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 27, 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.

HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Thompson) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of our Nation’s National Heritage Areas. These sites are rich with history, culture, and the marvels of our Nation’s natural resources.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed the first National Heritage Area into law, calling it “a new kind of national park.” Today, nearly 40 years later, our Nation touts 55 National Heritage Areas across the country.

I am proud of the 12 National Heritage Areas in Pennsylvania, more than any other State in the Nation. National Heritage Areas in Pennsylvania span 57 of our 67 counties, and these areas are truly an economic development powerhouse.

In 2014, tourists spent an estimated $2 billion worth of goods and services during their travels to Pennsylvania’s National Heritage Areas. That is $2 billion back into our rural communities.

One of those areas, the Oil Region National Heritage Area, is in my district. The oil region was established as a Pennsylvania Heritage Area in 1994. Ten years later it became a National Heritage Area.

Pennsylvania’s oil region is rich with history. In 1859, Edwin Drake changed our Nation’s energy future forever when he drilled the world’s first commercial oil well in Titusville, Pennsylvania, which is in my congressional district. That is the birthplace of the world’s petroleum industry.

Recently, I had the pleasure of joining the Alliance of National Heritage Areas for their annual Heart & Soul Breakfast, where I was reminded of the positive impact that these areas have on our communities.

Mr. Speaker, National Heritage Areas represent one of the finest public-private partnership models in the country. It is for that reason and their unwavering commitment to preserving our Nation’s history that I am so proud to stand beside them as they tirelessly promote our Nation’s rich history.

National Heritage Areas are preserving our Nation’s history, not only to celebrate it, but to learn from it and, quite frankly, to create economic development and opportunity utilizing it.

RECOGNIZING THE 176TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC INDEPENDENCE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. Espaillat) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Espaillat. Mr. Speaker, today is February 27, and we celebrate the 176th anniversary of independence of the Dominican Republic, which gained its independence in 1844 from the Republic of Haiti.

Led by Juan Pablo Duarte, Sanchez, and Mella, this island nation moved forward under great adversity. Throughout its 176 years, it has endured military occupation, dictatorship, and other strong and determining challenges. But throughout these many decades, the nation has prevailed.

Today, we enjoy the presence of over 2 million Dominicans in the United States, many of them in New York state, and many of them in the 13th Congressional District, particularly in Washington Heights.

We see many streets in the neighborhood named after some of the patriarchs of the nation. We have Juan Pablo Duarte Boulevard, Manolo Tavarez Justo Way, Mateo Rojas Alou Street, Miguel Amaro Way, Freddy Beras-Goico Way.

We also have schools named after very prominent members of that community. Salome Urena School, the Mirabal Sisters School, Juan Pablo Duarte School, the Juan Bosch School.

We also have a huge parade, which now goes down Sixth Avenue, but originally started right there on Audubon Avenue in Northern Manhattan.

We have social and cultural institutions like Club Deportivo Dominicano. We have many bodega owners, supermarket owners, hair salons, and other small businesses that I think are characteristic of their resolve, our people’s resolve to work hard and make it a better city for all of us.

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
We send remittances back home, becoming the first and most important pillar of the Dominican economy, and we continue to contribute in many, many ways to that island nation and the United States of America.

Last Saturday, we witnessed an unprecedented event where young people convened in Washington Heights to protest the failed municipal elections back home.

Last weekend, the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan, which is my hometown, witnessed thousands of young people who came to protest against the most recent failure by the Dominican Republic’s electoral board to properly execute the country’s municipal elections on February 16.

Tais Garcia Heredia, Emely Curiel, Andres Gonzalez del Rey, Candido Santana, Alberto Valentin, Albelis Reyes, and others, particularly a young man by the name of Felipe Batista, led these young people—thousands, Close to 10,000 of them descended on Washington Heights.

Their initiative to fight for their people’s future will probably not go down in the history books; you may not be able to find them in a Wikipedia page in the future; you may not be able to even Google their names; but their names will be echoed in the Congressional Record, and their patriotism will forever be remembered.

They are fighting to strengthen democracy. They are fighting to strengthen the best values of any democratic system and process. That is why I am here: to extol their names and to tell all that know them that we are very proud of them.

Today we are fighting for Dominican Independence, wherever there’s a Dominican there’s homeland. God, homeland and freedom.

Hoy en día estamos luchando por la Independencia Dominicana, donde está el dominicano esta la Patria. Dios, Patria y Libertad.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York will provide a translation of his remarks to the Clerk.

EFFORTS TO FIGHT ASIAN CARP

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, last week, I had the opportunity to travel to Kentucky Lake, alongside Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and other local leaders, to observe progress being made to remove Asian carp from our west Kentucky waterways. Senator McConnell and I took a boat out on the water to observe the new Unified Method for removing this invasive species from our lakes.

Thanks to Federal funding we have secured, efforts are in progress that will improve the fishing industry and our overall tourist economy in the First Congressional District of Kentucky. The Federal resources that have been steered toward this problem are instrumental in fighting the war on carp.

It has truly been a team approach, with local leaders like Lyon County Judge-Executive Wade White doing a tremendous job of advocating for action.

There is certainly work left to do to eradicate Asian carp as we move in the right direction. I pledge to continue working with State and local officials and to be an effective Federal partner moving forward to rid our waters of this harmful species.

HONORING UNION COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT PATRICIA SHEFFER

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Union County Schools Superintendent Patricia Sheffer for winning the P.L. Dupree Outstanding Superintendent Award.

This prestigious award is annually by the Kentucky School Boards Association to a leader who has demonstrated a high level of accomplishment within their school system.

Serving as superintendent comes with a variety of challenges and responsibilities. Based on this award, Patricia has gone above and beyond to excel in this critically important role.

She has committed her career to working with community leaders to address these issues and prepare the next generation, including placing a heavy emphasis on improving career and technical education opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, her impact on Union County and public education cannot be overstated. I have seen firsthand the great work Ms. Sheffer has done there in Morganfield, and I join with all of my constituents in the First Congressional District of Kentucky in congratulating her.

HONORING NATIONAL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA WEEK

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National FFA Week, an event that always brings back fond memories and is very special to me. Not only am I a proud farmer and former commissioner of agriculture, but I was also very active in FFA and had the high honor of serving as Kentucky FFA president.

FFA had an extraordinary influence on my life, as I know it does for many young people today. I proudly display my blue and gold jacket here in my congressional office.

While I will admit to being biased, there is no better way to learn, grow, and excel than being part of FFA. This quality organization uses agriculture education to empower students and put them on a lifelong path to success.

The leadership skills that students gain through FFA are extremely valuable, and I know that it makes a positive difference in the lives of young people every day.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent so many high-quality FFA programs, leaders, and students here in Washington, and FFA will always hold a special place in my heart.

ONE YEAR SINCE WE VOTED TO PREVENT UNNECESSARY GUN DEATHS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mrs. McBATH) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. McBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the anniversary of the House passage of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act.

It is has been 1 year since we stood together in this Chamber, Democrats and Republicans, and voted to pass a commonsense bill that will help save lives; 1 year since we voted to prevent unnecessary gun deaths and keep guns away from those who should not have them; 1 year since we acted to protect our children, to protect our communities, and to protect our families.

Today marks 1 year since the passage of Enhanced Background Check Act, which would close the Charleston loophole.

I am proud to represent a district where our country supports universal background checks.

Yet, we are told that, instead of changing our laws, we must have more active-shooter drills; more first graders coming home with tears in their eyes, 6-year-olds asked to decide for themselves whether they are more likely to survive by hiding in a closet or if they should rush the gunman; more mother’s and father’s reading messages from their children locked inside a school that pled: Mom, if I don’t make it home, I love you, and I appreciate everything that you have done for me.

Too often we are told that we must accept these tragedies, but millions of Americans refuse to accept that, and I stand with them.

Today marks 1 year since we passed the Bipartisan Background Checks Act.

Tomorrow marks 1 year since the passage of the Enhanced Background Check Act, which would close the Charleston loophole.

I introduced a bill that would give loved ones and law enforcement more tools to keep guns away from those who are a danger to themselves or to others, tools that would help people like Mary Miller-Strobel, whose brother Ben, was killed by a gun sold at a local gun store.

There is injustice in this year without action. I know that sense of injustice. On black Friday in November 2012, my son Jordan was sitting in the back seat of a car at a gas station with his
friends. A man pulled up next to them and complained about the loud music that they were playing.

He pulled out a gun and he fired 10 shots into that car hitting Jordan three times, killing my only son.

I lost my son. But I am still his mother and I am on a mission to help protect the lives of children like him all over America.

I made a promise to my community that I would act in Washington. I promised that I would take that sense of protection, that love a mother has for her only son, and use it for my community, use it for the American people.

I promised I would dedicate my life to families like mine in Marietta, Georgia, who are terrified that they will send their kids to school and never see them come home. They are terrified they will be next.

I pray that on the 1-year anniversary of H.R. 8, that we remember that this is in our hands. We remember families like Mary’s. We remember children graduating from high school. We remember families, we remember communities all across this country. Their lives are in our hands.

I want to thank my colleagues, survivors, and volunteers, and advocates across America that are here with us today for your tireless work to pass this landmark legislation and protect our families.

I pray that God bless us all in this fight to save American lives.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the battle for Iwo Jima. I had the privilege of joining Senator YOUNG at a ceremony in Indianapolis to commemorate this fateful battle that led to the allied victory in World War II.

With us at the Indiana War Memorial was Wayne Saucerman, a World War II marine veteran of Iwo Jima and a true American hero.

Seventy-five years ago Wayne found himself thousands of miles away from home in the midst of a fierce 5-week battle that would change the course of the war and history itself. To Wayne and to other patriots who fought for the freedom and liberty we hold so dear, thank you for your service.

Next month I will have the honor of returning to the island as part of a congressional delegation invited to participate in the 75th Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima. We will be joined by the commandant of the Marine Corps and dignitaries from Japan to renew this commitment by remembering and honoring those who fought 75 years ago.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PUTS FARMERS FIRST

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Trump’s leadership on the Waters of the United States issue and support his repeal of the burdensome Obama-era regulation.

As a result of this decision, our farmers can worry less about government overreach on their own property and instead focus on growing their farms and small businesses. We finally have an administration that puts our farmers first, and for Hoosiers in my district, that is a big deal.

I pledge my commitment to farmers and families to continue working with the Trump administration on this very critical issue.

RECOGNIZING AHAUS TOOL AND ENGINEERING

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ahaus Tool and Engineering in Richmond, Indiana for their effective apprenticeship program.

While recently visiting Ahaus, their leadership told me about their nationally accredited apprenticeship program, which has been helping Hoosiers for over 30 years.

Ahaus offers a full-time job while their employees attend school to gain hands-on learning experience with peers in the company.

I wish Ahaus continued success and I thank them for their investment in the community of Richmond.

RECOGNIZING THE GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD PANTRY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Good Samaritan Food Pantry of North Vernon and its wonderful manager, Ginger Miller.

The Good Samaritan Food Pantry served over 29,000 Jennings County residents last year, including 1,000 veterans. The Good Samaritan Food Pantry is run by an all-volunteer staff and runs completely on donations.

Not only does this organization help feed those in need, but it also provides clothing and household items for families in need.

God bless those that help the Good Samaritan Food Pantry, and God bless all the volunteers involved.

CONGRATULATING SILAS ALLRED

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Silas Allred of Shenandoah High School for winning the 195-pound weight class Indiana Wrestling State Title.

This is Silas’ second straight wrestling State title, and he joined an elite group of only one of five Indiana high school wrestlers in history to win the title by pin.

Silas is ranked fourth in the Nation for his weight class and qualified for Team U.S.A. to compete at the Pan Am Cadet Games.

I congratulate Silas and wish him the best of luck in his future.

TAKING STRONG ACTION TO STOP THE EPIDEMIC OF YOUTH TOBACCO USE

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, this week the House is taking strong action to stop the epidemic of youth tobacco use.

We have watched as the use of tobacco and vape products by kids has exploded in our community over the past months. It has become a full-blown public health crisis affecting more than 5 million kids.

More than 200 Illinoisans have suffered respiratory illness from dangerous vape products since last year. Twenty of them have died. This shouldn’t be happening.

Thanks to decades of public health work and education, youth tobacco use was actually going down until the introduction of sophisticated vape products.

Let’s be clear, these products are targeted at kids. They are made with flavors like cotton candy and gummy bears. They are marketed directly to children, and they are designed to keep children hooked.

This is a crisis that we will be dealing with for decades because 95 percent of adult tobacco users started when they were kids, and it is still so much that we don’t know about how the high doses of nicotine and other chemicals in these products affect kids’ bodies and their minds.

Given the FDA’s failure to effectively regulate these products, Congress needs to act now before it is too late. It is time to stand up and refuse to let our kids be hurt. It is time to pass the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019.

RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bucks County Community College, which recently received a $200,000 grant to raise awareness and promote its metal working apprenticeship program.

This 12-week program provides entry-level training, forklift certification, and other skills necessary to begin a career in manufacturing. The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development grant will be used to promote Bucks County Community College’s manufacturing pre-apprenticeship training programs.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I partnered with Bucks County native, Congressman RO KHANNA, to introduce the Student Apprenticeship Act, a bill that would close the gap between higher education and labor by modernizing workforce training and catalyzing the growth of registered apprenticeships nationwide.

Apprenticeship programs provide skills and education for high-paying jobs and vital careers, and we need to do more to give them the attention they deserve.

RECOGNIZING AILEEN TORRENTE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Aileen
Torrence of the Middletown Township Police Department.

Sergeant Torrence was the first woman in the history of the police department to be promoted from patrol officer to detective in 2014. Recently Aileen was promoted again; this time from detective to her current rank of sergeant.

Sergeant Torrence’s success will set a great example for current and future officers at my hometown township police department in Middletown. Aileen’s hard work, determination, and diligence led to her promotion. She is a great role model for our community, and I look forward to seeing more promotions in the future as she works her way up to her dream job of chief of police. Mr. Speaker, I wish her well.

RECOGNIZING BENSALEM TOWNSHP COUNCIL

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bensalem Township Council, who took a huge step to ensure the safety and well-being of their residents by prohibiting vaping in public township facilities, including parks and other recreational areas.

The health and safety of our children should be our top priority, and the recent youth vaping epidemic has been a huge health issue in our community and across our Nation.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with students from New Hope Solebury Cares who expressed their concerns with how prevalent vaping has become in their schools, and how they talked about solutions that we can work on to bring attention to this issue.

Part of the rise in youth vaping has been attributed to flavored nicotine. Flavors such as mango, cucumber, and other types of flavors undoubtedly target our children.

Tomorrow the House will vote on final passage of H.R. 2339, the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act. This legislation would ban all flavored and vaping products, e-cigarette ads targeting youth, and remote cigarette sales. As a cosponsor of this bill, I look forward to voting in favor of this bill and taking a much-needed step to mitigate tobacco use among our children.

COMMEMORATING JAZZ AND FRIENDS NATIONAL DAY OF SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY READINGS

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of transgender and non-binary youth. Today is Jazz and Friends National Day of School and Community Readings.

I would like to read the book “I Am Jazz” by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings.

I Am Jazz!

For as long as I can remember, my favorite color has been pink. (My second-favorite color is silver and my third-favorite color is green.)

Here are some of my other favorite things: dancing, singing, back flips, drawing, soccer, swimming, makeup, and pretending I’m a pop star.

Most of all, I love mermaids. Sometimes I even wear a mermaid tail in the pool!

My best friends are Samantha and Casey. We always have fun together. We like high heels and princess gowns, or carthwheels and trampolines.

But I’m not exactly like Samantha and Casey.

I have a girl brain but a boy body. This is called transgender.

I was born this way!

When I was very little, and my mom would say, “You’re such a good boy,” I would say, “No, Mama. Good GIRL!”

At first my family was confused. They’d always thought of me as a boy.

As I got older, I hardly ever played with trucks or tools or superheroes. Only princesses and mermaid costumes.

My brothers told me this was girl stuff. I kept right on playing.

My sister says I was always talking to her about my girl thoughts, and my girl dreams, and how one day I would be a beautiful lady.

She would giggle and say, “You’re a funny kid.”

Sometimes my parents let me wear my sister’s dresses around the house. But whenever we went out, I had to put on my boy clothes again. This made me mad!

Still, I never gave up trying to convince them. Pretending I was a boy felt like telling a lie.

Then one amazing day, everything changed.

Mom and Dad took me to meet a new doctor who asked me lots and lots of questions. Afterward, the doctor spoke to my parents and I heard the word “transgender” for the very first time.

That night at bedtime, my parents both hugged me and said, “We understand now. Be who you are. We love you no matter what.”

This made me smile and smile and smile.

Mom and Dad told me I could start wearing girl clothes to school, and growing my hair long. They even let me change my name to Jazz.

Being JAZZ felt much more like being ME!

Mom said that being Jazz would make me different from the other kids at school, but that being different is okay. What’s important, she said, is that I’m happy with who I am.

Being Jazz caused some other people to be confused too, like the teachers at school.

