We have the power here in the Senate to shake off the malign influence of a desperate and greedy industry and actually tackle the defining issue of our time, like Americans should.

So let's have a real debate on a real climate change bill. Let's surprise the world and pass something big and bold. Let's wake up to the threat of climate change and get ahead of its consequences before the situation becomes irretrievable.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). The Senator from Alaska.

NOMINATION OF JOSHUA M. KINDRED

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I have come to the floor this evening to speak in support of the nomination of Joshua Kindred to be a U.S. district court judge for the District of Alaska. We were able to move forward with the first step toward the confirmation of Mr. Kindred, but I just wanted to take a couple of minutes and speak as to why I believe he is well qualified to serve in this capacity and deserves to be confirmed by the Senate with, hopefully, broad bipartisan support.

I am glad and I am pleased that he has been willing to step into a new role for our State. Josh Kindred comes from Anchorage, where I am living. He currently serves as Alaska's regional solicitor for the Department of the Interior. He has been doing a good job, a strong job, for us there. Before joining the Department, Mr. Kindred served as the environmental counsel for the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, as well as an assistant district attorney and violent unit supervisor for the State of Alaska. He also served as a law clerk to Chief Justice Paul De Muniz of the Supreme Court of the State of Oregon.

One way that you know that Mr. Kindred has good judgment is that he went to the same law school I did. So it can't be all bad there. He earned his juris doctorate from Willamette University College of Law. He served as editor in chief of the Willamette Law Review and certainly demonstrated great skills and abilities at that level.

I think it is important to speak to Mr. Kindred's biographical details to illustrate that his experience is both considerable and is really relevant. It is directly relevant for this new role that he is seeking. It is that experience in a host of different areas that matters for our State, and I believe that will help him as a Federal jurist.

Mr. Kindred's experience in civil, criminal, and administrative law at both the State and the Federal levels, in both the public sector as well as the private sector, is exactly what we should be seeking in a nominee for a court of original jurisdiction, such as the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska.

Josh Kindred is no stranger to the courtroom. He has extensive trial experience, which is, of course, important for operating in the courtroom. His background also brings a welcomed and valuable understanding of Alaska's unique Federal laws and landscape. He has extensive experience in Federal lands, mining, natural resources, oil and gas laws, and environmental laws and permitting. These are all things—all things—that are constantly litigated back home and that apply to so many of the important priorities that we have in Alaska.

You often hear me talk about the fact that Alaska is different. It is unique, and, certainly, some of our laws—many of our laws—reflect that. Not many are truly knowledgeable about ANCSA, about ANILCA. These are critically important to understand, and Mr. Kindred certainly understands them. That skill set, that operational base of knowledge on Alaska-specific laws and matters, is really vital for our State.

In addition, and perhaps of equal importance, Mr. Kindred has long called Alaska home. He was raised in our local schools. He is raising his young family there. He comes from good family. He married into good family. He is a good Alaskan. He knows Alaska. He understands our State well.

I am proud of Mr. Kindred's continued commitment to public service and his willingness to serve our State. So, again, I would urge the Senate to confirm Josh Kindred. I know that he will do well in his new role, as he has done in all his others.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 558, 559, 560, and 561.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of John Hennessey-Niland, of Illinois, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Palau; Donald Wright, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Republic of Tanzania; Dorothy Shea, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lebanese Republic; and Todd C. Chapman, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hennessey-Niland, Wright, Shea, and Chapman nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam 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.

BIPARTISAN BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, every day, we are reminded of the devastating toll of gun violence in our Nation. On average, around 100 Americans die each day from gunfire. It is an epidemic of violence. This week marks the anniversaries of three horrific mass shootings.

On February 15, 1 year ago, a gunman shot and killed five coworkers at a warehouse in Aurora, IL, and also shot and wounded five police officers who rushed to the scene. On that day, we lost Russell Beyer, Vicente Juarez, Clay Parks, Josh Pinkard, and Trevor Wehner.

February 14 was the date of the 2008 mass school shooting at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, in which a mentally disturbed gunman killed 5 students and wounded 17 more. On that day, we lost Gayle Dubowski, Catalina Garcia, Julianna Gehant, Ryanne Mace, and Daniel Parmenter.

And February 14 was also the date when 17 students and staff were murdered in 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL.

These anniversaries and statistics are grim, but they do not capture the true impact of this horrific gun violence—so many funerals, so many families and communities devastated.

And every day we lose still more lives to gun violence in communities large and small. Just this past weekend, at least 23 people were shot in the city of Chicago, nine of them fatally.

We pray for the families and loved ones of those we have lost, and we remember the wounded who bear physical and mental scars from their trauma. We also renew our thanks for the first responders who run toward the sound of gunfire and risk their lives to help others.

There are many people throughout America who are doing all they can to try to reduce our Nation's epidemic of gun violence. This includes parents, community leaders, teachers, faith leaders, law enforcement, public officials, the medical community, and more.

I particularly want to commend a coalition of hospitals that has been working with me in Chicago on the HEAL Initiative. This is an effort to coordinate these hospitals' resources, from economic investment to community programming, to help reduce violence and improve quality of life in their surrounding neighborhoods. There are promising efforts taking place in many States and local communities to address gun violence.

But is the U.S. Senate doing all it can to protect our communities from gun violence? No, not even close.

While there is no single reform that could prevent every shooting, we know there are obvious gaps in Federal gun laws that make it easy for felons, abusers, and mentally unstable people to get guns.

Nearly a year ago, on February 27, 2019, the House of Representatives passed a bipartisan bill to close gaps in our background check system that allow an estimated 22 percent of gun sales to occur without a check. Around 90 percent of Americans support closing the gaps in the background check system. It is a step that would save lives. Yet the Republican Senate majority refuses to call the bill up for a vote. I can't explain why Senate Republicans won't take up bipartisan, House-passed gun safety legislation that Americans overwhelmingly support. It makes no sense.

There have been too many deaths, too many mass shootings, too many grim anniversaries, and too many excuses for inaction. It is time for Senator MCCONNELL to call up H.R. 8, the bipartisan background checks bill, and hold a vote.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LARRY GOODMAN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the Chicago area is blessed to have some of the top hospitals and academic centers in the country. Rush University Medical Center and College in Chicago, in particular, has advanced into a comprehensive and leading health care institution. Rush continues to deliver high-quality care to its patients, driving the field of innovative medical research and training the next generation of healthcare practitioners. I would like to celebrate the tenure and accomplishments of the hospital's president and CEO and the leader in the program at Rush, my friend, Dr. Larry Goodman.

In 1976, Larry earned his medical degree from the University of Michigan's Medical School. He completed his residency at the Rush University Medical Center, where he served as the chief medical resident before joining the faculty.

At Rush, Larry served as an infectious disease specialist, working to improve the lives of people affected by HIV and AIDS. He also served as the senior vice president of medical affairs and the dean of the Rush Medical College before the hospital appointed him as it's president and CEO in 2002.

Under Larry's leadership, Rush has prospered. The hospital doubled its student enrollment in the last 20 years, training future physicians who will provide top-notch healthcare services in communities around the Nation. The hospital also collaborated to increase its employment of local community members. These efforts, in part through West Side United, have helped to reduce the health inequities that exist between the residents of low-income communities and those in affluent communities. In fact, it was Dr. Goodman who first told me about the alarming 16-year gap in life expectancy between people living in the Loop and in West Garfield Park—just two ''L'' stops, or 6 miles, apart from each other on the Blue.

More than a year ago, I joined several community leaders to announce the Chicago Hospital Engagement, Action, and Leadership, or HEAL, Initiative to help address many of the root

causes of gun violence, such as economic hardship and spare mental health services. Under this initiative, each hospital made 16 commitments to address these issues. Larry was the inspiration for this undertaking and instrumental in getting it off the ground. It is a testament to his lifelong dedication to those in need.

After decades of service dedicated to improving lives and helping others, Larry has retired with an amazing legacy. He has been key to thinking about the transformative role of hospitals in uplifting communities and through his hard work, vision, and commitment to make it possible. I am especially grateful for our partnership over the years, from his leadership on the Cook County Hospital transition to the Chicago HEAL Initiative.

I am proud to call Larry my friend, and I wish him the very best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK MAGOON

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it was more than 50 years ago that a young couple from Springfield, IL brought their baby daughter to then-Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. They drove more than 200 miles each way because they knew Children's Hospital provided the best care for their daughter, and they repeated that trip every 3 months for years. I know this story well because it is the story of my family's relationship with Children's Memorial, now known as Lurie Children's. It also is a story thousands of other children and families could tell about the world-class treatment they received at Children's.

I want to take this time to recognize a person who has been the heart and soul of this hospital for decades: my friend, Mr. Patrick Magoon. Pat served as the president and CEO of the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago for more than two decades. He retired recently, and I want to take this opportunity to honor his work.

In 1977, Pat started his career at then-Children's Memorial Hospital as a planning department intern while he pursued his master's degree in urban policy and planning from the University of Illinois. When he joined the staff at the hospital, he held a number of administrative positions—even working as the hospital's laundry manager—before he became president and CEO in 1997.

In the last 20 years under Pat's direction, Lurie Children's has come to be recognized as one of the best children's hospitals in the Nation. In the last 8 years, U.S. News and World Report has named Lurie's a top 10 children's hospital in the country 7 times. It also has received four Magnet Award designations, the highest national recognition given for excellence in nursing care.

When Pat was appointed, the hospital faced financial challenges, losing about $1 million a month. Thanks to his hard work, vision, and commitment, the hospital is not only financially stable but has become a beacon of hope for children—both within its own walls and in the Chicago community. During Pat's tenure, it has increased the number of children it serves by more than 50 percent, giving thousands of children access to high-quality healthcare services. Lurie Children's has significantly expanded its innovative research and treatment services, including its Nation-leading efforts on trauma-informed care and violence prevention, to meet the increasing needs of its patients.