At the beginning of the year they wanted me to use the boys’ bathroom, and play on the boys’ team in gym class, but that didn’t feel normal to me at ALL.

I was so happy when the teachers changed their minds. I can’t imagine not playing on the same team as Casey and Samantha.

Even today, there are kids who tease me, or call me by a boy name, or ignore me altogether. This makes me feel crummy.

Then I remember that the kids who get to know me usually want to be my friend. They say I’m one of the nicest girls at school.

I don’t mind being different. Different is special! I think what matters most is what a person is like inside.

And inside, I am happy. I am having fun. I am proud!

I am Jazz!

Thank you, Jazz Jennings, for your courage.

CHILDREN NEED OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE GENDER IDENTITY WITHOUT CRITICISM

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to speak about a book, a book much like “I Am Jazz” that I have had the privilege of reading before on the House floor for a number of years. It is an opportunity for children to explore their gender identity without being criticized. This book is titled “They, She, He easy as A-B-C.”

They! They! They! New friends are everywhere waiting to play!

Out on the dance floor we love to sing they. They is a way to let everyone be. No one left out and everyone free. Then when we’re friends, we sing they, she, he, ze. Making it easy as a-b-c-d.

Let’s dance!

A. Ari loves to arabesque. They hold their pose with ease.

B. Brody is a break dancer. Brody loves to freeze.

C. Cory leaps high like a cat. She springs and leapes and bounds.

D. Diego drums and dances. Tree has all the sounds.

E. Ebony flies everywhere. They spread their arms like wings.

F. Fawn is free as a flower. Fawn can bring the spring.

G. Glia’s going fast and strong. She’s dancing on the go.

H. Harvey’s heart beats happily. Hip hop makes her flow.

I. Indigo’s into insects. Ze loves the buzzing vibe.

J. Jasmine jams to jazzy tunes. He or they can jive.

K. Kelly can kick super high. His heart lives in the sky.

L. Lourdes sings of lofty heights. Their songs let them fly.

M. Marley is a star mermaid. He or she flows with the sea.

N. Nathan is a nesting bird. He just wants to be.

O. Ocean’s arms are open wide. Tree swings and sways about.

P. Paul pretend to be a plant. Paul grows up OUT.

Q. Quetzal is so, so quiet. He rests just like a queen.

R. Rene is into rainbows. He creates the scene.

S. Sky is like a star so bright. All the pronouns are right.

T. Tai is tiger in the night. He claims his own might.

U. Una is a unicorn. They prance to their own sound.

V. Viola’s a volcano. Her power’s in her ground.

W. Wren whistles when she dances. She knows just what to do.

X. Xander exaggerates moves. They’re extremely cool.

Y. Yoli yells YES! joyously. Their voice becomes the song.

Z. Zahara zooms in and out. Ze knows that ze belongs.

Now’s your chance. We need your moves. Join the dance. There’s always room.

Maya makes the art and words. She sings the song to life. Matthew dreams and tinkers. He makes the work tight.

Together they make books for the kids they used to be. And for their own two kids so all kids can grow free!
HONORING ALBERT HENDERSON

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional veteran in my hometown of Fresno, California, Albert Henderson.

In this photo, Albert Henderson and I are here at the veterans home in Fresno, a wonderful facility that provides a continuum of care for those men and women who served our Nation over the years.

Albert has an incredible story. He is one of the last living survivors of the USS Bismarck Sea, which sank 75 years ago this month during a World War II battle on the island of Iwo Jima. We all know of that historic battle that took place on Iwo Jima.

His is a story of survival, and it is a remarkable one.

He joined the Navy as a cook at the age of 17. After learning of the attack on Pearl Harbor, like many Americans who decided to selflessly do everything they could to protect our country, he began his military journey on the USS Bismarck Sea as a chef second class, where he often speaks of the difficulties of preparing food for such a large group of folks.

As the ship made its way to the Philippines in 1944, its fate was sealed when it was struck by two Japanese kamikaze pilots.

In the kitchen at the time of the attack, Albert made it topside only to discover that all the life rafts and preservers were taken by other members of the crew.

He spent more than 4 hours struggling to stay afloat in the choppy waters of the Pacific Ocean, praying for God's help to survive after being rescued by a passing U.S. Navy motorboat.

For his services and injuries, Albert was awarded the Purple Heart and the Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to join me in recognizing an American hero for this remarkable moment in history for a remarkable man over 75 years ago.

Albert, we thank you for your sacrifice and your courage to our Nation. God bless.

In 2018, the President fired the entire pandemic response team. In the President's 2021 budget request, he proposed cutting over $700 million to the Centers for Disease Control. Hopefully, this proposal will be dead on arrival. In the face of this crisis, this is simply unacceptable.

We need to be on guard. The social and economic impacts of this pandemic could be devastating globally, but the public health crisis affects all Americans.

We have just had the first case, in the last 24 hours, in northern California that, it is believed, the cause, the origin, is from here in our country, not coming from China.

We require a robust response. The Congress and the President need to work together in a bipartisan fashion to ensure the well-being, public health, and safety of the American people.

Hopefully, the President of the United States' press conference yesterday reflects the administration's intent to work together. We need to.

I am committed to joining my colleagues to ensure that we have an effective strategy in place to protect all Americans' health and safety from this potentially deadly pandemic virus, otherwise known as coronavirus.

We need to be on guard. We need to do everything we can to protect the American people.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

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

The current spread of the coronavirus has already caused broad repercussions in financial markets, international trade and travel, and the healthcare industry worldwide. We ask Your blessings on those men and women whose life work is the health of the world's population and whose efforts to stem the spread of this disease have endangered their own well-being. Give them insight and protection in the days and weeks to come.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly, in the important, sometimes difficult work they do. Give them wisdom and charity, that they might work together for the common good.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal. The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GONZALEZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio 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

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

UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, a year ago, this House passed the bipartisan H.R. 8 to establish universal background checks to protect our communities from terrifying, paralyzing gun violence. In the 365 days since, Mr. McCormick's legislation has done exactly what the gun industry has asked him to do: nothing.

Meanwhile, a gunman killed five people yesterday in Milwaukee, and two teenagers were killed 5 miles from where we stood over the weekend.

Meanwhile, millions live with the physical and emotional scars caused by guns.
Meanwhile, the gun industry is wrapped with immunity that shields their profits and puts more guns on our streets.

Madam Speaker, there is a secret that President Trump and Mr. McCon nell are hiding—you are subsidizing this behavior.

Billions in medical costs, covered by your tax dollars;
Billions in lost wages, covered by your tax dollars;
Eighty-seven percent of the costs incurred after a bullet pierces a person's skin, covered by you.

We are propping up an industry that profits off of our pain.

Even.

PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, I was grateful to participate with the delegation for the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, co-chaired by Congressman Alcee Hastings and Senator Roger Wicker, in Vienna, Austria. We attended the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 19th Winter Meeting.

The delegation engaged with OSCE officials and parliamentary members from 57 nations. Ambassador Jim Gilmore and his wife, Roxie, were effective assuring allies and potential adversaries of American commitment for peace through strength.

It was especially meaningful to meet with the courageous Ukrainian delegation, led by Mykyta Poturayev, which appreciates President Trump's providing Javelin missiles to stop Russian aggression.

Bulgaria was well-represented, with a delegation led by Desislava Atanassova. Today, America celebrates Bulgarian National Day with Ambassador Tihomir Stoychev at the Library of Congress across the street in Washington.

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

RECOGNIZING MILLER MIDDLE SCHOOL'S EIGHTH GRADE CLASS

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, today I am here on behalf of the people of Nevada's Third Congressional District, and I rise to recognize the Miller Middle School eighth grade class, with whom I met earlier this week on their trip to Washington—and the timing couldn't be better since it is Public School Week.

We talked about topics from STEM education to encouraging creativity in the classroom. They had some terrific questions, but one really stuck out. One student asked me: Is investing in public education really worth it?

It is a tough question, a fair question, especially coming from a Clark County student. But the answer for me is overwhelmingly, undoubtedly yes. I just walked into that room and see each of those students, whether they came from different backgrounds, having access to education.

And the answer is not just about investing, but it is about if we invest in public education as the national priority that it should be. In a time when public schools are being called upon to help kids beyond the classroom, investment in education should be our national priority.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL GUION “GUY” BLUFORD

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

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Westlake, Ohio, resident Colonel Guion "Guy" Bluford, who received the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal last week.

Guy became the first African American astronaut to travel into space in 1983. He earned the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal, the highest noncombat decoration for service awarded by the State, for his commitment and dedication throughout his historic career in aviation.

Before joining NASA, Bluford flew over 144 combat missions with the United States Air Force in South Vietnam. He later went on to earn his master's and doctorate degree with aerospace engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

We are proud and eternally grateful for Bluford's military service and dedication to space exploration. As NASA looks to expand mankind's horizons in space, his life achievements and aviation accomplishments serve as an inspiration to future generations.

AMERICANS SHOULD KNOW HOW MUCH OUR HEALTHCARE IS GOING TO COST

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a fully bipartisan healthcare bill, the Know the Price Act. It says something very simple that I am confident we will agree on: Americans should know how much our healthcare is going to cost before we receive it.

Many Americans aren't aware that, when we go to a healthcare provider, there is often a gag clause, a gag clause in the contracts between providers and insurers that blocks us from seeing the cost and quality of the care we are about to receive. My bill eliminates these gag clauses so that we have the power and the freedom to make informed decisions about our healthcare.

The bill would also allow employers to access deidentified claims data, consistent with the Privacy Act, so that they have the information they need to choose the healthcare plans that are actually best for their employees.

Mr. Speaker, this is commonsense legislation that will offer families and businesses in New Jersey and all across the country more choice in their healthcare at lower prices.

MEASURES TO COMBAT ROBOCALLS COMING FROM ABROAD

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an ongoing issue that has affected nearly every American: the barrage of annoying and deceptive robocalls.

These seemingly endless automated phone calls disrupt our daily lives; they constitute a serious form of harassment and expose millions of Americans to dangerous financial scams.

That is why I introduced a bipartisan bill, alongside my colleagues Representatives LACY CLAY and DANNY BISHOP, called the Foreign Robocall Elimination Act. Our bill takes on robocalls that originate overseas by directing the FCC to convene an inter-agency task force to develop effective measures to combat robocalls coming from abroad.

No matter which side of the aisle we find ourselves on, we should all be able to agree: It is time for these illegal robocalls to be stopped once and for all.

KEEP US SAFE FROM CORONAVIRUS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve a coordinated, fully funded response to keep us safe from the coronavirus. But instead of taking the situation seriously, the President has mounted a confusing and chaotic response.

He designated MIKE PENCE to lead the public health response, MIKE PENCE, a man whose terrible public health policies as Governor of Indiana allowed the worst HIV epidemic in the State’s history to take root in 2015.

The President's budget earlier this month slashed almost $700 million from the CDC. He has left vacant critical positions responsible for managing pandemics, and now he has proposed raiding funds that were appropriated by Congress for other life-threatening public health emergencies.

To be blunt, the President’s response has been a disaster.

The American people deserve better, and that is why the House will advance
a strong, strategic funding package that fully addresses the scale and seriousness of this public health crisis.

Let’s hope the President follows our lead.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PROTEIN DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Protein Day. Protein is one of the most important elements of a healthy diet.

In turn, I would also like to recognize one of the most important sources of protein in the American diet. I am talking about milk.

We know that the protein in milk helps build and repair muscle tissue in active bodies. Additionally, dairy products like milk contain nine essential nutrients that help reduce the risk of high blood pressure, osteoporosis, and certain cancers. Milk also supports strong bones and a healthy immune system.

Despite all these positive qualities, milk consumption in the United States has been on the decline. In an effort to reverse this trend, I introduced the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act last year, a bipartisan bill, to once again allow whole milk in our Nation’s schools.

Milk is part of a nutritious and healthy diet, packed with protein and flavor. This National Protein Day, I would like to remind us all of the nutrients and health benefits that whole milk provides.

PHILADELPHIA’S MOST DISTINGUISHED WARD LEADERS

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I am honored to be joined by six of Philadelphia’s most distinguished ward leaders and want to ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for future generations to recognize.

Ms. El Amor M. Brawne All of Ward 37, Mr. Arthur Green of Ward 14, Shirley Gregory of Ward 49, Peter Lyde of Ward 61, Renee McNear of Ward 20, and Sharon Vaughn of Ward 42 all take after the long lineage of Philadelphians who advanced our democracy towards an increasingly inclusive system.

Mr. Speaker, I extend to them our sincere gratitude for their longship on behalf of their constituencies and look forward to honoring them here at the Capitol later this afternoon.

COMBATING THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE EPIDEMIC

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, the opioid crisis has had a devastating impact on communities throughout our country. In my conversations with members of law enforcement, public safety officials, and public health experts, it has become clear that serious reforms are necessary to ensure our criminal justice system effectively contributes to efforts to combat the substance abuse epidemic.

The 2018 National Institute on Drug Abuse data shows that every day, 128 people in the United States die from an overdose of opioids. The misuse of and addiction to opioids, including prescription pain relievers, heroin, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, is a severe national crisis that affects public health, as well as social and economic welfare.

Next month, I am going to hold a roundtable discussion on this issue in my district to learn best practices and ensure that our stakeholders stem the tide before it becomes a crisis in our community. I am going to use the measures that my Democratic colleagues instituted in my state to our community to make sure that it does not happen in the Virgin Islands.

HONORING DENNIS HOOD

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a friend of mine who passed away a few days ago. His name is Dennis Hood.

Dennis lived in public housing and has been a fierce advocate for implementation of the Section 3 program. Despite the many illnesses that Dennis had, he developed himself a small contracting business, worked it well, but unfortunately passed away.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Dennis for his efforts to advocate for those low-income residents who live in public housing.

HONORING DR. MOHAMMAD KHALID

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

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Dr. Mohammad Khalid, a man who truly embodies the American Dream.

Dr. Khalid came here from Pakistan and settled on Staten Island in 1975 where he opened his dental practice and worked hard to provide for his children, both of whom are now successful attorneys.

Dr. Khalid says he considers it his moral and ethical duty to help, and he shows that every single day, not just in his professional life, but in all of his extraordinary community service. Dr. Khalid is a cultural ambassador on Staten Island, serving as the president of the Iron Hills Civic Association and the Pakistani Civic Association.

After the tragic events of 9/11, Dr. Khalid and the Pakistani Civic Association worked to bring Staten Islanders together. Now doing this for 15 years, they have served meals and shared their culture all for the betterment of our community.

I am proud to represent such a diverse and inclusive community full of leaders like Dr. Khalid, who exemplify the hard work, grit, and determination that make this country so great.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2339, REVERSING THE YOUTH TOBACCO EPIDEMIC ACT OF 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 866 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 866

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2339) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the sale and marketing of tobacco products, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-51, modified by the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) 90 minutes of debate equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) time motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROSE of New York). The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), 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.

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 866, providing for the consideration of H.R. 2339, Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2020 under a closed rule.

This policy will break down youth access to these products. The Food and Drug Administration has stepped up and banned flavored e-cigarette products. The House sergeant at arms has recovered $35,000 worth of unauthorized flavored e-cigarette products, with flavors such as lemon slushie, bubble gum, and sour diesel, will likely continue to be sold illegally, especially online.

The Trump administration has already released guidance to ban flavors. The Food and Drug Administration is requiring companies to stop the manufacture, distribution, and sale of certain unauthorized flavored e-cigarette products within 90 days of the published guidance. This guidance took effect on February 6, 2020, and is now in effect and enforceable.

This bill takes the flavor ban further and bans all flavored tobacco products, including menthol. This will take flavored cigarettes, cigars, and smokeless tobacco away from law-abiding adults, who must now, by law, be 21 years of age to purchase any tobacco product.

Additionally, this bill contains a potential infringement on the First Amendment by requiring health warnings on cigarette labels and advertising. There are other ways to educate individuals online and that is used by distributors to market THC-containing cartridges. Mackinac Center for Federalism, 1230 Michigan Avenue, Suite 300, Detroit, Michigan 48226; 313.874.6681. In 2018, 67 percent of high school students and 49 percent of middle school students who used tobacco products in the past 30 days reported using a flavored tobacco product.

Other significant efforts such as the flavor ban by the Trump administration will help limit youth tobacco use. The Trump administration issued a ban on flavored e-cigarette products that appeal to children, including menthol. This will help deter youth use in the future and prevent companies from targeting children with appealing flavors.

When we first held a hearing on the vaping lung injury at the start of the outbreak, the cause of this lung injury was unclear, however, these lung injuries were disproportionately affecting the young population. After diligent efforts by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and State health departments, we have since found that the vast majority of these lung injuries were caused by tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) vaping products containing vitamin E acetate, an additive.

Let me point out that none of these products are legal, and children are buying them on the black market.

An article from National Public Radio, published September 29, titled “Many Vaping Illnesses Linked to Black Market ‘Dank Vapes’ or Other THC Products,” walks through how two brothers in Wisconsin were arrested for running a THC vape ring. Captain Mike Martin of the Waynesboro Police Department in Virginia said that these products are labeled “Dank Vapes” and “appear commercially packaged, and there are a variety of different flavors.” His police department has recovered $35,000 worth of vaping products.