Pat Magoon has been the key to positioning Lurie Children's as a national leader in the care of kids. I am especially grateful for our partnership over the years and his leadership in protecting and advocating for the youngest, most vulnerable patients. We could always count on Pat and Children's to be a strong ally in the support of the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid, biomedical research funding, and addressing violence and the social determinants of health.

Pat Magoon's legacy is not just a great children's hospital, which Lurie Children's has become, but the heartfelt appreciation of the children, parents, staff, and volunteers who know he has been an integral part of making their lives better. I salute my friend, Pat Magoon.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HONEST ADS ACT

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, it has been 1190 days since Russia attacked us in 2016, and we have yet to pass comprehensive election security reform. The next major elections are just 266 days away and primaries are already underway. We must take action now to secure our elections from foreign threats. I applaud my Democratic colleagues for coming to the floor today to urge the Senate to take action.

Our intelligence officials have repeatedly warned that elections remain a target for foreign adversaries and that our election systems remain vulnerable. According to a recent joint statement from our military and intelligence agencies, the administration warned that ''Russia, China, Iran and other foreign malicious actors will seek to interfere in the voting process or influence voter perceptions.'' Our adversaries are emboldened, and we must do more to safeguard our elections.

I have been coming to the floor for years now fighting to get comprehensive election security legislation passed because election security is national security. While we have made progress and secured nearly $1 billion in election security grants for States, we have been blocked from passing meaningful legislation that would ensure our election systems are resilient in the face of attacks, legislation that calls for paper ballots and reliable postelection audits—basic requirements that would dramatically improve election security. Despite my bipartisan work with Senator LANKFORD on such legislation, we have been repeatedly blocked from bringing it to the floor.

There are other commonsense bipartisan election security bills that have been blocked from the floor. Late last year, I pushed the Senate to take action on the Honest Ads Act, my bipartisan legislation with Senator GRAHAM that would increase transparency and accountability for political ads sold online. The goal is simple: bring our laws into the 21st century to ensure that voters know who is paying to influence our political system. That is a goal every elected official should be fighting for, but I was again blocked from offering the legislation on the Senate floor.

We have a common set of facts about how our elections were attacked; now we must act with a common purpose to ensure it never happens again. This is about our democracy, not about partisanship. The freedom to choose our leaders and know with full confidence that those leaders were chosen in free and fair elections is something Americans have fought and died for since our country was founded. We need to be a united front in fighting against those who interfere with our political system, and we must do everything in our power to protect our elections.•

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

BIGHORN SHEEP RETURN TO FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION

• Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, it has been 150 years since bighorn sheep have roamed the Tribal lands of the Fort Berthold Reservation in northwestern North Dakota. At the end of January, the sheep returned.

Their re-introduction to lands they had inhabited for centuries was a long-held goal of many tribal leaders and state wildlife professionals. Their dream was realized when the Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nation and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department worked out a cooperative agreement, which they signed last month.

Thirty bighorn sheep from the Rocky Boy Reservation in north central Montana were brought to Fort Berthold and released near Mandaree and Twin Buttes on reservation habitat known to be ideal for the sheep. Their management and maintenance will be shared between the state and tribe.

The rarest big game species in my state, bighorn sheep are found only on steep terrain near the North Dakota Badlands. With these new sheep, their total population in the state is now approximately 360.

Bighorn sheep are historically significant to the Mandan Hidatsa and

Arikara Nation. Hunted with bow and arrows and used in traditional ceremonies for years, they were recorded as being seen in what is present-day North Dakota in scientific journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804–1806. Paintings by well-known artists like Karl Bodmer depict tribal chiefs, including the prominent Mandan Chief Four Bears, wearing their valued hides.

The return of the bighorn sheep to native habitat honors the past and enriches the future of the residents of Fort Berthold. It is a remarkable example of the profound impact a collaboration of like minds can have on a mutual goal.

I have long admired the rugged beauty of the bighorn sheep and am among many North Dakotans who appreciate their historical significance in my state. I applaud all who had the vision to bring the bighorn sheep back to the Fort Berthold Reservation and wish them every success in ensuring they thrive in this new habitat.●

RECOGNIZING OAKES CUSTOM MEATS & CATERING

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, as chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit, which drives our economy. This week, it is my pleasure to honor Oakes Custom Meats & Catering of Chumuckla, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

For more than 25 years, Oakes Custom Meats & Catering has served Chumuckla as a neighborhood butcher shop that cuts and processes livestock and wild game. Having lived and worked in Chumuckla for generations, the Oakes family is uniquely positioned to serve their community in this capacity, as they deeply appreciate their local farmers and understand their needs. The Oakes' knowledge of and friendships with the people in their community allows them to serve their community well, providing exceptional personalized service to every customer.

Oakes Custom Meats & Catering offers personalized services in a number of ways, including full-service catering for parties, celebrations, and corporate events. They also have a food truck that serves lunch several days a week at various locations inhabited by local small businesses around Chumuckla, helping to promote those businesses in the community. The food truck lunches have a large following on social media, are extremely popular, and often sell out within a few hours. Oakes Custom Meats & Catering's rave reviews reflect not only their delicious food, but their high-quality customer service as well.

Oakes Custom Meats & Catering is also present in their community in a charitable capacity. They sponsor a weekly event hosted by a local fitness company, provide meals for fundraising volunteers, and position their food truck at different charity events. They also bring joy to those in their community by giving away free lunches and meals. As one of the long-serving businesses in the small community of Chumuckla, FL, Oakes Custom Meats & Catering has cemented itself as a staple in the area for its high-quality meat processing service, delicious catered food, and dedication to serving its farming community. Congratulations to the entire Oakes Custom Meats & Catering team for being named Senate Small Business of the Week. I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:04 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2107. An act 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 message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1494. An act to strengthen partnerships between historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions and the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2932. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3413. An act 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.

H.R. 4432. An act to require the Department of Homeland Security to prepare a terrorism threat assessment relating to unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4737. An act 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.

H.R. 4753. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from operating or procuring foreign-made unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5273. An act 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.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate 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.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1494. An act to strengthen partnerships between historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions and the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2932. An act 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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3413. An act 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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4432. An act to require the Department of Homeland Security to prepare a terrorism threat assessment relating to unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4737. An act 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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4753. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from operating or procuring foreign-made unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5273. An act 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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5687. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3275. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–3931. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fees for Rice Inspection Services and Removal of Specific Fee References'' ((RIN0581–AD85) (Docket No. AMS–FGIS–18–0088)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3932. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an Antideficiency Act (ADA) Violation; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–3933. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Certain Regulations for the Operations of State Savings Associations and Conforming Amendments to Other Regulations'' (RIN3064–AF14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3934. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Accounting Requirements for State Savings Associations'' (RIN3064–AF15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3935. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Regulatory Reporting Requirements, Reports and Audits of State Savings Associations'' (RIN3064–AF13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3936. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Other Real Estate Owned and Technical Amendments; Amendment of Effective Date and Correction'' (RIN1557–AE50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3937. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Capital Rule: Revisions to the Supplementary Leverage Ratio to Exclude Central Bank Deposits of Banking Organizations Predominately Engaged in Custody, Safekeeping, and Asset Servicing Activities'' (RIN1557–AE60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3938. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commission Guidance on Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations'' (17 CFR Parts 211, 231, and 241) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3939. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standardized Approach for Calculating the Exposure Amount of Derivative Contracts'' (RIN3064–AE80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3940. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's semiannual Monetary Policy Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3941. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standardized Approach for Calculating the Exposure Amount of Derivative Contracts'' (RIN1557–AE44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3942. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Transmission Planning Reliability Standard TPL–001–5'' ((18 CFR Part 40) (Docket No. RM19–10–000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 10, 2020; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3943. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval and Designation of Areas; Florida; Source-Specific SO2 Permit Limits and Redesignation of the Hillsborough-Polk 2010 1-Hr SO2 Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Mulberry Unclassifiable Area to Attainment/Unclassifiable'' (FRL No. 10005–23–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3944. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Revisions to Cross-State Air Pollution Rule'' (FRL No. 10005–28–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3945. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Idaho; Idaho Portion of the Logan UT–ID 2006 24-Hour PM2.5 Nonattainment Area; Moderate Plan Elements'' (FRL No. 10005–17–Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3946. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Mississippi; Revisions to the State Implementation Plan Approved by the EPA Through Letter'' (FRL No. 10005–22–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3947. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Delaware; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills'' (FRL No. 9999–79–Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3948. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Pinal County Air Control District; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills'' (FRL No. 10001–02–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3949. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Asphalt Processing and Asphalt Roofing Manufacturing Residual Risk and Technology Review'' (FRL No. 10005–06–OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3950. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''The Navigable Waters Protection Rule; Definition of Waters of the United States'' (FRL No. 10004–88–OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3951. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, Whether or Not Partially or Fully Assembled Into Other Products: Monitoring Developments in the Domestic Industry''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3952. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Performance Report for fiscal year 2019 and Annual Performance Plan for fiscal year 2020–2021; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3953. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revenue Procedure 2020–8'' (Rev. Proc. 2020–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3954. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Return Due Date and Extended Due Date Changes'' ((RIN1545–BN12) (TD 9892)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3955. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Israel to support the production, inspection, assembly, testing, and repair of top-level assemblies, sub-assemblies, and components used in the Spice Family of Gliding Bomb Assemblies in the amount of $100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19–028); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3956. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List of M2HB .50 caliber automatic machine guns, and M60E6 conversion kits with spare barrels to Thailand in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19–077); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3957. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Canada, the Czech Republic, Poland, and the UK to support the manufacture, repair, and overhaul of the nose wheels, main wheels, carbon brakes, and carbon/carbon composite heat sinks for the end use on the F–35 aircraft in the amount of $100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19–046); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3958. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Department of State 2020 Civil Monetary Penalties Inflationary Adjustment'' (RIN1400–AF00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 10, 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3959. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment, including the permanent transfer of six F–5 aircraft, fourteen J85 engines, components and spare parts, and related technical data from Malaysia to Tactical Air Support (TacAir, Inc.) with a sales value of approximately $108,900,000,000 (Transmittal No. RSAT–2019MF004); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3960. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2020–0004–2020–0021); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 512. A bill to establish an advisory office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–214).

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 982. A bill to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and of Indians (Rept. No. 116–214).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

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''.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Lanny Erdos, of Ohio, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

*Katharine MacGregor, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. UDALL (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 3263. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3264. A bill to expedite and streamline the deployment of affordable broadband service on Tribal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 3265. A bill to redesignate the Weir Farm National Historic Site in the State of Connecticut as the ''Weir Farm National Historical Park''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3266. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the time during which members of the Armed Forces serve on active duty for training qualifies for entitlement to Post-9/11 Educational Assistance of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 3267. A bill to provide adequate information about excessive Federal spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 3268. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to evaluate the failures and total system breakdown of the 2020 Iowa caucuses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3269. A bill to set and meet a national goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by not later than 2050, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3270. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain qualified over-the-counter securities to be treated as readily traded on an established securities market for the purpose of diversification requirements for employee stock ownership plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3271. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to limitations on exclusive approval or licensure of orphan drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3272. A bill to provide for a safe to report policy relating to alleged instances of sexual assault involving members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3273. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a community college and career training grant program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. JONES):

S. 3274. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a decentralized wastewater grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SASSE, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. LEE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SHELBY, and Mrs. LOEFFLER)):

S. 3275. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN

HOLLEN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3276. A bill to eliminate asset limits employed by certain Federally-funded means-tested public assistance programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 495. A resolution designating February 12, 2020, as ''Darwin Day'' and recognizing the importance of science to the betterment of humanity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 496. A resolution supporting the designation of April 16, 2020, as ''Public Radio Music Day'' and expressing deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities across the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. Res. 497. A resolution commemorating the life of Dr. Li Wenliang and calling for transparency and cooperation from the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Con. Res. 36. A concurrent resolution supporting the Farmers Bill of Rights; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 30

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 30, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services for certain covered beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit governmental discrimination against providers of health services that are not involved in abortion.

S. 277

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his dedication to justice and equality.

S. 296

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 460

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 477

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 477, a bill to authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a Climate Change Education Program, and for other purposes.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 560, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 561

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 561, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the ''Six Triple Eight''.

S. 642

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 642, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick ''Roddie'' Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 717

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 717, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to prohibit the manufacture, processing, and distribution in commerce of asbestos and asbestos-containing mixtures and articles, and for other purposes.

S. 739

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 739, a bill to protect the voting rights of Native American and Alaska Native voters.

S. 750

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 901

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support individuals with younger onset Alzheimer's disease.

S. 944

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 944, a bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and the stability of the transportation security workforce by applying a unified personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration who are responsible for screening passengers and property, and for other purposes.

S. 1119

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1119, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals.

S. 1130

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1130, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the

health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 1381

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1381, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 1517

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1517, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement as part of an infrastructure investment.

S. 1531

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1531, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for health insurance consumers from surprise billing.

S. 1546

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1546, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for projects to strengthen and protect vulnerable infrastructure used during mass evacuations, and for other purposes.

S. 1569

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1569, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to allow certain expenditures for cybersecurity-related services or assistance.

S. 1727

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1727, a bill to establish the Partnership Fund for Peace to promote joint economic development and finance ventures between Palestinian entrepreneurs and companies and those in the United States and Israel to improve economic cooperation and people-to-people peacebuilding programs, and to further shared community building, peaceful coexistence, dialogue, and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

S. 1781

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1781, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2020 through 2022 to provide assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras through bilateral compacts to increase protection of women and children in their homes and communities and reduce female homicides, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide and coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services for veterans at risk of suicide and veteran families through the award of grants to such entities, and for other purposes.

S. 1908

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1908, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 1923

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1923, a bill to require the establishment of a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers to compute cost-of-living increases for Social Security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act and to provide, in the case of elderly beneficiaries under such title, for an annual cost-of-living increase which is not less than 3 percent.

S. 2054

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2054, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 2084

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2084, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require transportation planners to consider projects and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes.

S. 2085

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) 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. 2233

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2233, a bill to nullify the effect of the recent executive order that requires Federal agencies to share citizenship data.

S. 2321

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2321, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Negro Leagues baseball.

S. 2366

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy.

S. 2390

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2390, a bill to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for any violation of Federal law, and for other purposes.

S. 2427

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2461

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2461, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2467

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2467, a bill to establish a program to award grants to entities that provide transportation connectors from critically underserved urban communities and rural communities to green spaces.

S. 2570

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2570, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond in recognition of his service to the United States

as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader.

S. 2641

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2641, a bill to promote United States national security and prevent the resurgence of ISIS, and for other purposes.

S. 2660

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2660, a bill to establish a grant program for wind energy research, development, and demonstration, and for other purposes.

S. 2661

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2680

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2680, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 2690

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2690, a bill to reduce mass violence, strengthen mental health collaboration in communities, improve school safety, and for other purposes.

S. 2803

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2803, a bill to provide Federal housing assistance on behalf of youths who are aging out of foster care, and for other purposes.

S. 2831

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2831, a bill to amend title 51, United States Code, to modify the national space grant college and fellowship program, and for other purposes.

S. 2892

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2892, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions to help combat the opioid crisis.

S. 2948

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2948, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program for work therapy using service dog training.

S. 3055

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3055, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to permit a Federal student loan borrower to elect to terminate repayment pursuant to income-based repayment and repay such loan under any other repayment plan for which the borrower is otherwise eligible.

S. 3129

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3129, a bill to provide for certain reforms with respect to the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3167

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3167, a bill to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair.

S. 3176

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3176, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 3206

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3206, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to increase voting accessibility for individuals with disabilities and older individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 3218

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3218, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to modify the definition of franchise fee, and for other purposes.

S. 3231

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3231, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the General Schedule and other statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.5 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 3236

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3236, a bill to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that child support for unborn children is collected and distributed under the child support enforcement program, and for other purposes.

S. 3239

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) 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.J. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 6, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S.J. RES. 68

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3273. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a community college and career training grant program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, approximately 80 percent of jobs in today's workforce require some form of postsecondary education or training beyond the high school level. While the number of students pursing postsecondary education is growing, the supply of middle-skilled workers, whose work requires more than a high school diploma but not a four-year degree, falls short of industry demand. According to the National Skills Coalition, 53 percent of all jobs in today's labor market are middle skill, but only 43 percent of U.S. workers are trained at this level. Education is failing to meet the needs of critical industries, including manufacturing, construction, energy,

health care, information technology, transportation, and business management and administration.

For many people seeking a job, attending a community college is the most affordable and accessible pathway to higher paying employment opportunities. In Virginia, we have 23 community colleges that serve an estimated 400,000 people across the State, providing them opportunities to earn an associate's degree, certifications or licensures in some of the most cutting-edge and in-demand fields in our workforce. The impact of community colleges nationwide is even greater, and our rapidly changing economy demands increased investment in the pathways these institutions provide to keep up with changing skill demands.

Today, I am proud to introduce the Assisting Community Colleges in Educating Skilled Students (ACCESS) to Careers Act with Senator YOUNG. Inspired by the success of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program, this bill provides grants to states and community colleges to scale evidence-based strategies that will help prepare our students with the skills necessary to succeed in our in-demand industry sectors and occupations. These grants can be used to expand dual enrollment, work-based learning opportunities, apprenticeships, and other pathways to best meet the skill needs of students and employers in our evolving workforce. The bill also emphasizes the importance of student services to ensure that students have the support they need to complete their programs.

The bill also allows grants to be used for developing partnerships between community colleges and other private and public sector entities, creating innovative career pathways directly between two-year institutions and employers. In Virginia, we've already started to see the success of these community college partnerships as part of a strategy to address the growing workforce shortages in rural areas and in-demand industries.

When we invest in our community colleges, they become hubs of innovation, finding pathways to train our next generation in the skills our rapidly evolving workforce needs. The ACCESS to Careers Act represents a necessary step to take the evidence-based innovations we've seen on the local level to scale in order to fill jobs in high-needs industries. I strongly encourage my colleagues in the Senate to consider this commonsense, bipartisan legislation as we move towards reauthorizing the Higher Education Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 495—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 12, 2020, AS ''DARWIN DAY'' AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE TO THE BETTERMENT OF HUMANITY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 495

Whereas Charles Darwin developed the theory of evolution by natural selection, which provides humanity with a logical and intellectually compelling explanation for the diversity of life on Earth;

Whereas the validity of the theory of evolution by natural selection is strongly supported by the monumental amount of scientific evidence Charles Darwin compiled to support the theory and the modern understanding of the science of genetics;

Whereas the human curiosity and ingenuity exemplified by Charles Darwin have promoted new scientific discoveries that have helped humanity solve many problems and improve living conditions;

Whereas the advancement of science must be protected from individuals unconcerned with the adverse impacts of global warming and climate change;

Whereas the teaching of creationism in some public schools compromises the scientific and academic integrity of the education systems of the United States;

Whereas Charles Darwin is a worthy symbol of scientific advancement on whom to focus and around whom to build a global celebration of science and humanity intended to promote a common bond among all the people of the Earth; and

Whereas February 12, 2020, is the anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin in 1809 and is an appropriate date to designate as ''Darwin Day'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 12, 2020, as ''Darwin Day'';

(2) recognizes the importance of science to the betterment of humanity; and

(3) recognizes Charles Darwin as a worthy symbol for celebrating science, the achievements of reason, and the advancement of human knowledge.