At this point, Madam Speaker, I think it is worthwhile to point out it is probably not a good idea for anyone to take into their lungs something that is labeled “Dank Vapes.”

According to the CDC, “Dank Vapes appears to be the most prominent in a class of largely counterfeit brands, with common packaging that is easily online and sold by distributors to market THC-containing cartridges.”

H.R. 2339 does absolutely nothing to crack down on that black market. These deliciously named vaping products, with flavors such as lemon slushie, bubble gum, and sour diesel, will likely continue to be sold illegally, especially online.

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also passed H.R. 3942, the Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act, which requires age verification by all retailers at the time of sale and delivery.

These policies will prevent young people from e-cigarettes and will deter future use. On the other hand, H.R. 2339 does not address youth tobacco use. This bill would ban all flavored tobacco products from all ages, taking away choices for law-abiding adult Americans.

So, let’s be clear. Tobacco is not healthy; however, law-abiding adults are capable of making these decisions for themselves.

Traditional cigarettes remain the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, claiming an estimated 480,000 lives or more each year. This is a personal issue for me, as I lost both parents to tobacco-related disease.

Now, according to the CDC, an estimated 34 million adults in the United States currently smoke cigarettes, and more than 16 million Americans live with a smoking-related disease.

While I am certainly concerned about the effect of e-cigarettes on our young people, we do need to remember that there is a large adult population with a whole host of health problems related to tobacco. Some early studies show that current adult tobacco users may benefit from the less harmful alternative of e-cigarettes.

Additionally, the adult population will seek out alternatives if their tobacco product of choice is eliminated from the legal market. A bill like this that makes illegal the products used by many Americans could contribute to an already existing and thriving black market for tobacco products.

As we saw last year, the outbreak of lung injuries was linked to counterfeit and black market products. There were reports of illicit operations by individuals taking THC vape cartridges and cutting the product with other oils to maximize their profit.

If H.R. 2339 becomes law, it could inspire similar black market operations to create products that law-abiding Americans currently enjoy.

This bill is not about youth use of vaping products. It is about eliminating all adult use of tobacco products.

We have seen a surge of lung injuries in the United States, an issue that is not adequately addressed in this bill. The Centers for Disease Control has linked these injuries to THC products, not tobacco.

Protecting our youth from tobacco is an important priority. However, H.R. 2339 does not do that, and it goes too far. Therefore, I cannot support it.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to oppose the bill, oppose the rule that delivers the bill, and oppose this assault on free choice for the American people.

Madam Speaker, with opposition to the rule, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and let me simply say we can never go too far when we are protecting our children.

Madam Speaker, I include in the Record a New York Times article titled “Federal flavor ban goes into effect Thursday, but many flavored vape products will still be available.”

[From NBC News, Feb. 5, 2020]

FEDERAL FLAVOR BAN GOES INTO EFFECT THURSDAY, BUT MANY FLAVORED VAPE PRODUCTS STILL AVAILABLE

(By Erika Edwards)

A nationwide ban on many flavored e-cigarette products goes into effect Thursday, but teenagers will still have access to nicotine vapes, experts say.

The ban covers a number of kid-friendly flavorings, such as mint and fruit, though menthol and tobacco flavorings will remain legal. However, the ban only applies to specific types of devices: cartridge or pre-filled pod devices, like the ones made popular by Juul. All other devices will be left on the market.

But limiting access to Juul, which stopped selling all non-menthol and tobacco flavored pods in November, is unlikely to have much of an effect on teens already addicted to nicotine.

“Kids have moved on,” Meredith Berkman, co-founder of Parents Against Vaping E-cigarettes, or PAVE, told NBC News.

Teenagers know that teachers are now educating about how to detect vaping in classrooms. So they’re getting their nicotine fix in other ways, including products not covered by the looming ban.

“Kids are sucking on flavored nicotine pouches to get through the day until they can get home to their device,” Berkman said. The pouches are reminiscent of chewing tobacco, but are advertised as being “tobacco-free.”

Experts in teen addiction also said there’s plenty of evidence that teens now favor highly concentrated, refillable nicotine vape products called Smok and Suorin Drops as well as cheaper, disposable vape pods called Puff Bars—also to be left on the market after Thursday.

“I am not very optimistic,” Bonnie Halpern-Felsher, a professor at Stanford University who studies teen vaping, said. “We really do need to have teeth in the law across all tobacco products, regardless of these loopholes.”

“The new policy does not solve the problem,” Matthew Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, said, adding parents need to keep their guard up and educate their teenagers about the harms of nicotine addiction. Many of these flavored products will remain available,”

Plans for restricting e-cigarette flavors on a federal level first came up in September, when Juul, the nation’s largest e-cigarette maker, voluntarily said it would stop selling all flavored products except for tobacco and menthol until it would have an application to continue selling their products.

It will take one year for the FDA to review those applications, during which time products can, and likely will, remain on the market.

“It’s not a ‘forever’ ban,” Halpern-Felsher said. “We have a long way to go.”

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, many teens today have moved from using flavored e-cigarettes to other flavored nicotine-laced products. That includes things like flavored pouches, drops, and pods.

These products are still on the market today. The recent national ban, which my distinguished colleague referred to, didn’t take them off the shelves. Something more is needed to make sure our children don’t go from one bad addictive product to the next.

These products might be different, but the impacts are the same. It is a distinction without a difference, Madam Speaker.

That is why we have to pass this bill to keep life-threatening products out of the hands of our children.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the rule and this comprehensive legislation, which prohibits all flavored tobacco products.

Madam Speaker, I commend Chairwoman Frank Pallone and Congresswoman Donna Shalala for their leadership.

The youth vaping epidemic is a public health emergency that threatens our youngsters. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in high school students are using e-cigarettes, and not just occasionally. More than a third of users in high school said that they were smoking e-cigarettes at least 20 days a month.

My granddaughter, who is a high schooler, when I asked her about this, she said it is everywhere, that everyone is smoking e-cigarettes.

Last year, I hosted a hearing on the youth vaping crisis in the Labor, Health and Human Education Subcommittee. As experts have said, the flavors are a key factor in this. Seven out of 10 current youth e-cigarette users said that they used e-cigarettes because “they come in flavors.”

Nearly all, or 97 percent, had used a flavored e-cigarette in the past month. Mango, mint, cotton candy, and gummy bears are just some of the 15,000 flavors still available, thanks to the loophole-laden action the Trump administration took in January.

The President made a promise in the Oval Office to American families to
ban flavors, which are hooking our youngsters. They are becoming addicted. But special interests appear to be more important. He allowed popular flavors like menthol to remain for products like the popular Juul device. He allowed vapes of all flavors to remain on the market.

It is unacceptable. The health of our children must be our priority. So, the Democratic majority of the United States House of Representatives is stepping up for children by voting for this bill and this rule. We can ban flavors and take comprehensive action to defend our kids.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for the rule and the bill.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Madam Speaker, I include in the Record an article from The Hill today, written by Yvette Clarke, making a point about the unintended consequences of this legislation.

The bill carves out an exemption for certain cigar products, but it also creates voluntary state products, which would have the unintended consequence of adversely and selectively affecting individuals, tobacco users, in communities of color.

(From The Hill, Feb. 27, 2020)

YOUTH TOBACCO USE LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE UNINTENDED LIFE-OR-DEATH CONSEQUENCES FOR BLACK TOBACCO USERS
(By Rep. Yvette Clarke)

This week marks a critical, life-changing moment in the fight for community equity specifically for black tobacco users. The Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act (H.R. 2339) is set for a vote this week in the House of Representatives, and while this bill seemingly makes a lot of sense in curbing youth tobacco use, there are some glaring unintended dire consequences for communities of color.

H.R. 2339 does many things with the goal to reduce youth tobacco use, like providing a resourceful public awareness campaign to educate about the dangers of tobacco use and reducing access to online purchases of flavored tobacco products. However, it does not treat menthol tobacco products equally, carving out an exemption for one flavored product, premium cigars preferred by white smokers. A ban that makes an exception for one flavor—premium cigars—while banning menthol puts black lives at risk. Let me explain.

Considering the fact that 90 percent of black smokers use menthol products, menthol tobacco users would live in fear of new stop and frisk opportunities under this legislation, because menthol would now be considered a controlled substance. A ban that targets menthol products but ignores other premium tobacco products unduly burdens the black community—symmetrical policies like this is more like a targeted attack than a value-neutral health care policy decision. In effect, white adult smokers would see little difference after this bill is enacted while black smokers could face even more sweeping harassment from law enforcement if the hint of menthol smoke can justify a stop.

Banning all electronic and combustible tobacco products would save lives and while the premise of this legislation to address the uptick in youth tobacco use is commendable, it is not supported by symmetrical bans that disproportionately endanger the black community.

While the debate has not made this clear, we are unfortunately not currently considering a ban on all tobacco products. In fact, we are not even debating a uniform ban on vaping products or traditional cigarette flavors. Instead, the ban would focus solely on flavored tobacco products, including menthol. Considering how often teenagers develop smoking and vaping habits with flavored products, I understand why the Energy and Commerce Committee has focused on this issue. However, including menthol in the flavored products ban will disproportionately imperil the black community by singling them out at increased risk of additional over-policing.

I do not take this position lightly, but as an elected official, I find the hard decisions—not the easy ones. I have a responsibility, to my constituents and the Constitution, to be the voice of the marginalized among us. To do so, I worked with the committee to find solutions to the criminal justice concerns of my community but was ultimately rebuffed. Nonetheless, I introduced an amendment promoting an education program to increase awareness about the dangers of tobacco use and the implications of this legislation. Constructive efforts like this will make a difference towards reducing tobacco use without laying the foundation for disparate enforcement of a ban.

While I would love to assume the best intentions of all involved parties and hope for the best in regard to enforcement, lived experiences and the world created by this asymmetrical ban where menthol tobacco products provide justification for police stops, I fear that we would have handed law enforcement another excuse to harass, detain and otherwise endanger marginalized communities. Despite the clear health benefits of this ban, I cannot in good conscience support an already vulnerable communities to this risk.

As a duly elected representative of Brooklyn, I would like to see an abdication of duty to disregard our painful history of over-policing or to ignore the very real potential of this history repeating itself. While no one would enjoy the political pressure this has exposed, I cannot ignore my nightmares of a jumped secondhand and a loosey turning into a far more serious matter of life and death potentially creating another health crisis. As Eric Garner’s mother knows all too well, and relayed in a letter to the New York delegation regarding this ban, in New York a single cigarette can become a death sentence.

If the committee wishes to improve this bill by making it a categorical ban on tobacco products, I will throw my full support behind the effort. When I asked for a carve out for menthol products, similar to the carve out that was granted for the on line sales of premium tobacco products like the Cuban cigars favored by Wall Street executives, I was soundly rebuffed. I would proudly support a categorical tobacco ban, but the committee so far has denied this opportunity. Nonetheless, and regardless of the political pressure, I will continue to do everything in my power to protect the people of the 9th District of New York and all black tobacco users across America.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the remainder.

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

Madam Speaker, I would like to clarify some misunderstandings related to the bill that I have just heard.

Some have suggested that H.R. 2339 allows certain cigars to be exempt from the flavor prohibition.

I want to be very clear. Under this legislation, all tobacco products are subject to the flavor prohibition, including cigars. In fact, the text of the definition of cigar product explicitly states that these cigars cannot contain a characterizing flavor. Under the legislation, menthol is a characterizing flavor.

The only way to tackle the youth tobacco epidemic is to prohibit all flavors in all products, which is exactly what H.R. 2339 does.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DeSaulnier), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her leadership on issues of public health, particularly this bill.

I rise in support of the Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act.

I am proud of the long history in the San Francisco Bay Area and across the state with the amazing work by Stan Glantz, a researcher in San Francisco who discovered the tobacco industry was pathologically lying to the American public and hiding the effects of their products.

We responded to that by trying to pass laws here in Congress, but we were unable to make this happen because of the tobacco lobby. We tried State legislative opportunities but failed to do that. But in local government, we passed hundreds of local ordinances banning secondhand smoke to protect employees and to protect customers.

At the time, I was a member of the California Restaurant Association and a restaurant owner. Many of my colleagues were part of the same arguments we heard today, that you will put retailers out of business, that this is all legal product.

However, we considered those, and we enacted these laws, and we worked with people who were affected by it. The economic impacts were positive, not negative. Restaurants are more successful than those who were affected by it. The economic impacts were positive, not negative. We responded to that by trying to pass laws here in Congress, but we were unable to make this happen because of the tobacco lobby. We tried State legislative opportunities but failed to do that. But in local government, we passed hundreds of local ordinances banning secondhand smoke to protect employees and to protect customers.

When we passed these ordinances, public health people came together with labor and others to make sure that the truth came out.

In the early 1980s, as the mayor of a city of 130,000 people, Concord, California, I authored one of the first efforts in the Nation to curb secondhand smoke. In fact, it has been illegal to smoke in bars, restaurants, and other public places in California entirely since 1988.

We worked together then to stop Big Tobacco’s hold over millions of addicted Americans, and we won.

Unfortunately, Big Tobacco has a new partner, the vaping industry. Companies like Juul, unfortunately headquartered in San Francisco, in my view, represent the very worst of the bay area business culture. They don’t ask for permission. They apologize
after they have addicted millions of Americans, particularly young people. They deceptively and illegally marketed their poisonous products to children, much like Big Tobacco did decades ago.

Our efforts led to an almost 70 percent decrease in the use of tobacco products across the country, according to the Centers for Disease Control. In 2016 alone, on the other hand, 7 out of 10 U.S. middle and high school students were exposed to e-cigarette ads on TV, in stores, and online.

With marketing campaigns that make vaping look safe and fun, they use flavors like cotton candy to attract young people to try vaping and get hooked on nicotine.

But we know better. We have a long history of this. These products are not safe. They are not smoking-cessation devices. And we need to take action to protect our children, just as we did years ago.

In local government in the bay area, we have started to do what we did in the 1990s: passing bans on these products. So, if we won’t do it here, we will do it at a local level; but we should do it here, and we should pass this bill.

The longer we wait, millions are addicted, and millions more are being targeted. The Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act will help save lives and keep widespread nicotine addiction in the past in the United States.

We beat Big Tobacco once before, and we can do it again. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS).

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule underlying the bill.

Reducing the alarming rate of youth e-cigarette use is and must remain a top priority for public health officials and communities. Our children are the future of our country, and my greatest joy in this life has been watching my children grow into the men and women that they are today.

Protecting their health and safety and of that their children in order to ensure their future success is, personally, a top priority of mine in Congress. However, H.R. 2339, the bill before us today, is concerning for numerous reasons.

First, this one-size-fits-all bill was drafted without Republican input. The committee of jurisdiction passed the legislation virtually along partisan lines.

This legislation was finalized just Monday night but is receiving a vote this week, with details negotiated outside of public view. A bill of this magnitude, which includes over $100 million in new taxes, deserves a lengthy public debate.

Second, Congress recently passed needed legislation to raise the minimum age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21 on a bipartisan basis.

Additionally, the Food and Drug Administration already has the ability to regulate flavored e-cigarette products, and this bill would permanently undermine ongoing efforts to combat youth vaping by the FDA.

Most importantly, this bill would undo bipartisan efforts by the State of Utah to combat youth vaping. The Utah Legislature and Governor’s office acted decisively to keep these products out of the hands of our youth and are considering additional steps to protect the welfare of our kids. The State of Utah is a great example of what we can accomplish when partisanship is put aside for the greater good.

In closing, I want to reiterate the importance of keeping these products out of the hands of children. But we can’t do that without a lengthier, bipartisan conversation, and especially if we are ignoring the work State and local governments have been doing to keep our children safe.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Madam Speaker, I will include in the RECORD a letter from Mothers of the Movement. They say: "We ask that, at the same time you consider health issues, you look carefully at the criminal justice impact of such a change in health policy. Our community has had plenty of experience living under laws passed with the best of intentions. Under your bill, cigarettes preferred by African Americans would be illegal; cigarettes preferred by non-African Americans would be legal."

MOTHERS OF THE MOVEMENT,
Miami Gardens, FL, October 11, 2019.

Hon. Frank Pallone,
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

Dear Chair Frank Pallone: We appreciate your focus on the health effects of tobacco and e-cigarettes in young people. We urge you to pay very close attention to the unintended effects of a ban on menthol cigarettes and what it would mean in the Urban community.

We both strive hard to do our best and set examples in our community, amongst the black youth. Our focus is within various cities throughout the country. We have witnessed encounters with law enforcement and negative police which has been spread throughout our community.

H.R. 2339, the Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act, contains a provision that bans flavored menthol cigarettes. We are alarmed that 80% Black Americans in Urban communities invest in menthol products. As a result of this ban, we recognize the effects which may happen within the Urban community and the justice system.

We do not encourage, support, or promote smoking especially in our Urban communities. We are concerned that this ban in many cases will reintroduce another version of the stop-and-frisk in black low socio-economic communities. We experience and are forced to tolerate aggressive behaviors from law enforcement. This is our reality and is displayed throughout our neighborhoods, government, locally and nationally daily. This ban will introduce or replay many hard to eliminate black Americans to the criminal justice system. We do not want to take parents, sons, and daughters out of households for small infractions that carry financial obligations. We ask that, at the same time you consider health issues, you look carefully at the criminal justice impact of such a change in health policy. Our community has had plenty of experience living under laws passed with the best of intentions. Under your bill, cigarettes preferred by African-Americans would be illegal; cigarettes preferred by non-African-Americans would be legal.

Small violations can quickly escalate to consequential events. We refuse to witness another mother join us in death of a loved one. We are readers of newspapers and decisions available in our Black communities.

Best Regards,

Gwendolyne Carr,
Mother of Eric Garner.

SYRINA FULTON,
Mother of Trayvon Martin.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to immediately bring up a resolution condemning the comments of Democratic Socialist Presidential candidate BERNARD SANDERS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, to explain this amendment, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I urge defeat of the previous question so that we can amend, as the gentleman just explained the rule, to immediately consider my resolution condemning Senator Sanders’ blatantly false comment regarding the racist, terrorist, murderous Castro regime in Cuba.

I have said this before: If anybody wants to know the devastation of socialism and the tyranny that so often accompanies it, I invite you to speak to some of my constituents, including thousands of former political prisoners now in exile. Let me just mention some of those.

Jorge Luis Garcia Perez, “Antunez”: Angel de Fana; and Roberto Martinez Perez. There are so many others who are in south Florida who have suffered in the prisons of Cuba just because they have asked for and fought for freedom.

But there are also former political prisoners who are still on the island, and I can mention many of them. Let me just mention Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, who just recently was arrested, harassed, and then it looks like potentially released; and the relatives of current political prisoners such as: Jose Daniel Ferrer, Mitzael Diaz Paseiro, Miguel Diaz Bauza, and Yanet Perez Quevedo. You can’t speak to
them because they are in prison currently, but you can speak to their relatives. All of them have witnessed firsthand the destruction that socialism causes. All of these political prisoners have to be released at once. That is what we should demand.

Now, unfortunately, this is not new coming from the Progressive movement. But I remind Senator SANDERS and the Progressive movement that the Castro regime is not only a threat to the national security interests of the United States, but also to the democracies in our hemisphere.

I want to remind Senator SANDERS of the Cuba regime’s close relationship with some of the world’s worst thugs, such as Iran, Iraq, and the Cuban regime held the first Iran-Cuban business forum in Tehran in August of 2019 and have signed memorandums of understanding affirming their commitment to expanded trade and coordination. There were, just recently, two high-profile visits of the Iranian so-called Foreign Minister and also the so-called President of Iran to Cuba in 2016.

For years, the Cuban regime has been on the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism and support of other terrorist states, terrorist organizations, and violence around the world and in this hemisphere. In 2013, the Cuban regime, I remind folks, was caught smuggling weapons to North Korea in the largest violation of international sanctions against that rogue regime.

It has been propping up the Maduro regime with thousands of intelligence operatives to oppose the Venezuelan people and, in some cases, to kill the Venezuelan people.

The Cuban regime has been harboring fugitives from U.S. justice, including FBI’s most wanted terrorist Joanne Chesimard and terrorist bomb maker William Morales. That is just to name a few.

So that is why, Madam Speaker, I filed the resolution that condemns the blatantly false comments of Democratic Socialist candidate for President Senator BERNIE SANDERS.

This resolution also rejects the false claims that Cuba’s healthcare, education, and literacy rate have improved as a result of the Castro regime, the Castro dictatorship. Those claims have been debunked by numerous sources. Let me just go over a couple of facts. According to a State Department report, Cuba’s infant mortality rate was 32 of 1,000 live births, one of the best in the Western Hemisphere. But, Madam Speaker, this was not Castro. This is in the 1950s, pre-Castro.

Cuba’s life expectancy was one of the highest in the Western Hemisphere, pre-Castro. No, it wasn’t Castro. This was pre-Castro.

Cuba’s literacy rate was one of the highest in the Western Hemisphere, pre-Castro in the 1950s. Those are the facts, Madam Speaker, the realities of Cuba.

In Cuba now, over 1 million people—in a country of just 11 million—have risked everything to try to find freedom, to try to get away from that socialist tyranny. Many have perished on rafts as they place themselves and their children at risk in shark-infested waters for freedom.

Mr. BURGESS, Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Florida an additional 3 minutes.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Madam Speaker, why would they do this if things in Cuba are just not all that bad? Again, in contrast, during the pre-Castro Cuba, many Americans were traveling to Cuba and going to Cuba than Cubans coming to the United States.

Today, now, Madam Speaker, here we have an opportunity to condemn Senator SANDERS’ blatantly false and hurtful comments regarding the racist, terrorist Castro regime. Join me in standing in solidarity with the Cuban people and, by extension, also solidarity with the Venezuelan people who are working to regain their freedom against the OAS Secretary General has called the Cuban army of occupation in Venezuela.

So join me in standing in solidarity with the people and not with the regime that oppresses them.

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

Mr. BURGESS, Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this bill claims to curb youth tobacco use, including vaping. The reality is it bans many types of tobacco products that are legally and voluntarily used by adults.

While I do not support any form of tobacco use for law-abiding adults to make. The unintended consequences of suddenly making legal tobacco products illegal will likely push people to the black market to seek the same products—or worse. If we really want to end vaping, we need to target products containing tetrahydrocannabinol, THC.

As I previously stated, we just recently made tobacco use illegal for those under the age of 21, and the Trump administration has banned certain flavored e-cigarette products.

This is a problem that requires a multilayered approach. Unfortunately, the provisions in this bill will not produce the desired result, and could even create more harm than good for some populations.

Republicans do stand ready to work on bipartisan solutions to increase the health of our population and to protect our young people, but I need to urge a no vote on the question, a no vote on the rule, and a no vote on the underlying measure.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I am a little confused. I may be a freshman, but I know that my good friend, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, usually gives me a little advanced notice before he presents something.

My Republican colleagues are promising that, if we defeat the previous question, they will bring up a resolution condemning the statements Senator SANDERS made regarding the dictator Fidel Castro.

But let me be clear: Defeating the previous question means that Republicans can bring up any germane bill or amendment they wish. The key word here being ‘germane.’

The resolution is not germane to the rule. That means, under the House rules, rules that have been in place since the founding of this institution, Republicans cannot bring to the floor the resolution they are promising to because it is not germane to the rule.

The vote on the previous question is not a vote on the Diaz-Balart resolution. It is a vote to end debate on the rule and proceed to consideration of the legislation at hand, a bill to help prevent kids from taking up smoking.

I am not disputing the merits of the resolution that my distinguished Republican colleague is offering as the previous question. In fact, I support this resolution; and to be very clear, I have requested to be added as a cosponsor. I was the first Democratic Member of Congress to speak out against these misguided, ill-informed, hurtful, and unacceptable comments made by Senator SANDERS from the beginning.

Over the last six decades, hundreds of thousands of Cubans have risked their lives to escape the tyranny of the Castro regime, a regime of fear, paranoia, and oppression that regularly abuses human rights in order to stifle free thought and democracy in Cuba to this very day.

Yesterday, my good friend and south Florida colleague, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, spoke about the horrors of Castro’s Cuba. He so eloquently explained: ‘If anybody wants to know the devastation of socialism and the tyranny that often is accompanied by socialism, I invite you to come and speak to some of my constituents, including the thousands—thousands—of former political prisoners.’

This is a joint invitation. Please, come to my south Florida community and meet Mr. DIAZ-BALART’s constituents and meet my constituents who will make it clear the Cuban regime and other similar authoritarian regimes across Latin America are instruments of evil and are not worthy of praise.

I would like to close again by quoting my good friend, Mr. DIAZ-BALART: ‘The Castro regime is a threat, not only to the national security of the United States but also to all the democracies in this hemisphere. He is absolutely correct, and I stand with him. I have always stood with him and alongside our constituents in south
Florida to denounce the evil Cuban regime.

But today we are here to debate a bill that protects our children from the dangers of tobacco and nicotine use. I hope my Republican colleagues will join me in voting "yes" on the previous question and "yes" on this rule, so we can move on to consideration of a bill to reverse the youth tobacco epidemic.

The minority is claiming that they will do something that has been against the Rules of the House since the very first Congress in 1789. Clause 7 of rule XVI clearly states: "No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment."

It doesn’t matter whether or not a Member would support my colleague’s resolution, which I have not had the opportunity to fully read since it was introduced just minutes ago. It is completely unrelated to the public health bill we are discussing right now and could not be offered. The only way to do this would have been to consult with all of us who have spoken out on this issue and build support in the traditional way.

I have always joined my colleague, Mr. RODRÍGUEZ-ALFREZ, to consult with other Members and to join together to denounce tyranny wherever it may exist.

Madam Speaker, I will close by saying that I have worked on tobacco issues for years. When I was Secretary of Health and Human Services, we knew we were facing a problem with youth usage of tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes. Thanks to smart and tough policies and comprehensive outreach campaigns, we succeeded in dramatically reducing youth cigarette use.

It was an extraordinary public-health achievement.

But here we are again with flavored e-cigarettes and vape products. Tobacco companies will not give up, but we will not either.

Nicotine exposure during youth and young adulthood is particularly dangerous. The children who are using flavored e-cigarettes and vaping products are people who likely wouldn’t have taken up smoking otherwise. This is the public health crisis of the 21st century.

Children don’t vote or contribute to our campaigns, but they are our future. In fairy tales, children are saved by their parents. In our campaigns, but they are our future. They are our campaigns, but they are our future. They are our future.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on the rule and on the previous question.

The material previously referred to by Mr. BURGESS is as follows:

**AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 866**

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 2. 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. 866) condemning the comments of Senator and Democratic Socialist Presidential candidate, Bernie Sanders (I-VT), disregarding the history of systemic human rights abuses, forced indoctrination, and authoritarian actions of the literacy and education policies of the Communist Castro dictatorship in Cuba. 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 Foreign Affairs. 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. The yeas or nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 189, not voting 16, as follows: [Roll No. 74]

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move to order the previous question.

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. 866) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2339) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the sale and marketing of tobacco products, 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.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 189, not voting 16, as follows: [Roll No. 74]

RECESS

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.
The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we are in the last quarter of the 116th Congress, and it is the last opportunity for the House to record its votes on this significant legislation.

I am pleased to announce that our House has voted unanimously to pass the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Job Creation Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. This comprehensive plan invests $1.2 trillion into our nation's roads, bridges, rail systems, and public transit systems.

We are fortunate to have committed leaders in both parties who are working together to address the critical issues facing our country. It is through bipartisan cooperation that we can ensure that the investments made today will build a brighter future for all Americans.

I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their dedication to this legislation. It is clear that we are united in our commitment to creating a more prosperous and equitable nation.
February 27, 2020

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H1241

ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND RANKING A MEMBER ON CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 870

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: Ms. Torres Small of New Mexico.

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, ranked as follows on the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Khanna (to rank immediately after Mr. Cooper).

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM: Mr. Khanna (to rank immediately after Mr. Rouda).

Mr. JEFFRIES (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF KATHERINE Goble JOHNSON

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on Monday morning, our Nation lost a truly brilliant mathematician and pioneer, Ms. Katherine Goble Johnson.

While I knew Katherine and her family personally for many years, like so many Americans, I never fully appreciated her work until her untold story was revealed in the book and movie, "Hidden Figures."

She had a long and illustrious career at NASA, but also had a tremendous impact on the Hampton Roads community that she called home. She was president of Lambda Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and she sang in the choir and served as a trustee at Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News.

She served as a role model for countless children; and while she did not reach the stars like the astronauts whose trajectory she calculated, in her career, she did.

We remember her as a true American hero, and I send my deepest condolences to her family and all who were inspired by her remarkable life and work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members join me and Congresswoman LURIA, who represents the Hampton area, the Virginia delegation, and others in a moment of silence in honor of Ms. Katherine Goble Johnson.

HONORING CHARLES HALL, JR.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles Hall, Jr., as a part of my Black History Month celebration.

Mr. Hall is the president of the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union, Local 108, in Maplewood, New Jersey. His commitment to his members is without equal.

For more than 21 years, Mr. Hall, Jr., has improved wages, health benefits, and working conditions for workers throughout the Northeast. He has increased diversity in his own staff and companies across the area.

Recently, he organized more than 2,000 exploited Latino workers and got them higher wages. In addition, he got health benefits for local nursing home workers and their first raise in 10 years.

His contributions to my district are immeasurable. That is why I celebrated his work during a Black History Month celebration on February 21. Charles Hall, Jr., is a great man and deserves all of these accolades and more.

HUMANITARIAN DISASTER IN IDLIB

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, 96 airstrikes, eight cluster bomb attacks, 231 artillery and missile attacks—that is what the people in Idlib, Syria, experienced yesterday from the forces of the brutal dictator Assad and his Russian protector, Putin. These attacks hit 10 schools and one hospital, killing 26 and injuring over 100.

After nearly 10 years of death and destruction, Idlib is becoming the greatest humanitarian disaster of this long conflict.

As I have said on this floor for nearly 3 years, the lack of a comprehensive approach for U.S. policy in Syria has allowed the atrocities led by Assad, Russia, and Iran to continue with impunity.

The U.S. Government must use the tools that we have at our disposal to end the death and destruction in Syria, bring about a political solution to the conflict, and hold those responsible for these war crimes fully accountable.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHERINE Goble JOHNSON

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

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great American hero, Katherine Johnson.

Katherine was a skilled mathematician, a loyal NASA employee, a mother, a daughter, but, most importantly, a trailblazer.

In 1953, she began working at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics West Area Computing unit, where she provided equations and computations that were essential to the success of the early space program.

At NASA Langley, she played an important role in NASA's Mercury program of manned space flights from 1961 to 1963. Without her expertise, the space travel of Alan Shepard and John Glenn would not have been possible.

At the apex of her career, Johnson was part of the team that calculated the trajectory of the Apollo 11 mission of 1969, which sent the first three men to the Moon. And now, her work will ensure that the first woman and the next man will take steps on the Moon by 2024.

This is the legacy of Katherine Johnson. I am proud to recognize her today.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF JUDGE CHARLES D. SUSANO JR.

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Judge Charles D. Susano Jr. who is retiring after 25 years of service on the Tennessee Court of Appeals. Judge Susano
will finish his career as the longest tenured State appellate judge in the history of Tennessee once he retires this coming April.

Judge Susano is a lifelong Knoxvillian and a dedicated public servant born and graduating magna cum laude from—it hurts me to say this—Notre Dame in 1958, Judge Susano served in the United States Army for 2 years before he was honorably discharged. He then earned his juris doctor from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1963.

For the majority of his adult life, Judge Susano has dedicated himself to the law. He spent 30 years as a legal partner between two Knoxville-based law firms until Governor Ned McWherter appointed Judge Susano to his position with the Tennessee Court of Appeals—Eastern Section in March of 1994.

Judge Susano was elected Statewide to his judgeship four times throughout his public service career and issued over 1,000 opinions during his time on the bench. He is also active in the Knoxville community through service on many nonprofit boards and his church. The State of Tennessee is lucky to have had his public service throughout the years.

Judge, I wish you the best in your retirement, and I hope it is filled with quality time with your wife, children, and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, I want to thank the judge for being such good friends of the Burchetts.

PROPOSED FY 2021 BUDGET

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I believe we have a duty to spend our resources responsibly. But we can’t make the kind of cuts that hurt American workers, American seniors, and our middle-class families. As it currently stands, the administration’s proposed budget would recklessly slash funds for Social Security, for Medicare, and for Medicaid.

The cuts to Medicaid alone over 10 years are nearly $900 billion. They would seriously jeopardize rural hospitals, combating the opioid crisis, and seniors’ access to long-term care.

Mr. Speaker, did you know that six out of ten seniors in nursing homes depend on Medicaid?

Last year, Democrats and Republicans in Congress came together to reach a 2-year budget deal that invests in the American people. We need to honor that deal over the coming months and reject this current reckless budget that we just saw come out of the White House.

8TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION

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

Mr. CARTER. Of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two units from the 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion for their participation in Operation Atlantic Resolve in Poland, Romania, and Lithuania; and I want to welcome them back home to the First Congressional District of Georgia.

Stationed at Fort Stewart, these battalions are integral to our Nation’s ability to be successful overseas. Throughout different periods of its history, 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalions have provided maintenance, convoy security, supply transportation, and more for branches of the U.S. Army fighting to restore democracy abroad.

As a part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, these battalions worked hard to increase their readiness and build cooperation between our own forces and our allies in Europe. At any one time there are 6,000 soldiers participating in Operation Atlantic Resolve conducting exercises across 17 countries.

To Lieutenant Colonel David Alvarez, Command Sergeant Major Ryan Stamoulis, and everyone involved with the 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalions, I thank you for your service, and welcome home.

HONORING JOE LAWLESS

(Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my constituent, friend, and mentor, Joe Lawless.

Joe loved his home city of Malden, Massachusetts, and his city loved him. He was a longtime supporter of the Irish American Club and of The Immigrant Learning Center. He served on the Malden Board of Trustee, the Housing Authority, and as a deputy mayor.