SENATE RESOLUTION 496—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 16, 2020, AS ''PUBLIC RADIO MUSIC DAY'' AND EXPRESSING DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE ROLE OF PUBLIC RADIO MUSIC STATIONS IN SERVING LISTENERS, MUSICIANS, AND HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 496

Whereas more than 20,000,000 listeners in the United States tune in weekly to local public radio stations to discover, learn about, and enjoy music selections, artists, and genres that are, in many cases, available only on public radio;

Whereas approximately 734 public radio music stations serve rural and urban communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and Guam;

Whereas public radio music stations—

(1) are noncommercial, nonprofit, public service radio stations;

(2) are locally staffed and programmed; and

(3) share the core values of music discovery, curation, preservation, performance, and community;

Whereas public radio music stations celebrate a broad collection of sounds and styles, including jazz, blues, classical, Americana, alternative, folk, roots, bluegrass, and other regional and eclectic genres;

Whereas 97 percent of over-the-air broadcasts of classical music in the United States come from local public radio stations;

Whereas public radio music stations are an essential and indispensable force in—

(1) sustaining music and performers;

(2) developing artists and audiences; and

(3) educating and enriching the communities in which the stations are located;

Whereas knowledgeable local hosts, live announcers, and expert curation on public radio music stations have a proven track record of—

(1) helping audiences discover new and emerging musicians; and

(2) providing deep explorations into the history and cultural impact of music;

Whereas public radio music stations tailor their content and programming—

(1) to reflect regional tastes and talent; and

(2) to make music more accessible through local performances, studio sessions, artist interviews, music journalism, and local news and performance information;

Whereas public radio music stations offer audiences, musicians, and artists numerous platforms for innovative music programming on air, online, on video, on stage, and on-the-go;

Whereas the emphasis that public radio stations place on music presentation enables new, emerging, and essential artists to construct deep and lasting relationships with audiences, adding to the journey of lifelong music enjoyment;

Whereas public radio music stations serve as cultural hubs in the communities in which those stations are located by providing a place for listeners of diverse backgrounds and ages to come together for the shared thrill of music;

Whereas the commitment of public radio to music and education brings the instruments and experience of music to schools, hospitals, and other places in the public square to ensure wide access to music;

Whereas the varied and unique activities and attributes of public radio music stations—

(1) foster community among music lovers;

(2) build support for local artists and the local music economy; and

(3) develop the next generation of musicians and audiences;

Whereas the core values of public radio music stations and the collective commitment of those stations to community service, education, and cultural support separates public radio music stations from other music providers; and

Whereas April 16, 2020, would be an appropriate day to designate as ''Public Radio Music Day'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 16, 2020, as ''Public Radio Music Day''; and

(2) expresses deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 497—COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF DR. LI WENLIANG AND CALLING FOR TRANSPARENCY AND COOPERATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA

Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. GARDNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 497

Whereas Dr. Li Wenliang was a 34-year-old ophthalmologist working in Wuhan, China;

Whereas research indicates that the first patient infected with the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019–nCoV) exhibited symptoms on December 1, 2019;

Whereas, in December 2019, Dr. Li notified his associates in the medical community in China about the outbreak of 2019–nCoV;

Whereas, after raising concerns about the spread of 2019–nCoV, Dr. Li was summoned by Chinese officials and forced to sign a statement retracting his warnings about the virus and confessing that he had spread illegal rumors;

Whereas Chinese government authorities played down dangers to the public for weeks as 2019–nCoV continued to spread, with more than 42,000 confirmed cases in China alone and at least 1,000 deaths reported as of February 11, 2020;

Whereas Dr. Li continued to work as an ophthalmologist at Wuhan Central Hospital despite his knowledge of the outbreak, and appears to have been infected himself with 2019–nCoV after coming in contact with a patient he was treating for glaucoma;

Whereas, on the morning of February 7, 2020, in the hospital where he worked, Dr. Li Wenliang died after contracting 2019–nCoV;

Whereas, before he passed away, Dr. Li stated, ''If the officials had disclosed information about the epidemic earlier, I think it would have been a lot better. There should be more openness and transparency.'';

Whereas the people of China expressed their grief and anger on social media after the death of Dr. Li, with the phrase ''I want freedom of speech'' emerging as a top trending topic on the Weibo platform;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to limit free expression, and stepped up censorship after online criticism and investigative reports by Chinese journalists suggesting that officials underestimated and underplayed the threat of 2019–nCoV;

Whereas Freedom House has listed China as the ''worst abuser of internet freedom'' in the world for the fourth year in a row, and in the aftermath of the outbreak of 2019–nCoV, there are numerous and well-documented instances of the ''Great Firewall'' of China suppressing the free flow of critical and medically important information about the pandemic;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has endangered the people of Taiwan and people around the world by using its influence to limit Taiwan's access to the benefits of membership in the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, particularly during the current outbreak; and

Whereas the World Health Organization has declared 2019–nCoV a Public Health Emergency of International Concern: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and contributions of Dr. Li Wenliang, and extends heartfelt sympathy to his family and to the families of all who have passed during this outbreak;

(2) expresses its support for the people of China as they face this unprecedented public health challenge;

(3) expresses gratitude to Dr. Li and all Chinese medical personnel and citizens for their efforts to spread awareness of 2019–nCoV and treat individuals who have contracted the disease;

(4) calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China—

(A) to be open and transparent in investigating and responding to 2019–nCoV;

(B) to ensure that Chinese citizens and the international community have free and unfettered access, without censorship or social media controls, to information about 2019–nCoV;

(C) to cooperate fully with the United States Government, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in providing medical access, sharing information, and developing treatment to combat 2019–nCoV;

(D) to cooperate fully with other governments, especially those in Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America, and other regions whose health systems already face high burdens and are operating from a lower base of capability, as well as international health organizations in combating 2019–nCoV; and

(E) to cease efforts to exclude Taiwan from international organizations, including the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization;

(5) affirms the vital importance of Dr. Li's belief that ''[t]here should be more openness and transparency'' in China;

(6) affirms that freedom of expression is a social good that enables experts to sound public health warnings and helps citizens ensure that their government addresses weaknesses in crisis response; and

(7) strongly supports the people of China in their demand for freedom of speech.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 36—SUPPORTING THE FARMERS BILL OF RIGHTS

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. CON. RES. 36

Whereas the Center for American Progress reported mergers and acquisitions have increased corporate concentration across agricultural markets, including monopolizing 85 percent market share of the corn seed market through the 4 largest firms in the seed sector;

Whereas according to the Open Markets Institute, the excessive concentration in the poultry industry has resulted in half of chicken farmers working in regions dominated by only 1 or 2 processing monopolies, leaving them with little, if any, bargaining power for better contracts or growing terms;

Whereas the Organization for Competitive Markets reported cattle prices paid to farmers from 2013 to 2016 dropped by 13 percent, while during the same period prices paid for beef by consumers at the grocery store increased by 4 percent, leading them to conclude that the prices paid to farmers and by consumers are not the result of a fair and just market;

Whereas corporate concentration and abusive practices in America's food and farm sector are at detrimental highs, harming consumers, rural communities and family farmers and ranchers, including historically underserved farmers and ranchers, by—

(1) diminishing the availability of seed choice;

(2) limiting the accessibility of domestic farming lands;

(3) increasing food prices and market manipulation; and

(4) hindering access to traditional foodways and agricultural practices;

Whereas according to the American Farm Bureau Federation, farm loan delinquencies are at a 6-year high and have increased over the past 24 quarters;

Whereas increasing farm debt, decreasing incomes, and deteriorating overall conditions for family farmers and ranchers have caused farm foreclosures and chapter 12 bankruptcies to steadily increase over the past year;

Whereas, according to the 2019 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report, agriculture, forestry, and other land use activities accounted for 23 percent of net global anthropogenic emissions contributing to human-induced climate change, which is resulting in the ongoing deterioration of food systems, including irreversible impacts to the traditional farming practices and foodways of indigenous peoples and their lands;

Whereas, according to the Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting, the foreign acquisition of and increasing investments in American farmlands and agribusiness presents a risk to food system security and contributes to increasing prices of the country's farmland beyond the financial ability of local residents to purchase domestic farm land; and

Whereas monopolization and an increase of large corporations and foreign interests in America's farming sector, combined with a changing climate, creates an unprecedented negative impact on the regional economic strength and security of rural and Tribal communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

That—

(1) the Congress recognizes the many contributions that family farmers and ranchers, including historically underserved farmers and ranchers, have made to America's agricultural industry, local food production, food sovereignty, rich variety of the country's abundant food supply, and traditional and cultural agricultural practices; and

(2) it is the sense of the Congress that the Federal Government should encourage support for family farmers and ranchers, in rural communities and on indigenous lands, and ensure access to open and fair agricultural markets in the United States, by introducing the Farmers Bill of Rights.

SEC. 2. FARMERS BILL OF RIGHTS.

The Farmer's Bill of Rights is as follows:

(1) RIGHT TO FAIR, OPEN MARKETS.—There must be a competitive open marketplace to buy seeds, fertilizer, and other goods, and to sell produce, livestock, and meat for all people. It has become nearly impossible for independent farmers, processors, seed suppliers, mechanics, and other rural businesses to compete with multinational monopolies. Farmers need strong antitrust safeguards.