But Joe’s legacy of generosity is best described by what he did behind the scenes. I remember Joe, while suffering from debilitating back pain, purchasing gallons of ice cream with all the fixings to serve sundaes for seniors. And catching a ride with Joe only to find the back seat of his car and the entire trunk filled with food to distribute to neighbors in need.

Joe was a natural teacher. While I was never fortunate enough to sit in his classrooms at Boston College or Suffolk University, he taught me so much. He was the rare friend who made everyone whose lives he touched feel seen and appreciated, and we will all strive to live the wisdom and lessons in friendship, integrity, and service he gave us.

Thank you, my friend. Rest in peace and love.

REMEMBERING AREE MIKKI McCAMPBELL

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Aree Mikki McCampbell of 13th District Strong. She was a guiding light for her family and for all those who knew and loved her.

Mrs. McCampbell was also a loving mother to Denzel McCampbell, Shawanna, and Kanita, and an incredible grandmother to Tyrone and Serina.

Mr. Speaker, you can tell a lot about a parent based on their child. I did not know Mrs. McCampbell personally, but I know the type of love she shared with the world because of her son, Denzel McCampbell.

Mrs. McCampbell hailed from Safford, Alabama, and studied at both Selma University and Wayne State University. She instilled a love of humanity in her family, and 13 District Strong is forever grateful to her for the mark that she has left on this world.

My heart goes out to the McCampbell family. I hope knowing that she is in Heaven watching out for all those lives she has touched can bring some peace to those who are remembering and celebrating her life.
ECONOMIC OPTIMISM

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, recent polling shows great optimism about our country, as Americans believe they are better off financially now than last year, and close to 75 percent say that they expect to be even better off financially in 1 year. This is the highest level on record.

Strong, conservative principles have created historically low levels of unemployment for Americans regardless of their race, age, religion, or gender.

Our Nation was built by Americans working to create a better future for their children and their grandchildren. Both Democrats and Republicans must fight the growing calls for socialism and instead support the proven conservative policies implemented by this administration that allow our economy to grow and help build a brighter future for generations to come.

TURNING THE TIDE IN THE YOUTH TOBACCO CRISIS

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is in the middle of a youth tobacco epidemic driven by the increasing popularity of flavored e-cigarettes. In my home State of New York, youth e-cigarette use rose by 160 percent between 2014 and 2018.

I want to commend Chairman FRANK PALLONE for his work on H.R. 2339 which will help turn the tide in this crisis. I would also like to thank the chairman for including my provisions in section 107 which update youth tobacco prevention awareness campaigns to include programming for Americans between the ages of 18 and 21.

My provisions will help ensure that this group of young Americans is not left out and receives the support and education they need to avoid starting dangerous tobacco products.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support Chairman PALLONE’s legislation and help pave the way for the first generation of tobacco-free Americans.

RECOGNIZING EAGLE SCOUT WILLIAM ARDIS

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize William Ardis on his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. William is with Troop 4 in Millville in South Jersey. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. It is a prestigious honor bestowed upon only the most worthy and most qualified individuals. Only 4 percent of all Boys Scouts ever achieve this prestigious recognition. Eagle Scouts are much more likely to dedicate their lives to service, becoming future leaders in the military, in business, and in politics.

My office was proud to be at William’s ceremony to celebrate this achievement earlier this week. I could not be prouder of William’s accomplishments, and I look forward to big and bold things from him in the future.

As Americans we all look for heroes. We look to celebrities—God help us; we look to Washington—equally God help us—but I want to say: God bless you and your family, William.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF KATHERINE JOHNSON

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

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and incredible accomplishments of Katherine Johnson, a brilliant mathematician whose trailblazing work was instrumental in America’s space exploration. Ms. Johnson passed away earlier this week at the age of 101 leaving behind a legacy not only of genius and dedication, but also of vitally important advancement in STEM fields for women and African Americans.

Ms. Johnson’s affinity for numbers was evident from an early age. She graduated from high school early and went on to study math and French at West Virginia State College. Later, she became the first African American woman to attend graduate school at West Virginia University.

In 1953, Katherine Johnson accepted her first computing job with the agency that would become NASA. Despite intense discrimination throughout her years at NASA, she remained committed to advancing America’s space program and broke barriers where she could. Eventually, she hand-calculated the flight path for America’s first crewed space mission in 1961 and also helped calculate the trajectory for the famed Moon landing.

When astronaut John Glenn prepared for his orbit around the Earth in 1962, he asked for Johnson to verify the calculations in NASA’s new computer tracking system. He said: “If she says the computer is right, I will take it.”

The impact of Katherine Johnson’s groundbreaking work in math and science can hardly be overstated. American space exploration reached many of its milestones when it did due to her commitment. Her perseverance also opened doors for women and African Americans in work fields previously closed to them.

I stand with my colleagues in the House and countless Americans in gratitude to Ms. Johnson’s hard work and pioneering spirit that have undoubtedly made America a better place.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF BARB BAKER

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of my Jacksonville office director, Barb Baker, who suddenly passed away earlier this month.

Hired in 2002 by then-Congressman Ray LaHood, Barb epitomized what it means to be a public servant working for the constituents of Illinois’ 18th Congressional District for the last 18 years. She was an incredible asset to our constituents and a constant presence in the Jacksonville community. She helped and assisted so many people in Jacksonville and throughout central Illinois.

Barb was also the past president of the Sunrise Rotary Club, receiving the Paul Harris Fellowship Award. She was past president of the Pilot Club, the Morgan County Republican Women’s Club, the Illinois Association of Court Clerks, and had served as treasurer for the City of Jacksonville Park System Board.

Barb blessed the Jacksonville community and our office with a spirit of warmth and decency few could rival. She leaves behind an indelible mark on Jacksonville and central Illinois as a selfless person deeply committed to her family, her faith, and her community.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, Barb was an incredible daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother.

We will miss Barb dearly, and I ask you to continue to keep her and her family in your prayers.

CALLING FOR BIPARTISAN CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, recent news has indicated that an individual in the United States has been designated with the coronavirus who has not been assessed to have traveled in any of the countries that have been listed for travel advisories and has not been listed as having had any of the normal processes or patterns of getting this particular virus.

With that in mind, I think it is extremely important that Congress plays a major role, in addition to its role of directing the kind of funding.

With that in mind, we will be organizing a coronavirus task force that is bipartisan and that will assess how we
reach effectively, as Members of Congress, all of our constituents who are dependent on information that we receive: the waiters and waitresses, the traveling public, the aviation persons, the public hospital providers, all of those persons in our districts.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join the task force. Let us work together because it is a crisis. We are in a position to help the American people in the best way that we can, and that is with information.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT ON IMPOSING PUBLIC CHARGE RULE

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to extend my congratulations and congratulate President Trump on imposing the public charge rule with regard to public benefits.

You know, around here, we get along on many different items bipartisan in nature, and I enjoy working with my Democratic colleagues. But one that I think is at the crux of the disagreement and dislike of President Trump is something I agree with him very strongly on, and I think all the American public ought to know about it, and that is the issue referred to as the public charge rule.

Ever since the 1800s in this country, we have tried to make it a point that people who come here from other countries not come here and wind up on public benefits or welfare or what have you.

Unfortunately, we weren’t doing a very good job of enforcing this rule until President Trump stepped up and put a rule that went into effect last October, saying that if you are here as an immigrant, you are not eligible for food stamps; you are not eligible for low-income housing; you are not eligible for Medicaid; you are not eligible for other means-based benefits.

President Trump, having a soft heart, continues to allow immigrants, immigrant children, to receive free and reduced lunch, Medicaid, and even are eligible for student loans.

Nevertheless, I think it was a very good thing for President Trump to do. Our immigrants are the future of America.

Right now, in America, our immigrants are far more likely than the native-born to take advantage of public benefits. A study shows that 63 percent of noncitizens versus 35 percent of the native-born are on some form of public benefits. With regard to food assistance, 45 percent of the immigrants, compared to 21 percent of the native-born, are on public benefits.

We should try to go through a tough time. And I should point out that President Trump does not remove your ability to stay here, just to be on public benefits for a month. It has to be for a period of several months, and once you are on those benefits, we want you removed.

The reason for that is, for the future of America, we want people who are self-reliant and paying taxes. We already take care of our native-born, to a huge degree, for whatever reason, have to rely on our fellow citizens.

Right now, we are in a position in which a much higher percentage of people—63 percent of noncitizens versus 35 percent of native-born—are taking advantage of some benefits.

If you look at food stamps, between 2004 and 2019, the total number of people on food stamps in this country went up 50 percent. That is a huge increase. It is particularly a huge increase if you take into account the economy in 2019 was about as strong as it is going to get.

I therefore, applaud President Trump for stepping up to the plate and trying to restrict immigration to people who can take care of themselves, all the while making sure that we are taking care of the children of people who are here.

I also want to point out that people who are here illegally should not be eligible for those benefits. But, again and again, I hear people from my district, and I think from public comments made by people like the Governor of California or the mayor of New York—that I don’t believe local officials are at all times prohibiting people who are here illegally from getting benefits.

In any event, particularly as long as we have birthright citizenship, I think the policy before Trump got here is misguided and, ultimately, will lead to a decline in the quality of life in America.

I am, therefore, very glad that the Supreme Court allowed President Trump’s rule to be upheld. But we have to caution America in that this is not a statutory rule; this is not something that has passed Congress.

The only reason we are trying to hold down the number of people who are here who are not citizens from getting benefits is President Trump. It could easily be true that by this time next year, if you look at the days in which a high number of noncitizens are taking advantage of public benefits.

Like I said, I think for some people, the generosity of the public benefits will encourage people to adapt a lifestyle in which they are eligible for them, which is a real outcome.

In any event, I would like to say one more time—I don’t always get invited to the White House, in case President Trump is watching—thank you, President Trump, at a time of trillion-dollar deficits, for stepping up to the plate and allowing the immigrants that we have coming in the country.

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

CONGRESS NEEDS LEADERS, NOT GUN LOBBY SHILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we have promised to serve the American people, and this means keeping American families safe and secure. But for too long, Congress has put fealty to the special interest of the gun lobby ahead of our safety.

I cannot afford to live in fear of special interests. Why? Because every single day when I send my three children off to school, I live in fear for their safety; because I have seen the pain on the faces of those parents whose children never came home from school, the parents who hugged their children good-bye in the morning, never knowing it would be for the last time; because no parent should ever have to make the child lost to preventable gun violence; and because, as your Member of Congress, I have the power to fight for change.

This is the power that Congress has, and this is why 1 year ago, we passed landmark legislation to reduce gun violence in this country.

Under current law, only federally licensed vendors must conduct background checks, but this creates loopholes for private sellers. This means that there are no background checks on private sales, including gun shows and online transactions.

The Bipartisan Background Checks Act closes this loophole and will ensure that nearly all gun sales are run through the National Criminal Background Check System.

This legislation is common sense. In fact, two former GOP Congressmen wrote an op-ed in The Washington Post in support of the legislation. They said: “There are no back doors in the system. There are no background checks on private sales, including gun shows and online transactions.”

The Bipartisan Background Checks Act closes this loophole and will ensure that nearly all gun sales are run through the National Criminal Background Check System.

This is a clear, commonsense, American solution that is now being held hostage by Senator MITCH MCCONNELL, the President, and the gun lobby.

And this is a uniquely American issue. No other country experiences the same epidemic of gun violence. In fact, guns are the second-leading cause of death for American children and teens; nearly 260 are killed by guns every year. In my home State of California, an average of 246 children and teens die from gun violence.

Since the beginning of 2014 in California, over 14,000 people, including, heartbreakingly, 120 law enforcement officers, have been injured or killed due to gun violence.

The Speaker. 27 of those people hurt or killed were in my district in Orange County, the 45th. We have lost 34 members of our community in just 4 years to gun violence.
Orange County families have made their feelings heard, time and again, that they want us to strengthen gun violence prevention laws. I am standing here as proof that Orange County wants action on gun reform. Keeping our families safe is at the heart of our community's values.

I want to share a story of one Orange County family with my colleagues here in Congress. This is a story of a family who experienced loss from gun violence and, yet, found the strength to dedicate their lives to making sure that others don’t experience similar tragedies.

Mary Leigh and Charlie Blek from Orange County have fought tirelessly for commonsense gun legislation in California. Their son, Matthew Blek, was only 21 years old when he was shot and killed while visiting New York City. He was a victim of armed robbery by teens using a small handgun, also known as a junk gun.

In memory of their son, the Bleks founded Orange County Citizens for the Prevention of Gun Violence in 1995. For 5 long, hard-fought years, they advocated for safety regulations that would rid California of the type of gun that killed their son, and they succeeded. California now produce 80 percent of the junk guns for the Nation. California no longer produces these junk guns and has enacted safety standards for handguns.

Still today, the Bleks are vigilant in preventing the gun lobby from finding a way to sell dangerous handguns in California. The Bleks now lead the Orange County chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. I am personally very grateful for their efforts. No family should ever have to go through what the Bleks suffered, but too many in our own communities have. And because the Senate has yet to act, nothing has changed.

It has been 1 year since we passed H.R. 8 to require background checks, just sold a gun. All of the indicators were there that he was up to no good; I want a gun, any kind of gun, any caliber, and I want it now.

That is how Zina Daniel and her co-workers lost their lives; Zina Daniel, leaving children on this Earth to be cared for, with no mother.

While I don’t know the circumstances of the weapon last night, I can tell you that we see our citizens with military-type weapons, nothing that can be justified for the many hunters we have in Wisconsin, weapons that mutilate people and butcher them, and mangle the bodies of children, disfiguring people so badly that they can’t be identified when their parents show up at the morgue.

There are stories of these AR-15s brutalizing these bodies so terribly that it is just a second source of trauma for parents to see their deceased children in this condition, as young as 6 years old, barely at the dawn of life, dead from gunfire.

Please do not let their cries go on unheard. We need the Senate to pass comprehensive gun legislation yesterday because one death is too many.

I speak for the students who lead protests all over this country demanding more.

I speak for the moms who diligently march and protest every single day demanding more.

I speak for all of the citizens in our districts who have wept too many times.

I speak for those children who don’t feel like they will get an opportunity to grow up and to have a voice, those who cannot vote, and they are depending on the adults, adults like Mitch McCon nell, to act.

I pray that Mitch McCon nel does not experience the pain and agony that I am experiencing today, having to get on that airplane and go and face my friend since 1992 and her children in the wake of this. I hope that he will rest tonight, as I will not be able to rest tonight.

Perhaps this is just one person who died, just five people in Milwaukee who died, but this was a very important person to my friend. This was a part of our community. This was a part of our commercial industry. He was a very important part of the MillerCoors family. He was our neighbor, and he was a human being.

We are calling upon the humanity of you, Senator McConnell, to explain yourself to this man’s wife, to his two daughters, to his grandchildren why we can’t have a sensible background check piece of legislation.

Someone that I loved very much is on their way to the graveyard. Please dig up our legislation from your graveyard, Senator McConnell.

Ms. Porter. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin, for her powerful words in this time of tragedy in her district. I thank her for bringing the voice of those we lost to the United States Congress. I really appreciate her passion and compassion.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Soto) is recognized for the remainder of the hour.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewomen from Wisconsin and California for their wise words and for invoking the angels that we lost in Florida as well.

In honor of Women's History Month, I would like to recognize Carmen Carrasquillo.

Carmen is a graduate of New York's Baruch Community College and earned a business management certification from Columbia University. She worked as the administrator of the Boriken Health Center for the indigent community in East Harlem, New York.

Since joining the council in 1992 as the senior center coordinator, Carmen has worked with residents and leaders to initiate and sustain programs serving seniors and disabled adults. These have included the Osceola Council on Aging Senior Center numerous awards for maintaining the independence and dignity of our constituents, including Outstanding Senior Center in the State of Florida.

Her background as a bilingual teacher led to the first English classes for Spanish-speaking adults in Osceola County. This also led her to become a founding member of BRAVO, a non-profit organization that provided necessary information and referrals to a newly emigrating Hispanic population in Osceola County. Carmen was also named Woman of the Year in 1994.

Carmen assisted the Council on Aging with the opening of the first Hispanic site, Centro Latino Americano Edad de Oro, at the Buena Ventura Lakes Community Center, also known as the Roberto Guevara Community Center.

She was also one of the founders of the Senior Folies with the Osceola Center for the Arts, partnered with Southwest Airlines on a Home for the Holidays program, organized volunteer activities for AARP Community Care Days, organized Hispanic outreach for the South Florida Water Management District, started an intergenerational program with New Beginnings Educational Complex that partners at-risk high school students with seniors in various social activities, operating the Federal Emergency Food Assistance program and local food bank that supplies commodities to the poor and area organizations feeding the poor in Osceola County, and was appointed to the Florida Department of Agriculture TEFAP Advisory Board by Charles Bronson, our former ag commissioner.

For that, Ms. Carmen Carrasquillo, we honor you.

HONORING GIORGINA PINEDO-ROLON

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I would like to honor Deborah Guerrera Gale.