(2) RIGHT TO FEED THEIR COMMUNITY.—Multinational corporations have taken control of the country's food system by shutting out independent processing and distribution businesses, consequentially locking farmers out of their local markets and denying domestic consumers local, regional, and culturally traditional foods. In the United States, Native Americans suffer from the highest rates of food insecurity with African

Americans and Hispanic communities more food insecure than the national average, which could be remedied through investment in local food systems, greater regulatory flexibility, and Tribal self-governance programs.

(3) RIGHT TO FAIR CAPITAL.—With the loss of community and regional banks, coupled with the extraction of wealth from rural communities by large corporations, farmers and local businesses cannot access the capital necessary to operate. Congress must ensure that all farmers, regardless of background, can access the credit and capital they need. This includes Native American producers and Tribal agricultural enterprises that often must contract with Federal agencies for resources, and African-American farmers who have endured historical discrimination accessing farm credit.

(4) RIGHT TO PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES.—If large corporations want to purchase land and operate megafarms, they have a duty to protect the Earth's soil, water, and natural resources, as rural and indigenous farmers have for generations, including the protection of acequias that sustain accessibility to water, local agriculture, and traditional irrigation practices. Corporate megafarms have a duty to support conservation by following reasonable standards for aquifer use, manure storage, and other land-use guidelines. Preserving land-based agricultural resources is vital to beginning to mitigate the impacts of climate change and preserve natural resources for both the tradition of diversified rural family farming and the cultural sustainability of indigenous agricultural communities.

(5) RIGHT TO LOCAL LAND CONTROL, PROPERTY RIGHTS, AND PROTECTION OF TRIBAL LANDS AND SOVEREIGNTY.—Counties and other local governments should have the ability to pass and enforce ordinances regulating the size, placement, and scope of megafarms to protect the value of rural family farmers' land and the surrounding environment. African-American farmers and other historically underserved farmers and ranchers should retain their land ownership and rights. Tribal Governments are sovereign nations with the inherent right to independently control their lands through self-governance programs to safeguard traditional foods and medicines for their citizens' wellbeing and preservation of ceremonial practices of American Indian and Alaska Natives, including the expansion of historically diminished indigenous hunting, fishing, and gathering rights.

(6) RIGHT TO FOOD SECURITY.—Foreign ownership hurts family farmers and ranchers and raises national security concerns. A strict cap on foreign ownership of farms, farmland, and agribusinesses should be set to ensure that all American farmers can access domestic farm land.

(7) RIGHT TO REPAIR.—Huge corporations and their Wall Street backers have gone so far as to prevent local businesses and farmers from fixing their own tractors and equipment, forcing them to pay corporate technicians to make all repairs. A farmer should have the right to fix their own equipment as they see fit.

(8) RIGHT TO TRANSPARENT LABELING.—A farmer should be able to label their food accurately and transparently—including strong country of origin labeling standards.

(9) RIGHT TO RURAL OPPORTUNITY.—Monopolies have hollowed out local economies and taken away the traditional pathways of opportunity for free enterprise that helped communities thrive. No farmer should have to choose between continuing to operate their farm and getting access to good schools and health care. No farmer should have to choose between farming and providing a future for their children. Farmers need the right to basic services in rural communities.

(10) RIGHT TO PRESERVE A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF FARMERS AND FARMING PRACTICES.—For too long, historically underserved farmers and ranchers have lacked a voice on local and national agricultural policies and development. Congress must ensure that historically underserved farmers and ranchers have fair opportunities in the market, a seat at the table in policy development, access to culturally relevant training and technical assistance, and equal treatment by all Federal agencies.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1299. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1300. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1301. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1302. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1303. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1304. Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1305. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1306. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1307. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1308. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1309. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1310. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1311. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1312. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1313. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1299. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, line 19, strike ''imminent''.

SA 1300. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, line 19, strike ''imminent''.

SA 1301. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

In section 1, insert after paragraph (3) the following:

(4) Members of the United States Armed Forces and intelligence community, and all those involved in the planning of the January 2, 2020, strike on Qasem Soleimani, including President Donald J. Trump, should be commended for their efforts in a successful mission.

SA 1302. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

In section 1, insert after paragraph (3) the following:

(4) On January 2, 2020, United States personnel killed terrorist leader Qasem Soleimani during the course of a targeted strike against terrorists engaged in planning attacks against United States persons and personnel.

SA 1303. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, line 19, insert ''or to restrict missions related to force protection of United States aircraft, ships, or personnel'' after ''attack''.

SA 1304. Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, line 19, insert ''or, consistent with section 8(d) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(d)), to alter the constitutional authority of Congress or the President or the provisions of existing treaties'' after ''attack''.

SA 1305. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, line 14, insert ''except United States Armed Forces engaged in operations directed at entities designated as foreign terrorist organizations under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189),'' after ''or military,''.

SA 1306. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

At the end of section 2, add the following:

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to influence or disrupt any military operations and cooperation with Israel.

SA 1307. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, line 19, insert '', including by Iranian-controlled proxies and militia groups'' after ''attack''.

SA 1308. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, line 19, insert '', including by ballistic and cruise missiles, rockets, unmanned aerial systems, and improvised explosive devices'' after ''attack''.

SA 1309. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

In section 2, amend subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the United States from defending itself, including its territories, citizens, troops, personnel, military bases, and diplomatic facilities, from attack.

SA 1310. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

At the end of section 1, add the following:

(9) The United States' maximum pressure strategy against Iran has reduced the Government of Iran's resources available to attack the United States and United States interests by limiting the resources available to the Government of Iran to support weapons development and terrorist proxies throughout the region.

SA 1311. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

At the end of section 1, add the following:

(9) On the advice of his national security and intelligence advisors, President Donald J. Trump took decisive action in ordering the strike on January 2, 2020, that killed Qasem Soleimani.

SA 1312. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

In section 2, amend subsection (b) to read as follows:

(a) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the United States from defending itself, including acting to prevent or preempt an attack.

SA 1313. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, strike lines 3 through 19 and insert the following:

(9) Using the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, formerly commanded by Qassem Soleimani, the Islamic Republic of Iran participated in military operations where Iranian Armed Forces personnel commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of a foreign country or government when such military forces were engaged, or there existed an imminent threat that such forces will become engaged in hostilities with United States Armed Forces.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 8 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: 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.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURING, TRADE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Trade, and Consumer Protection of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING OVERSIGHT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 1:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3275) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, 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 be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

APPROVING THE REQUEST OF THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR A WAIVER UNDER SECTION 1703E(F) OF TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.J. Res. 80 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 80) approving the request of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a waiver under section 1703E(f) of title 38, United States Code.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

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

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 80) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 491 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 491) designating the week beginning February 2, 2020, as ''National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week''.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

There being no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 491) was agreed to.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 5, 2020, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 12; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Kindred nomination.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. So for the information of all Senators, we will vote on the confirmation of the Kindred, Schelp, Kness, and Halpern nominations at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:49 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PAUL L. FOSTER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT THE TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the ten-year anniversary of the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso. For ten years, the Foster School of Medicine has provided quality medical education to future physicians that will serve the health care needs of patients throughout the country.

In 2008, prior to the opening of the Foster School of Medicine, El Paso County's average number of direct care physicians per 100,000 people was 75 percent less than the national average. In an effort to alleviate this severe shortage of physicians in the region, government leaders, community physicians, and community supporters worked to establish a four-year medical school in El Paso.

The Foster School of Medicine has the distinct honor of becoming the first four-year medical school on the United States-Mexico border. It was also one of the first medical schools in the U.S. to integrate medical Spanish into its curriculum, allowing our nation's future physicians to provide culturally competent care.

The Foster School of Medicine focuses its curriculum on community service. In 2013, the Foster School of Medicine established the Medical Student Run Clinic by a group of students from the inaugural class with the help of faculty and staff. Students serve the community of Sparks in far East El Paso, where the majority of the population is uninsured. The Medical Student Run Clinic is often their only access to health care.

Congratulations to the Foster School of Medicine for their achievements in this decade. And I thank the faculty, staff, and students for being leaders in health care while giving back to the El Paso community.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MEGAN BELL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Megan Bell, my Chief of Staff, as she moves on from my Washington office after nearly 13 years of service. During her time on Capitol Hill, she has been a trusted advisor, an appropriations watchdog for this great Nation, and most importantly—a tireless advocate for the people of Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

Megan grew up the only daughter of a middle-class, blue-collar Irish-Catholic family. Those ''up-early'' and ''hard-at-it'' values have shown up every day to the Rayburn Building.

Knowing the issues that matter most in my home district, she has been a consummate advocate on everything from combatting prescription drug abuse and preserving and protecting the Mill Springs Battlefield, to giving a voice to individuals at risk of losing vital benefits and boosting opportunities in our coalfields. In fact, she helped create a pilot grant program to provide an influx of federal dollars directly to our coal communities for economic development as they continue to rebuild in the wake of the War on Coal, which she precisely described as ''strangulation by regulation.'' Likewise, her tough, dogged oversight of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers helped protect the business and community interests of our rural region, and the entire Lake Cumberland area during the unprecedented repairs of Wolf Creek Dam.

She contributed to the remarkable success of the National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit, working alongside my district director Karen Kelly, to rally the White House and leaders from every stake-holder agency to help lead a holistic movement that is now the largest gathering of federal, state and community leaders focused on life-saving efforts to fight the national opioid crisis. The entire prescription drug abuse and opioid fight wasn't just another issue for Megan, but one she passionately invested countless hours to study and understand at every level. She knows the opioid fight, the convictions of my heart, and the challenges in our communities, backwards and forwards. As a result of her expertise and expansive network, we called on other federal leaders to stand up to ''Big Pharma'' corruption, and enacted effective policy and legislative changes, like Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs, starting the Congressional Caucus on Prescription Drug Abuse, and so many other efforts that will continue to impact the opioid epidemic for many years to come.

Navigating legislative ropes, surviving long hours, and becoming a glorified policy wonk inside these historic hallways, requires much more than a juris doctorate, which she impressively earned while working full-time in my office. In her time on my team, Megan has rightfully earned recognition far beyond Washington for her astute knowledge of multiple issues and has truly risen amongst her peers as a result of her sheer moxie, her engaging personality, and always maintaining a refreshing voice of reason.

Our staff is much like family and every departure is bittersweet. As we offer well-wishes and work to fill the void of such a talented leader, I wish Megan the very best in the next chapter of her successful life and look forward to witnessing the accomplishments that are sure to come in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF PASTOR ITASKER HOLLINS, SR.

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life of Pastor Itasker Hollins, Sr., who passed away on February 2, 2020 at the age of 82. His legacy will live on through the love of his family and friends. Pastor Hollins was blessed with the support of his family, his wife Julia, daughters Judith, Diane, Nancy, son Elder Itasker, Jr., their spouses, and grandchildren, as well as sisters and brothers, nieces and nephews, and church family.

On April 20, 1937 in Dallas, Texas, Pastor Hollins was born the 13th of 15 children to Pastor Booker T. Hollins, Sr. and Missionary Viola Hollins. In 1952 his family relocated to California. Pastor Hollins met Julia in 1955 and they married two years later. They created a loving family of three daughters and one son.

Many momentous achievements outline Pastor Hollins' career. In 1975, he and Julia began services at the Oak Park Methodist Church in Sacramento, California. He and his wife later formed the All Nations Church on Broadway in the heart of the Oak Park community. There, the congregation benefited from programs including a weekly food bank, annual home buyers' seminars, financial classes, jail and prison outreach programs, yearly prostate and breast cancer seminars, computer training, tutoring programs, and summer youth programs. The project was named ''The Miracle on Broadway''. The work of Pastor Hollins and his wife only continued to grow. In 2013, the Itasker Hollins Community Economic Development Corporation, in partnership with the Related California Corporation, built a senior complex in Oak Park. For over four decades, Pastor Hollins served the ministry, earning him recognition as a spiritual and community leader.

Madam Speaker, today we honor Pastor Itasker Hollins, Sr. and his contributions to our community. His legacy will live on forever.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I was inadvertently detained and unable to make votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 55; and YEA on Roll Call No. 56.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Speaker, I was absent for votes due to a personal family matter out of state.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 55, and YEA on Roll Call No. 56.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF BILLIE SUE HOGGARD

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of my close friend Billie Sue Hoggard, who passed away on Sunday evening. Billie Sue was a lifelong public servant, a political pioneer, and a devout follower of the Lord. She brightened every room she entered, had a wonderful sense of humor, and a truly unmistakable laugh.

Billie Sue was a nationally board-certified teacher. Generations of students in Jonesboro, across five decades and four schools, were blessed to find themselves in her classroom. She was selected for three international teaching exchanges by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, teaching in China, Japan, and Mexico. Her passion for teaching could not be extinguished—she came out of a well-deserved retirement just a few years ago to go back to the classroom.

Billie Sue's service to her community extended to public office. She was appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee as Justice of the Peace on the Craighead County Quorum Court and as the Commissioner for the Arkansas Educational Television Network. She was later elected by the people of the county to continue her service on the Quorum Court. She was an active member of many civil service organizations, including the American Legion Auxiliary, Lion's Club, and countless education advocacy groups.

Billie Sue was a groundbreaking pioneer of conservatism in Arkansas. In the era of the "yellow dog democrat," Billie Sue was unabashedly Republican. She ran for State Representative in Northeast Arkansas as a Republican at a time in which it was unheard of to do so. While she did not win her election to state office, I believe it is safe to say that without her, Eastern Arkansas would not be the conservative bastion it is today. Under her leadership of the Craighead County Republican Party from 2010 to 2018, the county flipped all legislative seats and well over half of county wide offices. She was awarded the "Hi, I'm Frank White" Award in 2017, the highest distinction given by the Arkansas GOP.

Billie Sue was a living proof that with passion, tenacity, and a tireless work ethic, an individual can accomplish anything. She put it best when she said, "I am personally convinced that one person can be a change catalyst, a transformer in any situation, any organization. Such an individual is yeast that can leaven an entire loaf. It requires vision, initiative, patience, respect, persistence, courage, and faith to be a transforming leader."

I know today that Billie Sue Hoggard left this Earth proud of her litany of accomplishments and the positive transformations she made in Arkansas. Billie Sue is survived by her children, Tammy, Kayla, Jess, and Tim, and grandchildren Meagan, Dane, Maxwell, Emma, Bella, Kate, and Jesslyn. I ask Congress to join me in offering condolences to Billie Sue's family, and commemorating the life and achievements of an incredible leader and servant.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. DAVID STERN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Mr. David Stern of Scarsdale, New York. Mr. Stern passed away on January 1, 2020, at the age of 77. An attorney by training, Mr. Stern served as commissioner of the National Basketball Association (NBA) from 1984 through 2014. Mr. Stern is survived by his adoring wife, Dianne, and his two sons, Andrew and Eric.

As NBA Commissioner, Mr. Stern shepherded the NBA from a middling American sports product to a global entertainment giant. During his tenure as commissioner, the NBA gained 7 new franchises, opened offices in 15 cities outside the United States, and televised games in more than 200 countries and in 50 languages.

Business accomplishments aside, David Stern's socially responsible leadership of the league was truly groundbreaking. He was deeply committed to advancing opportunities for women in the game of basketball, overseeing the creation of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) in 1997. In speaking of his commitment to the WNBA, the league's first president, Val Ackerman, said, "Without his vision and engagement, the league wouldn't have gotten off the ground. He was the mastermind, and the WNBA was really in line with his vision about how sports and society are intertwined."

We also recognize David Stern for his support of Los Angeles Lakers forward Earvin 'Magic' Johnson in the wake of Johnson's HIV+ diagnosis in 1991. In an era of great mythmaking and stigma regarding people living with AIDS and HIV, Stein appeared publicly with Johnson at a press conference in the announcement's wake and invited Johnson to participate in that NBA season's All-Star game. The next summer, he ensured Johnson's inclusion on the 1992 Olympic 'Dream Team' that sent NBA players to compete in the Olympics for the first time in the league's history, an achievement Stern also masterminded.

Stern's public support for Magic Johnson, coupled with his efforts to educate both the league and the public about the reality of the disease, was more than just a nice gesture from employer to employee. It was a bold, public demonstration of compassion that changed minds and undoubtedly helped save lives. For this, we honor the character and strength of David Stern.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members of Congress to join me in recognizing David Stern's exceptional accomplishments and in sending our sincerest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed votes on Monday, February 10, 2020. I had intended to vote "yes" on roll call vote 55, and "yes" on vote 56.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Monday, February 10, 2020 to attend a memorial service in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call Vote No. 55 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2932, as Amended): YEA; and Roll Call Vote No. 56 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3413, as Amended): YEA.

PROTECTING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGAINST DRONES AND EMERGING THREATS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

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

As Chairman of the Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation Subcommittee, I have made it a priority to understand the security challenges facing our critical infrastructure and to figure out solutions.

My district in Louisiana has one of the nation's highest concentrations of critical infrastructure—including pipelines, refineries, ports, and stadiums.

I have talked with owners and operators of critical infrastructure in my district and across the nation about the security issues they're facing, and there is always one common theme: Drones.

Drones are hardly a new technology, but they do present policymakers at every level of government with serious challenges.

It's a challenging issue because drone technology is an important tool in infrastructure security, providing situational awareness over critical infrastructure.

At the same time, we know bad actors can use drones to move explosives, conduct surveillance and mapping activities, and carry out cyber attacks.

The weaponization of drones is not just a potential concern—we have seen it happen.

Late last summer, drones were used to strike oil installations in Saudi Arabia, halting half of the country's oil production. And, in late 2018, reports of drone activity near the runway at Gatwick Airport outside London grounded hundreds of flights.

The Federal government is aware of the security threats posed by drones, but we don't have a full picture of where and how often unauthorized drone activity is happening near our critical infrastructure.

Owners and operators of chemical facilities regulated under the Chemical Facilities Antiterrorism Standards program have complained that no one in the Federal government collects information about unauthorized drone activity over their facilities.

Our operators want to share important threat information that can inform our antiterrorism efforts but there's no one to collect it.

We must do better.

H.R. 4432 would require DHS to establish a way for owners and operators to voluntarily report information about unauthorized drone activity over their facilities. DHS would then use that information to develop a threat assessment on unmanned aerial systems and other emerging threats.

H.R. 4432 marks an important step forward for DHS in its partnership with the private sector and in gaining full situational awareness about the threats posed by drones in the U.S.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I want to note my concerns with the President's FY 2021 budget request for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

Despite bipartisan agreement that CISA needs more resources to deal with more frequent and sophisticated cyber attacks, the budget slashes DHS' cybersecurity arm by $250 million. Inexplicably, it calls for a $10 million cut for cybersecurity support for State and local governments, at a time when they are increasingly targeted by foreign adversaries and criminal hackers.

Worse still, it would eliminate funding for DHS' chemical antiterrorism security program that was established under the leadership of former Secretary Chertoff in response to intelligence suggesting chemical facilities would be a ripe target for terrorists.