Deborah Guerrera Gale moved to Florida in 1978 from upstate New York, where she worked as a banking accountant after graduating from Ulster County College. Once in Florida, she decided to switch careers and became a draftsperson by studying engineering at Valencia College.

Deborah worked for Walt Disney World Ride & Show Engineering as an electromechanical designer for 10 years. She later returned to college to earn a bachelor's degree in human resource management from Barry University and held positions in Disney Human Resources, Organizational Development, and HR Information Services.

Deborah was raised by caring, progressive parents, Barbara and John Guerrera, who instilled in her a belief in the basic human dignity of all people. Through them, she learned that she could make a positive difference in the world and that she could achieve anything with hard work.

This belief inspired a drive for volunteer service in the community, such as organizing projects for foster teens residing at The Grove, an adolescent residential center for at-risk teens, and Help Now, a domestic abuse shelter.

She also served as president of the Celebration Women's Club, supporting women's charities and college scholarships. While living in Celebration, she was a founding member and president of the Democrats of Celebration.

After retirement, Deborah turned her attention full-time to civic activism and founded the Democrats of St. Cloud Club and was elected as chair of the Osceola County Democratic Party in 2019.

Deborah's belief that she can make a difference has fueled her passion to advance causes that can make our community and our county a better place for the next generation.

Deborah lives in St. Cloud with her husband, Michael Womick. They have one daughter, Jenna Womick Stowers, and a grandson, Tristan James.

For that, Deborah Guerrera Gale, we honor you.

HONORING DR. ANGELA M. GARCIA FALCONETTI

Mr. SOTO. In honor of Women's History Month, I would like to recognize Dr. Giorgina Pinedo-Rolon.

Dr. Pinedo-Rolon was born in Caracas, Venezuela, and moved to the United States in 1986. Since then, she earned a master's in TV production and journalism and a Ph.D. in social psychology.

Giorgina has extensive experience in television, print, and radio and has worked in various roles for Telemundo Orlando, Casiano Communications' Imagen magazine, and other local news outlets.

Currently, she works for the city of Orlando as the director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Giorgina has been very involved in the business community and the local government of central Florida. She has been recognized for her work with the following awards: Don Quijote Awards' Professional of the Year; Girl Scouts of Citrus' Women of Distinction Award; Visionary of the Year; Orlando Business Journal's 40 Under 40; Outstanding Community Service Award; and the Executive of the Year, HABLA Awards.

Dr. Pinedo-Rolon is a board member of the Crimeline and is the President of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Metro Orlando's Government Affairs Committee and a member of the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness' Family Homelessness Committee. She was a former board member and chair of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida.

She is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, American Association of Marketing and Public Relations, Hispanic Public Relations Association, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando, and a lifetime member of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

Giorgina is married to our Orlando police chief, Orlando Rolon, the first Puerto Rican to hold that position. She has two stepchildren and three grandchildren.

For all this and more, Dr. Giorgina Pinedo-Rolon, we honor you.

HONORING DR. ANGELA M. GARCIA FALCONETTI
At the national level, she served as special assistant to the first Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges in Washington, D.C.

Prior to being named president of Polk State College, she served as vice presidential advisor on community colleges at Virginia Western Community College and as executive director of the foundation.

Dr. Falconetti continues to serve as an active leader in national, statewide, and local organizations, including the American Association of Community Colleges’ Commission on Institutional Infrastructure and Transformation, the Florida College System Council of Presidents’ Steering Committee, the Florida Association of Colleges and Universities, and the Florida Chamber Foundation Board.

She lives in Winter Haven, Florida, with her beloved husband, Robert, and their daughter and the light of her life, Sophia. For that, Dr. Angela M. Garcia Falconetti, we honor you.

HONORING FIRST SERGEANT DAILA ESPEUT-JONES

Mr. SOTO. In honor of Women’s History Month, I would like to recognize First Sergeant Daila Espeut-Jones.

First Sergeant Daila Espeut-Jones was born and raised in Jamaica until the age of 15. In 1979, she migrated to Boston, Massachusetts, and later joined the Army in 1982. She served on Active Duty for 22 years and retired in 2004.

During her military tenure, she served in many positions, including squad leader, platoon sergeant, training noncommissioned officer, customs supervisor, plans supervisor, area support team leader, Korean linguist, senior transportation supervisor, first sergeant, and acting division sergeant major.

Her duty assignments included Fort Eustis, Virginia; Seoul, Korea; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Haiti; Honduras; Albania; Bosnia; Hanau, Germany; Orlando, Florida; and southwest Asia.

Her awards and decorations include: Legion of Merit; Bronze Star; Meritorious Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal, with two oak leaf clusters; Army Achievement Medal, with three oak leaf clusters; Humanitarian Service Ribbon; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; Parachutist Badge; Expert Weapon Marksmanship Badge; and German Silver Marksmanship Badge.

First Sergeant Espeut-Jones currently serves as the president for the Association of the United States Army’s Sunshine Chapter in Orlando and chair of the Orange County Mayor’s Veterans Advisory Council. She is an active member of the Women in Defense Central Florida Chapter; Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority, Inc.; Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club Orlando; National Defense Industrial Association; Semper Fidelis of America; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4297; American Legion; Orange County Veterans Treatment Court mentorship program; and mentor at several schools in Orange County.

In 2015, First Sergeant Espeut-Jones was selected as one of Orlando Business Journal’s Veterans of Influence. She is currently employed at ZelTech as a program manager.

For all that and more, First Sergeant Daila Espeut-Jones, we honor you.

HONORING ERNESTINE MASON DAVIS

Mr. SOTO. In honor of Women’s History Month, I would like to recognize Ernestine Mason Davis.

Ernestine Mason Davis grew up in the Florence Villa community and attended Jewett High School. She is a member of the First Missionary Baptist Church.

She is a founding member and a board member of the Lake Maude Recreation Center, now known as the Neighborhood Service Center. She is also a founding member of the Winter Haven Northeast Cultural Recreation Complex, Polk County Opportunity Council, and Haven Day Care. She has assisted in organizing the East Central Polk Democratic Club Council. She presently serves on the board of the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc.

Ms. Davis is a regular attendee at Winter Haven Commission meetings and spends her time working for social and economic justice issues. She continues to devote her time to the Polk County community by advocating for homeless families for low-income families, recreation for the youth, and civic and cultural programs for the community.

She is a member of the NAACP and has received numerous awards and recognitions. In February 2020, she was honored with a proclamation by the city of Winter Haven for her commitment to community service. She has received the Honorary Pioneer Award, the Agriculture and Labor Program Community Leadership Award, Volunteer Service Award, the J. Owens Academy of Fine Arts Award for being a civil rights leader, Community Service Award for advocating for children and families, and the NAACP Example/Volunteer Service Award. She has also received awards from her family for organizing and supporting family reunions.

She was married to the late John Wesley Davis and has five children. She is a grandmother and a great-grandmother.

For that, Ernestine Mason Davis, we honor you.

HONORING MARIA RAMOS

Mr. SOTO. In honor of Women’s History Month, I would like to recognize Maria Ramos.

Maria Ramos Joiner was born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. At the age of 3, her father decided to move the family to the Bronx in New York in search of the American Dream.

The New York public school system gave her the opportunity to attend field trips to museums and cultural art centers, sparking her love for the arts with her first visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Influenced by her mother’s old Bible, with its beautiful illustrations and stories, Maria’s passion for artistic expression further blossomed. The oldest of six, she collected brown paper bags as her canvases and confiscated every pen, pencil, or crayon that was unattended for her pretend studio.

By self-taught, Maria’s work has been shown in galleries and museums. Maria has also donated work for fundraisers to raise money for various causes.

One of the most important works she has exhibited was at the Memmello Museum, honoring the Pulse nightclub victims in 2016. After its exhibition initially, Maria graciously donated the piece to the city of Orlando.

Maria has also been recognized for her art depicting the culture of Puerto Rico, with an influence from the European masters she studied.

Maria is an advocate for the homeless and is known for her charitable work throughout the years, whether through her art donations or when someone is in need.

For that, Maria Ramos, we honor you.

HONORING COLONEL PAULETTE SCHANK

Mr. SOTO. In honor of Women’s History Month, I would like to recognize Colonel Paulette Schank.

Colonel Paulette Schank began her outstanding career as a licensed practical nurse out of high school, eventually achieving her master’s degree in nursing in pursuit of a career in patient care.

After gaining clinical experience, and speaking to several registered nurses in the anesthesia field, she decided her desire for further autonomy and utilization of critical thinking skills was perfectly matched to a career in the anesthesia profession.

Upon successful completion of a post-master’s certificate in nurse anesthesia, she worked for 6 years at Frankford Hospital and later at Oscelola Regional Medical Center in Florida. However, as the daughter of a retired naval chief petty officer, family legacy and patriotism drove Colonel Schank’s wish to assist patients in a much different setting. She enlisted in the Air Force and learned to transport patients in critical conditions.

These skills served her well in support of Operation Desert Storm, where she evacuated troops, with a 100 percent survival rate of those transported. During her 24 years in the service, Colonel Schank provided medical assistance in times of war and in humanitarian efforts—from Iraq to Turkey, Mozambique to Honduras and beyond.

As both a civilian nurse anesthetist and Air Force Reserve officer, she has dedicated her time to caring for others, be it in Florida or around the world.

Her love for education and helping those in need is ever present, and she
continues to surpass what it means to be a student, nurse, and a constituent of Florida’s Ninth Congressional District.

For that, Colonel Paulette Schank, we honor you.

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HONORING YASMIN FLASTERSTEIN

Mr. SOTO, Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women’s Month, I would like to recognize Yasmin Flasterstein.

Yasmin Flasterstein is the cofounder and executive director of Peer Support Space, Inc., which serves as a hub for diverse peer communities in central Florida. She also works as a wellness recovery action plan facilitator, is a board member and the Community Engagement Committee chair for the One Orlando Alliance, is a founding leader of Orlando Trans Collective, and sits on the board of directors for Central Florida Cares and Peer Support Coalition of Florida.

Yasmin has been in social justice leadership positions since she was 14; and has worked at the forefront of mental health advocacy, peer support, and the homeless from shifting from central Florida's Ninth Congressional District to Florida.

Yasmin has been in social justice leadership positions since she was 14; and has worked at the forefront of mental health advocacy, peer support, and the homeless from shifting from central Florida's Ninth Congressional District to Florida.

Yasmin was a leader in the mental health response to the Pulse tragedy, working as the program director for Orlando United Counseling, providing long-term help for those affected directly and indirectly. During this time, Yasmin also set up events to destigmatize mental health in LGBTQ+ communities and Latin, Black, and immigrant communities as well.

She is passionate about breaking down the mental health stigma that leaves people suffering alone and uses her experience as a suicide survivor living with PTSD and dissociative disorder to help others.

Her nonprofit, Peer Support Space, has helped over 2,500 individuals with free services during its inaugural year, and they have recently opened central Florida’s very first peer respite in my district.

And for that, Ms. Yasmin Flasterstein, we honor you.

HONORING CATHERINE HAYNES

Mr. SOTO, Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women’s History Month, I would like to recognize Catherine Haynes.

Originally from Indiana, Catherine now lives in Orlando, Florida. She is known to be a dedicated volunteer member, and supporter of the central Florida veteran and military community.

Fourteen years ago, she realized veterans weren’t receiving information about events that would be helpful to them. In order to fulfill that need, she created a massive email distribution list that includes veterans from six counties who are served by the Orlando VA Medical Center in Lake Nona.

As part of her patriotic duty, she regularly greets the three Honor Flight hubs at the Orlando International Airport. Once she greeted and thanked over 3,000 senior veterans for their service.

Catherine’s patriotism is inherent. She can trace her family’s military history back to the Revolutionary War, where her family served and became America’s first veterans. Almost every generation in her family has served our country, including her son, Andrew, who served in the United States Navy.

For several years, Catherine has volunteered with the Wall of Faces national project, whose goal is to match a photograph with every name that appears on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. Last year, she found a Florida Vietnam war casualty without a photograph. By using reverse genealogy, she found the veteran’s family, received his photo, and located him in an unmarked grave for almost 50 years.

Catherine has been finding photographs of war casualties across the nation for years and recently began focusing her efforts on Puerto Rico, where she has faced several challenges in locating nearly 100 pictures of the remaining Vietnam war casualties.

One of her favorite quotes is: “Well-behaved women seldom make history.” Her motto is: “The soles of my shoes seldom cool off, and neither do the tires on my car.”

Catherine is supported by her husband, Joseph, in her continual efforts to support our central Florida veterans and military community.

And for that, Ms. Catherine Haynes, we honor you.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. Lewis (at the request of Mr. Hooyer) for today and February 28.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SOTO, Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn. The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o’clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, February 28, 2020, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

3906. A letter from the Management Analyst, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Conveyance of Small Tracts (60 FR 39119, July 17, 1995; to the Committee on Agriculture.

3907. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation’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 Escrow Services (55 FR 48983, November 6, 1990) received February 23, 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.


3909. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (EPA-R-09-OAR-2019-0439; FRL-10005-31-Region 9) received February 18, 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.

3910. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (EPA-R-09-OAR-2019-0556; FRL-10004-14-Region 9) received February 18, 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.

3911. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Massachusettess; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2015 Ozone Standard (EPA-RI-OAR-2019-0085; FRL-10005-36-Region 1) received February 18, 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.

3912. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County (EPA-R-09-OAR-2019-0498; FRL-10005-65-Region 9) received February 18, 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.

3913. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County (EPA-R-09-OAR-2019-0498; FRL-10005-65-Region 9) received February 18, 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.
Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Negative Declaration for the Oxygen Transport in Noncritical Patients [EPA-OAR-2019-0552; FRL-100055-75-Region 3] received February 24, 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.

3915. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Procedures for Review of CBI Claims for the Identity of Chemicals on the TSCA Inventory [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2019-0200; FRL-100055-75-Region 3] received February 24, 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.

3916. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Ventura County; 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Requirements for Small Businesses; 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Requirements; Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date; Imperial County, California [EPA-OAR-2019-0200; FRL-100055-75-Region 9] received February 24, 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.

3917. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan; 2008 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Requirements; Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date; Imperial County, California [EPA-OAR-2019-0200; FRL-100055-75-Region 9] received February 18, 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.

3918. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Improving Outage Reporting for Submarine Cables and Enhanced Submarine Cable Outage Data (GN Docket No.: 19-206) received February 25, 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.

3919. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Improving Outage Reporting for Submarine Cables and Enhanced Submarine Cable Outage Data (GN Docket No.: 19-206) received February 25, 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.

3920. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission’s revision to policy statement — Revision of the NRC Enforcement Policy [NRC-2019-0213] received February 20, 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.

3921. A letter from the Chair, United States Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting the Board’s report titled “Filling the Gaps: The Critical Role of Underground Research Laboratories in the U.S. Department of Energy Geologic Disposal Research and Development Program; Report to the U.S. States, Congress and the Secretary of Energy”, pursuant to Public Law 100-203; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3922. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Set-Asides under Multiple-Award Contracts (FAC 2020-05; FAR Case 2014-002; Docket No.: FAR-2014-0002; Sequence No.: 1) received January 29, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3923. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration’s small entity compliance guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2020-05; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR-2020-0501, Sequence No.: 1] received February 25, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3924. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration’s small entity compliance guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2020-05; Improvements in the Use of Federal Contracting Officers’ Requests for Vendors ([EPA-R09-OAR-2018-0562; FRL-100055-57] received February 24, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.


3927. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Small Business Size Standards; Calculation of Annual Average Receipts ([RIN: 3245-AH16] received February 25, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Small Business.

3928. A letter from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Safety Zone; Hurricanes, Tropical Storms and Other Disasters in South Florida [Docket Number: USCG-2016-1067] ([RIN: 1625-AA00] received February 18, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.


REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3641. A bill to enhance civil penalties under the Federal securities laws, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-410). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:
By Mr. TLAIB (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DELAUR, Mrs. DINGLE, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HARVEY, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. KILDEE, Mr. LAWRENCE, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. MOORE, Mr. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Mr. PRESSLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SCHANK, Mr. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. VELA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WILD, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 5986. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish an interagency taskforce on unlawful robocalls; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE (for himself, Mr. BUCSEY, Mr. MCCURDY, Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ESPAILLAT, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CLARKE of New York, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. NEUSS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MENG, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. BURGESS, Mr. ESTRELLA, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 5986. A bill to restore, reaffirm, and reconcile environmental justice and civil rights, provide for the establishment of the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, Affirmative and Reconciliation, and, for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, Transportation and Infrastructure, Agriculture, 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. RATCLIFFE (for himself, Mr. CONWAY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HURD of Texas, Ms. GARCÍA of Texas, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. VELA, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. GÓMEZ of Texas, Mr. NOLAN of Texas, Mr. BARRAGÁN, Mr. THOM, Mr. GONZÁLEZ of Texas, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. FLORES, Mr. OLSON, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. ABBOTTS, Mr. CALVAN, Mr. BRADY, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. BURGEES, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BAHN, Mr. CENSHAW, Mr. WRIGHT, Ms. GRABER, Mr. MILLER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CUellar, Mr. CLOUD, Ms. ESCORAR, Mr. DOGGETT, and Ms. TROY):

H.R. 5967. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 909 West Holiday Drive in Fate, Texas, as the “Ralph Hall Post Office”; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE (for himself, Mr. CONWAY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HURD of Texas, Ms. GARCÍA of Texas, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. VELA, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. GONZÁLEZ of Texas, Mr. BARRAGÁN, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. FLORES, Mr. OLSON, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. ABBOTTS, Mr. CALVAN, Mr. BRADY, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. BURGEES, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BAHN, Mr. CENSHAW, Mr. WRIGHT, Ms. GRABER, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. ROY, Mrs. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CLOUD, Ms. ESCORAR, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 5988. A bill to establish the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2900 Wesley Street in Greenville, Texas, as the “Audie Murphy Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ADRENO):

H.R. 5989. A bill to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 5990. A bill to establish the Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. DELAUR, Mr. PORTIS, and Mr. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 5991. A bill to extend protections to part-time workers in the areas of family and medical leave and pension plans, and to ensure equitable treatment in the workplace; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 5992. A bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to include certain communities and to extend the fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BALDERSON (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. KINZINGER):

H.R. 5993. A bill to provide paid parental leave to certain employees of the Federal Aviation Administration, the Transportation Security Administration, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. BACON, Mr. GARZETT, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SOTO, Ms. DELBENÉ, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 5994. A bill to amend the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to identify a consistent, Federal set of best current practices and other information to address the Nation’s rising rates of first responder suicides and other mental health issues, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. GOLDEN (for himself and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 5995. A bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at no cost to members of Gold Star Families; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 5996. A bill to preserve the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, as wilderness in recognition of its extraordinary natural ecosystems and for the permanent good of present and future generations of Americans; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H.R. 5997. A bill to institute a pilot program to evaluate the effectiveness of certain water-related feasibility studies carried out by non-Federal interests; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H.R. 6001. A bill to reauthorize a pilot program to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of certain water-related projects carried out by non-Federal interests; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 6002. A bill to require certain national security officials to appear before Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 6003. A bill to exempt certain Federal first responder grants from matching fund requirements to address the Nation’s rising rates of first responder suicides and other mental health issues, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 6004. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program for purposes of facilitating State efforts to establish or maintain all-payer claims databases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on 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. KAPUSTA (for himself and Mr. BUCSHON):
H.R. 6005. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to increase transparency of group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage by requiring disclosure of price and quality information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PASCARELLI (for himself and Mr. POLI):
H.R. 6006. A bill to amend section 923 of title 18, United States Code, to require an electronic search of a database of otherwise protected WHOIS information, production, shipment, production, receipt, sale, or other disposition of firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PASCARELLI (for himself, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mrs. BEATTY):
H.R. 6007. A bill to promote youth athletic safety and education and prevention of brain injuries or post-traumatic stress disorder; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. RATHERFORD, and Mr. COX of California):
H.R. 6008. A bill to direct the Attorney General to develop crisis intervention training tools for use by first responders related to interacting with persons who have a traumatic brain injury, another form of acquired brain injury, or post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PERRY LUTTTER (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):
H.R. 6009. A bill to amend the Energy Empowerment and Employment Act to extend the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Education and Labor, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PHILLIPS:
H.R. 610. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to support State and local governments making a transition to ranked choice voting; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. SCHIFF:
H.R. 611. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for nonrecognition of gain on real property sold for use as affordable housing; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKY, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BILL of Arkansas, Mr. DEAN, and Mr. LOUDERMILK):
H.R. 612. A bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to establish a grant program to facilitate financial literacy programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself, Ms. CHERNEY, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WALITZ, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. GONZALEZ of Florida, Ms. SHALALA, and Ms. MUCARELLI-Powell):
H.R. 686. A resolution condemning the comments of Senator and Democratic Presidential candidate, Bernie Sanders (I-VT), disregarding the history of systemic human rights abuses, and calling on the Administration to fully cooperate in determining the likelihood of the existence of human rights abuses in the People’s Republic of Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. WILD, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. BEITNICK, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DANNY K. Davis of Illinois, Mr. VESTAVIC, Mr. MOORE, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KING of Virginia, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOLYI of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BASS, Ms. WATERS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SMITH of Washington, D.C., Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):
H.R. 869. A resolution recognizing and celebrating the significance of Black History Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:
H.R. 870. A resolution electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives and ranking a Member of the Committee of the Jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. LAMM, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. DENGEL, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. BRUCH, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DANNY K. Davis of Illinois, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. COOPER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. VELA, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. KRUEGER of Georgia, Ms. LUMBERG, Mr. CARTER, Mr. ERCANBAYLI, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LIPINSKI, Ms. PINI-GREE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MCCARVELLA-Powell, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHULTZ, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. PORTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KILMER, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. MECKS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MIYUKI, Mr. MCCINN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. PASCARELLI, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. MENO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. PATERNA, Mr. SOTO, Ms. WEXTON, Mrs. DAVIS of Georgia, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TRONE, Ms. RICE of New York, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. DE LAURO, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. KAPUR, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. RYAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGUINNESS, Mr. DELAURD, Mr. GABRIELLE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SABLON, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. TWAH, Mr. GREELEY, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANDENBERGER, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CORTEZ, Mr. REED of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HALLAND, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LUIJAN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDEN, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. CARLOS C. B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SARGENT, Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. KILDER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. KIM, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CROST, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. FINKENauer, Mr. MAX WAKEMAN, Mr. SCANLON, Ms. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. RYAN, Mr. KEATING, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. COX of New Jersey):
H.R. 871. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Congress should enact the Older Americans Bill of Rights to establish that older Americans should have the right to live with dignity and with independence; to the Committees on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma (for herself, Mr. HALLAND, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. FALLONE, Mr. DAVIS of Kansas, Ms. BASS, and Mr. TIE LIN of California):
H.R. 872. A resolution recognizing the vital importance of Native American participation in the 2020 decennial census of population; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. BEATTY:
H.R. 873. A resolution recognizing the impact and importance of improving prevention, detection, and treatment of PTSD for African-American women with cardiovascular disease and diabetes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BEATTY:
H.R. 874. A resolution expressing support for the annual Heart Valve Disease Awareness Day on February 22, 2020, coinciding with American Heart Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LATTA:
H.R. 875. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that domain name registration information, referred to as “WHOIS” information, is critical to the protection of the nation’s financial and economic security, intellectual property rights enforcement, cybersecurity, as well as the health, safety, and privacy of its citizens, and should remain readily accessible; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Ms. TLAIB:
H.R. 5984. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 1 of the Constitution. By Mr. BUDD:
H.R. 5985. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Under Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have
power to make all laws which shall be neces-
sary and proper for carrying into Execu-
tion the foregoing powers and all Powers
vested by this Constitution in the Govern-
ment of the United States, or in any Depart-
ment or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GRJALVA:
H.R. 5986.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 3
To regulate Commerce with foreign Na-
tions, and among the several States, and
with the Indian Tribes;
U.S. Const. art. IV, sec. 3, cl. 2, sen. a.
The Congress shall have Power to dispose of
and make all needful Rules and Regulations
respecting the Territory of other Property
belonging to the United States;
By Mr. RATCLIFFE:
H.R. 5987.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 7
By Mr. RATCLIFFE:
H.R. 5988.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 7
By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:
H.R. 5989.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States
Constitution
By Mr. RUSH:
H.R. 5990.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:
H.R. 5991.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
The Congress shall have Power . . . To regu-
late Commerce with foreign Nations, and
among the several States, and with the In-
dian Tribes.

By Mr. STANTON:
H.R. 5992.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
By Mr. BALDWIN:
H.R. 5993.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
The Congress shall have Power . . . To regu-
late Commerce with foreign Nations, and
among the several States, with the In-
dian Tribes.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:
H.R. 5994.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitu-
tion
By Mr. BILIRAKIS:
H.R. 5995.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to
the power of Congress to regulate Commerce
with foreign Nations, and among the several
States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:
H.R. 5996.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Sec-
tion 4, Clause 1 of the United States Con-
stitution, which grants Congress the power
to raise and support an Army; to pro-
vide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for
the government and regulation of the land
and naval forces; and provide for organizing,
arming, and disciplining the militia.

By Mr. CICILLINE:
H.R. 5997.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States
Constitution
By Mr. ENGEL:
H.R. 5998.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. GOLDEN:
H.R. 5999.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitu-
tion
By Mr. HUFFMAN:
H.R. 6000.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:
H.R. 6001.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:
H.R. 6002.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the
Constitution.
By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:
H.R. 6003.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all
Laws which shall be necessary and proper for
carrying into Execution the foregoing Pow-
ers, and to all other Powers vested by this
Constitution in the Government of the
United States, or in any Department or Offi-
cer thereof.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:
H.R. 6004.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. BALDWIN:
H.R. 6005.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. MALINOWSKI:
H.R. 6006.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Con-
stitution of the United States.
By Mr. PASCRELL:
H.R. 6007.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Sec-
tion 6, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PASCRELL:
H.R. 6008.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power
granted to Congress under Article I, Section
8, clause 18
By Mr. PERLMUTTER:
H.R. 6009.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. PHILLIPS:
H.R. 6010.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. SCHIFF:
H.R. 6011.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to Congress’s
power to lay and collect taxes, as enumer-
ated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the
United States Constitution.
By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia:
H.R. 6012.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS
Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors
were added to public bills and resolu-
tions, as follows:
H.R. 151: Mr. BUDD.
H.R. 153: Mr. BARTIN.
H.R. 396: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 372: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 383: Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 387: Mr. ABRAHAM.
H.R. 803: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 856: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 906: Mr. NHAL and Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 978: Mr. BERA.
H.R. 989: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 1043: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma,
Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. HECK.
H.R. 1049: Mrs. MILLER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD,
Ms. SCHNEIDER, Mr. POISSON, Ms. TORRES SMALL of
New Mexico, Mr. BERA, and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 1154: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1235: Mr. COMER and Mr. STEUHE.
H.R. 1374: Mr. GOODEN.
H.R. 1379: Mr. BRINDISI.
H.R. 1380: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 1407: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1443: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 1530: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 1535: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1544: Ms. DeLBTEN.
H.R. 1597: Ms. SCHNEIDER, Ms. TLAIK, Ms. POR-
TER, and Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 1682: Mr. GOODEN.
H.R. 1711: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 1766: Mr. FLORES, Ms. MUCARELLO-Pow-
ELL, Mr. COOPER, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 1814: Mr. COOK, Ms. WATERS, Mr. TED
LIEU of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms.
JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 1873: Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. DESAULNIER,
and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 1920: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2075: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 2086: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. TED LIEU of
California, and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 2128: Mr. CARBAJAL and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 2148: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 2150: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 2164: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois.
H.R. 2208: Mr. HORNSFORD and MS. PRESSLEY.
H.R. 2215: Mr. LOWEY.
H.R. 2271: Mr. COX of California.
H.R. 2279: Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms.
HOULAHAN, Ms. DiGGETTE, and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 2391: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. LEE
of California, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mrs.
LEE of Nevada, and Ms. HAALAND.
H.R. 2477: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 2541: Mr. SPANO.
Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 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.

God of might and mercy, thank You for providing our lawmakers with opportunities for courageous and noble service. Inspire them to labor for Your glory in all they think, say, and do. Illuminate their minds with the light of Your divine precepts.

Lord, equip our Senators for their tasks that they may be physically fit, mentally alert, morally straight, and spiritually strong. Create in them the life of purity, honesty, and altruism that contributes solutions to the problems they face.

May they work with perseverance and magnanimity for the new and better day toward which Your divine intentions guide them.

We pray in Your faithful Name.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Tillis), the Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask permission to speak in morning business for 1 minute.

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

RECOGNIZING IOWA STAFF

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to recognize what my staff in Iowa does because I can't be in Iowa all the time. I am in Washington, DC, for long periods of time.

This is my 40th year holding Q&A in each of Iowa's 99 counties. My regional staff is also committed to holding meetings across Iowa. My Iowa staff serves as my eyes and ears when I am working in Washington, DC. That is why they host mobile office hours in every county and attended roughly 1,400 meetings across the State last year.

My regional directors tour hospitals, businesses, and childcare centers. They meet with disaster victims, government officials, and senior citizens. They attend ribbon cuttings, community forums, and legislative discussions.

Serving Iowans is my top priority. I urge Iowans to contact any of my six offices across the State if I can be of assistance on Federal matters.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the continued spread of the coronavirus—COVID–19—has the world on notice. Here in the United States, we are fortunate not to be facing an immediate crisis. In response to early reports of the outbreak, the administration began monitoring efforts and enacted commonsense travel restrictions to help blunt and delay the spread of the virus here in our country.

Obviously, as our public health experts remind us, a nation of nearly 4 million people cannot be hermetically sealed off from the rest of the world. There seems to be little question that COVID–19 will eventually cause some degree of disruption here.

The question before us now is how we can help the administration and our professional medical experts continue their efforts to take advantage of this head start. Our task is to make sure these dedicated professionals have what they need to continue preparing in ways that are calm, smart, and effective.

Here in Congress, first and foremost, that means providing additional surge resources for the comprehensive Federal response. It is our job to ensure that funding is not a limiting factor as public health leaders and frontline medical professionals continue getting ready.

That is exactly why, several days ago, the Trump administration submitted an initial request for supplemental funding to begin the conversation. It was exactly the kind of action that many of our Democratic colleagues had been demanding, but as soon as the administration did take action, to the apparent puzzlement of basically everyone, including his fellow Democrats, the Democratic leader began launching partisan political attacks at the White House instead of working together to get this done.

Just days ago, the Democratic leader signed a letter "strongly urging" this kind of funding request, but almost the instant it arrived, he began blasting it as "too little too late." and our colleague continued to move the goalpost.

His strong views on the necessary amount of funds varied daily. It has been a strange and clumsy effort to override normal, bipartisan appropriations talks before they even happen and replace them with top-down partisan posturing.

Everyone from his fellow Democrats to President Trump have seemed perplexed by the Democratic leader's political game playing. It is not clear to
anyone why he is prioritizing fighting with the White House over simply letting the appropriators do their work.

I feel confident that the coronavirus does not care about partisan bickering or political news cycles. This new disease is not going to pause so that Members can remain in performative outrage that gets us further from results rather than closer.

This is our first step in confronting the challenge. The Congress must be prepared to work together across the aisle in a collaborative way and actually get results.

Fortunately, it appears we will have an opportunity to put this cynicism behind us quickly and move forward in a unified way. Bipartisan discussions are already underway among our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee. I have full confidence that Chairman SHELBY, Senator LEAHY, and our colleagues are fully capable of handling this quite well.

I have faith the committee will carefully consider the right sum to appropriate at this time to ensure our Nation’s needs are fully funded. I hope they can work expeditiously so the full Senate can be able to take up the legislation within the next 2 weeks.

And I hope, as we move forward through this challenge, this body can put reflexive partisanship aside and uphold the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that this will require.

TRIBUTE TO LAURA DOVE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now, on an entirely different matter; earlier this week I said paying tribute to departing Senate staff is one of my favorite and least favorite things to do, simultaneously.

So I am especially unhappy to be back at it again today. There is almost nobody—nobody—in this institution with whom I have worked more closely, or whose counsel I have sought more frequently, over the past 6½ years than Laura Dove.

Few people actually understand how important the Secretaries for the Majority and to the Minority are to this institution. These two officers supervise each side’s cloakroom and floor staff. They are sort of like air traffic controllers who help Senators sequence the bills, amendments, and nominations that we vote on. They keep every office apprised of what exactly has happened, is happening, and will happen on the floor.

They serve as in-house procedural experts to each side, advising the leader and the chairmen. And they build close relationships with every Member of their side, trying to ensure the floor schedule reflects everything from Senators’ policy priorities to their personal scheduling conflicts.

And while the two Secretaries are doing all this work in parallel with each other, they are also constantly working together. On many daily questions of process and of timing, their one-on-one relationship is the diplomatic frontline between the two sides of the aisle.

The Senate, as you know, is a consensus-based institution. Almost every practicality is made more easier with bipartisan agreement—from scheduling major votes to packaging nominees, to literally turning the lights on every morning. And it is often Laura and her counterpart, Gary, who hammer out those details.

Consider the limitless scope of this job. It is no wonder Laura has made a certain piece of human resources pharmacology into her personal mantra and her cloakroom’s motto: “Other duties as assigned.”

The Secretary for the Majority is essential to the Senate, and so Laura has become essential to all of us.

There cannot be many father-daughter pairs in world history—in world history—who have bonded over parliamentary procedure, but the fact is, it doesn’t just seem like the Senate is Laura’s natural habitat; she literally grew up in this place.

Laura’s father, Bob Dove, started in the Parliamentarian’s Office in the 1960s. Bob kept in the 1980s, and 1990s, he was the Parliamentarian.

Bob was known for a wry saying he would repeat after tough days: “You may love the Senate, but the Senate may not love you.”