Chemical facilities remain a target for terrorists, and I am disturbed by the Administration's poor judgment related to this important antiterrorism program.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4432.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Miss RICE of New York. Madam Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes on Monday, February 10, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 55, and YEA on Roll Call No. 56.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, due to flight schedules, I was unable to be in D.C. for votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 55, and YEA on Roll Call No. 56.

AMID BOOMING ECONOMY URGING TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO RELEASE SUPPLEMENTAL H–2B VISAS

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, thanks to the Trump Administration, the American economy is booming. Job growth surged by 225,000 positions in January, and the unemployment rate remains near the 50 year low. These are just the latest indicators of a resurgent American economy under President Trump. With Mr. Trump in office, the U.S. economy has added more than 100,000 new jobs for 34 of the 38 months and the unemployment rate has been at or below 4 percent for 23 consecutive months—nearly two years. Americans of all backgrounds have benefited from this economic boom with the unemployment rates for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans all hitting record lows in 2019. The labor force participation rate is at 63.4 percent, the highest level since 2013 and nearly three quarters of new positions are being filled by individuals previously outside the labor force. Wage growth is holding at or above 3 percent for the 18th consecutive month and, under President Trump, workers' wages are rising faster than managers' wages.

With all of this success, it is easy to forget that this booming economy has also brought labor shortages throughout the economy, particularly for seasonal businesses. Right now, there are simply more seasonal jobs open than there are Americans willing, able and qualified to fill them. On behalf of seasonal businesses from industries such as seafood processing, tourism and hospitality, landscaping, fairs and carnivals, golf courses, reforestation, contractors and horse racing, who continue to struggle with seasonal labor shortages, I rise to urge the administration to release adequate supplemental H–2B visas, as authorized by the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act 2020, to meet these seasonal businesses' temporary seasonal labor needs.

As a member of the Committee on Appropriations, I coauthored the amendment in the FY 2020 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill that authorizes the administration to release additional H–2B visas. In January, I sent a letter with 188 of my colleagues, both Democrat and Republican, from both the House and Senate, urging the Administration to exercise that authority and release additional H–2B visas. The bipartisan support for this program demonstrates the significant economic impact these workers have across our country.

The temporary guest workers provided by the H–2B program are vital to the American economy and the economy of Maryland's First District, particularly on the Eastern Shore, and support tens of thousands of down-stream American jobs. While it is ultimately the responsibility of Congress to provide a long term solution to the chronic shortage of H–2B visas, I strongly urge the administration to use the authority granted to them to continue to support these seasonal businesses and release an adequate number of additional H–2B visas to meet the labor demands of seasonal employers nationwide.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, on Monday, February 10, 2020, I was unable to attend roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call vote 55 (H.R. 2932), and AYE on Roll Call vote 56 (H.R. 3413).

IN MEMORY OF MIDSHIPMAN DUKE ANTHONY CARRILLO

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Midshipman Duke Anthony Carrillo of Flower Mound, Texas. On February 8, 2020, Duke passed away after collapsing during his semi-annual physical readiness test. He was a dynamic, patriotic young man intent on serving his country as a military officer.

He was the son of Gerald and Jennifer Carrillo, and brother of fellow midshipman, his twin Dylan, and younger brother Jake.

He was a 2016 graduate of Flower Mound High School. An all-star athlete, Duke was a three-year varsity letterman in football and wrestling. He was an Eagle Scout, member of the Flower Mound High School Student Council, and an active church and community volunteer. In everything that he did, Duke strived for greatness.

Led by his strong desire to serve his country, Duke received nominations to attend the United States Naval Academy and United States Merchant Marine Academy. He also received a letter of assurance from the United States Coast Guard Academy. On June 28, 2018, Duke was inducted in the Naval Academy's Class of 2022, with his twin brother Dylan.

Duke believed that service to country is one of the greatest achievements a man can have, and that he was called to take a stand to serve and protect our nation.

He aspired to be a naval aviator, was a member of the Naval Academy's Flight Training Squadron and was selected to serve as a Naval Academy Summer Seminar squad leader. Duke majored in quantitative economics, was an active member of the 24th Company and an intramural athlete.

Our nation has lost a brilliant young leader. May the world be inspired by this exceptional young man's legacy and strive to follow in his footsteps.

IN HONOR OF COURTNEY KETCHIE SILVER FOR BEING NOMINATED AND NAMED AS HONOREE FOR THE STEP AHEAD AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Courtney Ketchie Silver for being nominated and named as Honoree for the Manufacturing Institute's Step Ahead Award.

Courtney is the CEO of Ketchie Incorporated, an ISO-certified, woman-owned corporation operating machine shop. She joined the company in 2008 and became the CEO after her husband lost his battle with brain cancer in 2014. Despite the devastating loss she took her knowledge from supply chain management and continued to propel the company forward.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet Courtney and take a tour of Ketchie in 2017. I was blown away by her focus on craftsmanship as well as her emphasis on, and providing of, an ideal work environment for her employees.

In addition to being CEO, Courtney remains active in the community. She is passionate about sharing her knowledge with others and encouraging woman to be leaders. In fact, she hosts community college students and participates in Manufacturing Day activities with local high school leaders. When she isn't working or mentoring, she can be found volunteering. Whether it's preparing meals for youth at local shelters or participating in church activities, there are no bounds to her generosity in our community.

The Manufacturing Institute launched the STEP women's initiative to support women in science, engineering, production, and technology careers and inspire others to join them. I cannot think of a more deserving person of this honor.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Courtney Ketchie Silver and her STEP AHEAD award nomination and as being named an Honoree.

IN HONOR OF MRS. CHARLOTTE P. TAYLOR

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in today in honor of Mrs. Charlotte Taylor. Mrs. Taylor unfortunately passed away in May 2015. However, I am pleased to announce that Hamilton Homes Middle School (HHMS) has announced that its cafeteria will bear her namesake. A pleasant gesture commemorating her wonderful life.

Charlotte worked a rewarding 44 years as both a bus driver and instructional aid for King William County Public Schools (KWCPS). She not only ensured the safety of our students during transit, but also selflessly served students with special needs by mentoring them and bestowing upon them the values of a principled life that we all should abide by.

Charlotte cherished family values and was a role model to her community. She was blessed with a loving family and was an incredible mother, grandmother, and wife. Her generosity and consideration towards anyone—from the local hunters to a struggling family—has not been lost on those who have met her. Her faith in God and the ethics she lived by are a reminder that God's grace lies within anyone willing and courageous enough to practice what they preach.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the life of Charlotte Taylor and applauding KWCPS for approving Hamilton Homes Middle School's cafeteria to bear Charlotte's name. Her sacrifices, hardships, and devotion to others are worthy of reverence. On behalf of America's First District, we say thank you.

RECOGNIZING COURT REPORTERS AND THE NCRA

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important and irreplaceable work done by our court reporters and the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) during national court reporting and captioning week from February 8–15.

As guardians of the record, Court reporters have a large impact on capturing history for posterity. During our nearly 250 years of American history, court reporters have been the cornerstone of our American justice system. From George Washington's Farewell Address to Lincoln's divided house speech, these noble servants have transcribed some of the most important pieces of American history.

Today, the NCRA provides a free course to introduce Realtime writing to all Americans. This course allows high schoolers, career changers, college redirects, and military veterans to see if a profession in Realtime writing is a good fit for them.

I'm proud to be the co-lead of H.R. 5285, the Training for Realtime Writers Act, which will help continue providing grants for training court reporters and closed captioners while also encouraging individuals with disabilities to pursue a career in Realtime writing.

I want to thank Realtime writers everywhere and the NCRA for all the hard work they do.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S971–S997

Measures Introduced: Fourteen bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3263–3276, S. Res. 495–497, and S. Con. Res. 36. **Pages S989–90**

Measures Reported:

S. 512, to establish an advisory office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors. (S. Rept. No. 116–214)

S. 982, to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and of Indians, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–214)

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''. **Page S989**

Measures Passed:

VA waiver request approval: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.J. Res. 80, approving the request of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a waiver under section 1703E(f) of title 38, United States Code, and the resolution was then passed. **Page S997**

National Tribal Colleges and University Week: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 491, designating the week beginning February 2, 2020, as ''National Tribal Colleges and University Week'', and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S997**

Kindred Nomination—Agreement: By 52 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 37), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Joshua M. Kindred, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska. **Page S979**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, post-cloture. **Page S997**

Schelp Nomination—Cloture: By 72 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. EX. 38), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Matthew Thomas Schelp, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. **Pages S979–80**

Kness Nomination—Cloture: By 82 yeas to 12 nays (Vote No. EX. 39), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of John Fitzgerald Kness, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. **Page S980**

Halpern Nomination—Cloture: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Philip M. Halpern, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York. **Pages S981–84**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 75 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. EX. 40), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S980–81**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 52 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 36), Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit. **Pages S974–79**

John Hennessey-Niland, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Palau.

Donald Wright, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania.

Dorothy Shea, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic.

Todd C. Chapman, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil. **Page S985**

Messages from the House: **Page S987**

Measures Referred: **Page S987**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S972**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S987, S997**

Executive Communications: **Pages S988–89**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S989**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S990–92**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S992–93**

Additional Statements: Pages S986–87

Amendments Submitted: Pages S995–96

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S996–97

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—40) Pages S979–81

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:49 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S997.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

U.S. STRATEGY IN AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States strategy in Afghanistan, after receiving testimony from General John M. Keane, USA (Ret.), Chairman, Institute for the Study of War, former Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army, Colin F. Jackson, Professor, Strategy and Policy Department, United States Naval War College, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia, and Brigadier General Kimberly C. Field, USA (Ret.), Bush School of Government and Public Service Albritton Center for Grand Strategy, former Senior Advisor to the Commander, Operation Resolute Support, all of the Department of Defense.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC COMPENSATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Trade, and Consumer Protection concluded a hearing to examine the state of intercollegiate athlete compensation, after receiving testimony from Bob Bowlsby, Big 12 Conference, Irving, Texas; Mark Emmert, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Kendall Spencer, Washington, D.C., both of the National Collegiate Athletic Association; Douglas A. Girod, University of Kansas, Lawrence; and Ramogi Huma, National College Players Association, Norco, California.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported 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.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

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.

EFFECTIVE CYBERSECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine a roadmap for effective cybersecurity, focusing on what states, locals, and the business community should know and do, after receiving testimony from Christopher Krebs, Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security; Amanda Crawford, Texas Department of Information Resources Executive Director, Austin; and Chris Derusha, Michigan Chief Security Officer, Lansing.

THE AFGHANISTAN PAPERS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management concluded a hearing to examine the Afghanistan Papers, focusing on costs and benefits of America's longest war, after receiving testimony from John F. Sopko, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction; Douglas Lute, Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Richard A. Boucher, Brown University Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.; and Lieutenant Colonel Daniel L. Davis, USA (Ret.), Defense Priorities, Sterling, Virginia.

MEDICAL CARE FOR CHILDREN

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine ensuring appropriate medical care for children, including S. 130, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion, after receiving testimony from Robin Pierucci, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Kalamazoo, Michigan; Fatima Goss Graves, National Women's Law Center, and Patrina Mosley, Family Research Council, both of Washington, D.C.; Jill Stanek, Susan B. Anthony List, Arlington, Virginia; and Erika Christensen, New York, New York.

DIGITAL MILLENIUM COPYRIGHT ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Intellectual Property concluded a hearing to examine the

Digital Millennium Copyright Act at 22, focusing on what it is, why it was enacted, and where are we now, after receiving testimony from Edward J. Damich, Senior Judge, United States Court of Federal Claims; Jonathan Band, Jonathan Band PLLC, Robert S. Schwartz, Constantine Cannon LLP, and Steven J. Metalitz, Mitchell, Silberberg and Knupp LLP, all of Washington, D.C.; Sandra Aistars, George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School Center for the Protection of Intellectual Property, Arlington, Virginia; Rebecca Tushnet, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Jessica Litman, University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor; and Mark Schultz, University of Akron School of Law Intellectual Property and Technology Law Center, Akron, Ohio.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 5840–5856; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 89; and H. Res. 845–848, were introduced. **Pages H1045–46**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H1047**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1019**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:27 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H1022**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Cheryl Coleman Hall, Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, Washington, DC. **Page H1022**

Protecting America's Wilderness Act and Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to 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; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 79) removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 185 nays, Roll No. 58, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 186 nays, Roll No. 57. **Pages H1024–29, H1035–37**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act: H.R. 1980, amended, to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 374 yeas to 37 nays, Roll No. 59. **Pages H1029–35, H1037**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1035–36, H1036, and H1037. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Committee Meetings

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FROM LOCAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research held a hearing entitled "Economic Opportunities from Local Agricultural Markets". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PUBLIC WITNESS DAY 1

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled "American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Day 1". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—USDA OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the USDA Office of Inspector General. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General officials: Ann Coffey, Deputy Inspector General; Phyllis Fong, Inspector General; Gil Harden, Assistant Inspector General for Audit; and Peter Paradis, Sr., Acting Assistant Inspector General for Investigations.

APPROPRIATIONS—OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the Open

World Leadership Center. Testimony was heard from Jane Sargus, Executive Director, Open World Leadership Center.

APPROPRIATIONS—UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the United States Capitol Police. Testimony was heard from Steven A. Sund, Chief, U.S. Capitol Police.

AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PUBLIC WITNESS DAY 1

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Day 1''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S ROLE IN LONG-TERM MAJOR STATE COMPETITION

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Department of Defense's Role in Long-Term Major State Competition''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REVIEWING DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STRATEGY, POLICY, AND PROGRAMS FOR COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities held a hearing entitled ''Reviewing Department of Defense Strategy, Policy, and Programs for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction for Fiscal Year 2021''. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Defense officials: Al Shaffer, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment; Theresa Whelan, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy; Vice Admiral Timothy G. Szymanski, Deputy Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command; and Vayl Oxford, Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.

ALARMING INCIDENTS OF WHITE SUPREMACY IN THE MILITARY—HOW TO STOP IT?

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled ''Alarming Incidents of White Supremacy in the Military—How to Stop It?''. Testimony was heard from Garry Reid, Director for Defense Intelligence (Counterintelligence, Law Enforcement and Security), Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, Department of Defense; Stephanie Miller, Director, Accessions Policy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense; Joe E. Ethridge, Jr., Chief, Criminal Intelligence Division, United States Army Criminal Investigation Command, U.S. Army; Christopher J. McMahon, Executive Assistant Director, National Security Directorate, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, U.S. Navy; Robert S. Grabosky, Deputy Director, AFOSI Law Enforcement, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, U.S. Air Force; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 5800, the ''Ban Surprise Billing Act''. H.R. 5800 was ordered reported, as amended.

BALANCING WORK, HEALTH, AND FAMILY: THE CASE FOR EXPANDING THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing entitled ''Balancing Work, Health, and Family: The Case for Expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act''. Testimony was heard from Sydney Batch, Representative, North Carolina House of Representatives; and public witnesses.

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES: PROMISES AND CHALLENGES OF EVOLVING AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce held a hearing entitled ''Autonomous Vehicles: Promises and Challenges of Evolving Automotive Technologies''. Testimony was heard from Jeff Tumlin, Director of Transportation, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, California; and public witnesses.

EPA'S LEAD AND COPPER PROPOSAL: FALLING SHORT OF PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing entitled ''EPA's Lead and Copper Proposal: Falling Short of Protecting Public Health''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MONETARY POLICY AND THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Monetary Policy and the State of

the Economy''. Testimony was heard from Jerome Powell, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

NATIVE AMERICAN VOTING RIGHTS: EXPLORING BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS

Committee on House Administration: Subcommittee on Elections held a hearing entitled ''Native American Voting Rights: Exploring Barriers and Solutions''. Testimony was heard from Representative Luján; and public witnesses.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request for Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs''. Testimony was heard from Arnold I. Palacios, Lieutenant Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor, United States Virgin Islands; and Lou Leon Guerrero, Governor, Guam.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 5803, the ''Washington, D.C. Admission Act''. H.R. 5803 was ordered reported, as amended.

MORE HIRES, FEWER HACKS: DEVELOPING THE U.S. CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled ''More Hires, Fewer Hacks: Developing the U.S. Cybersecurity Workforce''. Testimony was heard from Rodney Petersen, Director, National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education, National Institute of Standards and Technology; and public witnesses.

SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS: KEY ISSUES IN AN EVOLVING LANDSCAPE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing entitled ''Space Situational Awareness: Key Issues in an Evolving Landscape''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE INNOVATION PIPELINE: FROM UNIVERSITIES TO SMALL BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled ''The Innovation Pipeline: From Universities to Small Businesses''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LOOKING FORWARD: THE FUTURE OF AMERICA'S AVIATION MAINTENANCE AND MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled ''Looking Forward: The Future of America's Aviation Maintenance and Manufacturing Workforce''. Testimony was heard from Kate Lang, Senior Advisor for Aviation Workforce Outreach, Federal Aviation Administration; Heather Krause, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

ACHIEVING HEALTH EQUITY FOR AMERICA'S MINORITY VETERANS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Achieving Health Equity for America's Minority Veterans''. Testimony was heard from Carolyn Clancy, Deputy Under Secretary for Discovery, Education and Affiliate Networks, Veterans' Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

THE DISAPPEARING CORPORATE INCOME TAX

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Disappearing Corporate Income Tax''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, 10 a.m., 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, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Finance: 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.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine United States-Libya policy, 10:15 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine protecting the United States from global pandemics, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

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, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine home health care in rural America, 9 a.m., SD–366.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Day 2'', 9 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

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.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, 10:30 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Congressional Budget Office, 11:30 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

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, 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, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The President's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget'', 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Protecting Women's Access to Reproductive Health Care'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled ''Saving Energy: Legislation to Improve Energy Efficiency and Storage'', 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion, hearing entitled ''A Review of Diversity and Inclusion at America's Large Banks'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

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, 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.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5736, the ''Transnational White Supremacist Extremism Review Act''; H.R. 5780, the ''Safe Communities Act of 2020''; H.R. 5802, the ''TSA Child CARE Act''; H.R. 5804, the ''DHS Blue Campaign Enhancement Act''; H.R. 5823, the ''State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act''; H.R. 5824, the ''Federal Law Enforcement Training Research and Reporting Act of 2020''; H.R. 5811, the ''TSA Personnel Workplace Improvement Act of 2020''; H.R. 5828, the ''DHS Illicit Cross-Border Tunnel Defense Act''; H.R. 5822, 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, 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.

Committee on Natural Resources, 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, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Hearing with Census Bureau Director'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2986, the ''BEST Act''; H.R. 4230, the ''Clean Industrial Technology 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, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Challenges and Benefits of Employee-owned Small Businesses'', 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled ''Animals in Disasters'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, hearing entitled ''Data Privacy and Portability at VA: Protecting Veterans' Personal Data'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

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, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5821, the ''HOSPICE Act''; H.R. 5825, the ''Transparency in Health Care Investments Act of 2020''; and H.R. 5826, the ''Consumer Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills Act'', 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, 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

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Joshua M. Kindred, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nominations of Joshua M. Kindred, 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, at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, February 13

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 2546—Protecting America's Wilderness Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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Congressional Record

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