Unfortunately, for his family, one of the Senate’s love languages turns out to be keeping people here late at night, which meant that the Dove family dinners, orchestrated by Laura’s mom, Linda, sometimes happened in the corners of this very building.

The exposure sparked Laura’s curiosity. Those family dinners turned into days off from school, spent wandering the halls and trying to imitate the doings of those in power. Those family dinners turned into time spent studying for math and art tests, thinking about entering the foreign service.

Laura’s natural habitat; she literally didn’t just seem like the Senate is Laura’s natural habitat; she literally grew up in this place.

That was the mid-1980s. Laura debuted in the cloakroom right around the time I debuted as a freshman Senator. Neither of us knew what awaited us.

From the lowest rung to the top of the ladder, Laura threw herself into literally everything. At every step, no task was too insignificant and no challenge was too great. Laura has had a hand in every accomplishment of this institution for nearly a decade. She has played a significant role in literally every single victory of this majority.

Her job performance alone would be stunningly impressive. But what is even more unfathomable is the level of kindness and good cheer she has maintained while doing it. She seems to be looking at you with a smile on her face and a show tune on her lips. She treats everybody with the same respect and simple kindness, from the pages whom she invites over for home-cooked holiday meals to the Senators whose family details she has committed to memory.

She is as happy tutoring junior staff in Senate basics as talking strategy with senior members. No matter how late the floor was open the night before, the same Laura clocked in the next morning, full of joy and maybe a new recipe to share with fellow Senate foodies.

Laura reminds us that the Senate’s strength comes from its people. She has embodied this in her professional conduct, fighting to preserve and protect this institution as she helped us navigate through it, and she has embodied this institution in her personal character as well. She treats everybody with such warmth and respect as though this Chamber were our shared second home—and in some cases, it literally has been.

This staffer is so dedicated that she has rung in major milestone birthdays on these very premises, stolen sleep on a couch during overnight sessions—you get the picture.

We were shocked when Laura’s previous attempts to leave the Senate fizzled out after a year or so. I remember being relieved when I got another year, but I suspected she would be back. But this time is different. In recent months, I know Laura has grown more and more excited to reallocate some time from her second home to her real home, to the family she has built with her husband Dan and their children, Abby and Jake.

Laura loves this body, its rules, its quirks, and its history more than almost anything. I say almost anything. But she loves a family dinner with those three, a glass of Chardonnay, and a game night by the fireplace even more. And as they prepare to send their oldest off to college soon, that time is becoming extra precious.

For us Senators it is hard to imagine what is going to happen when Laura is not here. I imagine she may feel the same way. But I know this: Those of us who remain will frequently ask ourselves “What would Laura do?” And whether the issue at hand is institutional or strategic or culinary, we will know asking that question will point us in the right direction.

I also know that Laura will be deeply missed with some never-widened gap in her own. She will know that, in a rare occurrence, her brilliant father actually got one thing wrong—that funny old saying: “You may love the Senate, but the Senate won’t love you back.” Well, his daughter will leave knowing that is only half true.

So, Laura, this institution cannot thank you enough, nor can this majority, nor can I. But I feel certain you will never quite be a stranger to the Senate. I don’t think you could manage even if you tried. So we won’t say goodbye. We will just conclude with one more piece of Laura lingo she made famous: “Ciao for now.”
MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3339

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk reads as follows:

A bill (S. 3339) to restore military priorities, 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I want to join with the leader and my colleagues in thanking and recognizing Laura Dove, who is leaving us and the Senate at the end of the week. I don’t think there is anyone more identified with the U.S. Senate by Senators and their staffs than Laura.

When the leader was arriving here as a freshman Senator, I was arriving as a young 24-year-old staffer and happened to, as we often do, sit Laura up. Laura was a page here. So she has been here; this has been her life; and many of us have had the opportunity through the years to observe her in action and to realize not only how talented and gifted she is but what a person of incredible integrity and character as well.

She spent more than two decades serving in the Senate and three weeks serving as my seatmate during the impeachment trial, which I am hoping wasn’t the last straw in convincing her to retire.

For the last 7 years, she has been the Secretary of the Minority and Majority, a role that involves managing the Republican cloakroom, helping develop the floor schedule, keeping Members informed about votes, and providing Members with legislative and parliamentary counsel.

Laura has done all that and more over the past 7 years and has done it with distinction. All of us on this side of the aisle rely on her counsel, and there is no way we would have been able to accomplish all that we have accomplished in the past few years without her wisdom and expertise. She has the respect of all the Senators—always, with a smile—and actually have them listen.

I have sought Laura’s advice many times, especially since becoming whip last year, and I will greatly miss her counsel, although I am hopeful she will be leaving a forwarding address for future questions.

As the leader pointed out, you might say Laura was raised on the Senate. Her father, Robert ‘Bob’ Dove, twice served as Senate Parliamentarian and had a Senate career that spanned nearly 40 years, so Laura grew up steeped in Senate procedure and tradition.

But her own career began as a Senate page, and I think perhaps her proudest accomplishment in the Senate has been mentoring literally the scores of pages who have passed through the Republican cloakroom on her watch. I know she has made their experience a richer and more meaningful one.

So, Laura, we thank you for your tireless work, the long days and the nights you put in. Your wisdom, patience, and unfailing good humor will be sorely missed by Senators and staff of both parties. We wish you all the very best in your future endeavors, and I hope that your next job will involve fewer late nights and more time for leisure, including loading up the RV and showing the black hills to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, most of us think that today’s internet is pretty fast. We receive traffic updates basically in real time within a second or two, and stream our favorite shows whenever and wherever we want. But as advanced as today’s internet is, the next generation of internet 5G will make 4G look like dial-up.

For instance, once the broadband technology will deliver speeds up to 100 times faster than what today’s technology can deliver. It will be vastly more responsive than 4G technology, and it will connect 100 times—100 times—the number of devices that can be connected with 4G.

While that will make it even easier to do the things we do today, like check our email or stream our favorite shows, the biggest benefits of 5G will lie in the other technologies it will enable—precision agriculture, medical and surgical innovation, safer vehicles, and much more.

The technology for 5G is already here, but there is more work to be done to get to nationwide 5G deployment. A key part of getting to that point is developing the workforce that will be required to install and maintain the 5G network.

Current internet technology relies on cell phone towers, but 5G technology will require not just traditional cell phone towers but small antennas called small cells that can often be attached to existing infrastructure like utility poles or buildings.

Wireless providers will have to install nearly 800,000 small cells around the nation to support a nationwide 5G network. Of course, after installation, every one of those small cells will have to be monitored and maintained. That will require substantial increase in the telecommunications workforce.

It is estimated that deploying the necessary infrastructure for 5G will create approximately 50,000 new construction jobs each year over the build-out period, and that is just for construction. Right now there simply aren’t enough workers with the necessary training to meet the needs of nationwide 5G.

Industry and community colleges have stepped forward to provide training opportunities, but more work needs to be done if the United States wants to step forward into the 5G future.

As past chairman of the Commerce Committee and the current chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications Technology and the Internet, 5G has long been a priority of mine. I have spent a lot of time focused on advancing 5G deployment, especially to rural States like my home State of South Dakota. I was very proud to be in Sioux Falls a few months ago when one of the first 5G networks in the country.

In 2018, the President signed into law legislation that I developed to increase access to critical spectrum, and I have also introduced legislation to facilitate small cell deployment, especially in rural areas.

Today, I am introducing legislation to address the other part of the 5G equation—creating a large enough workforce to deploy and maintain all these new cells. Industry and community colleges have both stepped forward to provide programs to train workers. Places like VIKOR Teleconstruction and Southeast Tech in Sioux Falls, SD, are already helping to train workers for the 5G future.

But more work needs to be done.

My Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act would help increase the number of workers enrolled in 5G training programs and identify ways to grow the telecommunications workforce to meet the demands of 5G. My bill would require the Department of Labor to bring together our Federal partners, as well as individuals on the ground, deploying next-generation telecommunications services. The resulting working group would be required to identify any current laws or regulations that are making it difficult for educational institutions and businesses to establish programs to help grow the workforce needs of the telecom industry.

It would also be required to identify existing Federal programs to help address workforce shortages, as well as ways the Federal Government could encourage or incentivize growth in the telecommunications workforce, including the deployment of fixed broadband in our rural areas. My bill would also direct the Department of Labor and the Federal Communications Commission to issue guidance for States to help leverage existing Federal resources for growing their telecommunications workforces and to help them improve recruitment for industry-led telecommunications development programs like the Wireless Infrastructure Association’s Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program.

I appreciate my colleagues, Senators Tester, Moran, and Peters, for partnering with me on this bill.

Getting to 5G in the near future is important for our whole country—both economically and for the advances it will bring in fields like medicine and...
auto safety—which is why it has been a major priority of mine over the past few years.

I am particularly motivated by the benefits that 5G could bring to my home State of South Dakota. The ability to deploy precision agriculture on a wide scale would have huge benefits for South Dakota farmers. Better access to telemedicine could bring better healthcare to thousands of residents in my home State and other rural areas. To get these benefits, we have to ensure that the telecommunications companies are able to find the workers they need.

I hope we can quickly advance this legislation so the United States can continue its march into the 5G future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH.) The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO LAURA DOVE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I come to the floor for two reasons. I am first going to recognize the good work that the Secretary for the Majority, Laura Dove, has done for the entire U.S. Senate, particularly for the majority but mostly for the smooth running of the Senate.

Before I speak on another issue, I want to associate myself with the great comments that Leader McConnell made this morning about the work of the Secretary for the Majority, Laura Dove. Laura's work in the U.S. Senate has been tremendous, with over 20 years of service. Few know Senate procedures as well as Laura Dove. She keeps the Senate firing on all cylinders, working for the American people.

I am a Senator who has not missed a vote in almost 27 years. Laura Dove and the Republican cloakroom, partnering with her and with me in my commitment to not miss a vote—they ensure that I am here when I am needed for those votes. I thank Laura for helping me serve the people of Iowa effectively.

I will miss Laura all the best in her next chapter. There is no doubt that we will miss her sharp intellect and warm smile here in the Senate Chamber.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as Iowa farmers count down the days to get into the fields, baseball fans are counting down the days for that first pitch to cross the plate. As a farmer and also as a baseball fan, hope springs eternal.

However, we have gotten wind that Major League Baseball is throwing local clubs a curve ball—a curve that would hurt baseball, hurt local economies, and the fields of dreams in my home State. That is three strikes right there.

I have got news. Don't count us baseball fans out! These local communities and this U.S. Senator aren't going to sit on the sidelines. Now, here is the news: Major League Baseball said that it may cut ties with as many as 42 Minor League clubs, including three historic affiliates in Iowa: The Burlington LumberKings, and the Quad Cities River Bandits.

I have been in communication with the deputy commissioner of Major League Baseball, Dan Halem, both in letters and on the phone, about the importance of these teams to Iowa. I am sure a lot of my colleagues have made the same contacts.

I have also joined, with a bipartisan group of my colleagues, in introducing a resolution today supporting all Minor League Baseball teams across the country. For generations of Iowans, these ball clubs are a vibrant source of civic pride, a vibrant source of entertainment, and—would you believe it—a vibrant source of economic development.

While I have been to just a handful of Major League Baseball games, I have fond, fond memories of going to Minor League Baseball games in Waterloo, IA. We call them the Waterloo White Hawks, a club team for the Chicago White Sox. I had an opportunity, as a young person, to see Luis Aparicio play there in Waterloo before he made it big in the majors as a shortstop for the Chicago White Sox.

You can see that I want Iowans to continue to have that same experience. For the record, I am and will always go to bat for Iowa. As Iowa's senior Senator, I will do what I can to ‘root, root, root’ for the same team.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the nomination of Travis Greaves, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today as the Democrats continue to scare the American public when it comes to their healthcare.

This week's Democratic Presidential debate the other night in South Carolina was a free-for-all. Their frontrunner, a man I believe to be a dangerous democratic Socialist, Bernie Sanders, is in the lead, and he seems to be in the lead. Socialist tax-and-spend policies remain on full display.

The top policy priority of the Democrats and even those making $29,000 a year in America. They are proposing a complete government takeover of our Nation's healthcare system—a complete government takeover. They call it Medicare for All, but let's take a look at what that actually means. It means that 180 million Americans who get their health insurance through work would lose that insurance. They would lose that health insurance. Washington bureaucrats would be in control of healthcare.

The Sanders proposal has a price tag of $34 trillion—$34 trillion with a "t." It would bankrupt the country and everyone in it. The only way to even try to pay for it is with massive, across-the-board tax hikes. Bernie Sanders said he is willing to do it.

Do not be deceived when they first talk about targeting the rich because the tax increases would hit working families and even people making $29,000 a year. That is according to Bernie Sanders' own math. And taxes are likely to double. Medicare for All would deliver a crushing blow not only to family budgets but I believe to the very economy that would end America's success story.

Thanks to Republican tax and regulatory relief, we have a record-setting economy, record low unemployment, record job growth—7 million new jobs. Wages are rising. Middle-class wages and blue-collar wages are going up. It is a worker windfall, a blue-collar boom. A record 61 percent of Americans say they are better off financially than when President Trump took office. People are confident about the future, and the President's job approval is at an all time high.

Still, the 2020 Democrats don't seem to get it. You don't hear a positive word about the economy. Instead, Democrats seem to attack one another and try to move further and further to the Left. During the debate last week, the crowd actually booed a defense of free markets.

Some Democratic candidates are proposing a scaled-back version of Medicare for All that they call a “public option.” But this proposal would create a
government health plan to compete with work-sponsored health insurance. Don’t be fooled—that public option would hurt patients across the country, especially people living in rural areas. It would disrupt insurance coverage, slash funding for doctors and hospitals, and force rural hospitals and clinics to close. Simply put, a public option is a pit stop on the road to 100 percent government-run healthcare in America.

Clearly, Democrats are ignoring their own voters. Union workers across the country are telling Democrats: Don’t touch our hard-earned healthcare benefits. People don’t want radical healthcare schemes, which is what the Democrats are proposing. People care more about their pocketbooks. They don’t want their own healthcare, but they want it at a lower cost. That is what I hear every weekend at home in Wyoming.

Americans are struggling to pay for insurance premiums for doctors, for hospitals, and for prescription drugs. According to a new POLITICO-Harvard poll, 8 in 10 Americans—89 percent of Democrats and 76 percent of Republicans—want us to lower their health costs. Seventy-five percent say we must lower the costs of prescription drugs. I agree. The Kaiser Family Foundation reports that nearly one in four people is having trouble paying for their prescriptions. But Socialists want to destroy our economy. They will only worsen the problems.

Republicans are listening to people’s concerns. We have commonsense solutions to lower out-of-pocket costs without lowering standards. I am a doctor, the husband of a breast cancer survivor, and the son of a 97-year-old mother. Let me assure you, Republicans will always protect vulnerable Americans, especially people with pre-existing conditions. The Republican healthcare agenda is about giving patients more choices and better healthcare. It is about improving healthcare access and affordability.

Working with President Trump, we are already providing much needed relief from costly ObamaCare taxes. These unfair taxes hurt working families, they hurt small businesses, they hurt seniors, and we have ended them.

Now we are working to drive down drug costs. As part of this effort, in December, Republicans successfully lobbied Senators to introduce the Lower Costs, More Cures Act. This legislation would limit out-of-pocket drug costs for people with Medicare Part D plans. We also ended the drug price gag rule to help patients find more affordable drugs. We are working to end surprise medical billings. These unexpected, unreasonable, and unaffordable bills undermine families’ finances. It is an intolerable practice, and it must stop.

Republicans are delivering better health outcomes for people. As we make more progress, we need Democrats to work with us. It is time to come together. It is time to cooperate. It is time to find common ground. I will tell you, taking away health insurance from 180 million Americans who get it through work is not common ground. There is no common ground. That is the direction of the Democratic Party. We need to find common ground. Taking insurance away from people who work hard and get it from work and then giving free health insurance to illegal immigrants and raising taxes from Americans to pay for it is not common ground.

Let’s work together to give patients the high-quality care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs. 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 roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO FETTY OFFICER EVAN GRILLS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, as expected, it is time for our “Alaskan of the Week” speech. One of the most fulfilling things I get to do as Alaska’s Senator is come down to the floor of the Senate and talk about the people in my State who are making a difference in their communities, in the State, and in the country. It is a great opportunity in which to do that.

I always encourage the Clerk. I always have a story to tell. There are watching and listening to come to the great State of Alaska for a visit. You will love it. It will be the best trip you ever take. I guarantee it.

I know the pages enjoy this speech each week because it is a story of what real people are doing and, in many cases, of humble heroes. Usually, these are happy stories that I get to talk about, but sometimes they aren’t happy. The story I am going to tell today is, in fact, a very tragic one, but it contains the kind of heroism and selflessness that can spring from a tragedy and literally inspire a State or a nation.

If you are listening, I think you are going to be inspired.

I have said on the floor before that we are a State—an enormous State, a big State in the country, by far—but that we are also a family and that, when something happens to members throughout the country but specifically to those who were on the flight—the pilot, LT Christopher Clark, the copilot, LT Jonathan Ardan, and the mechanic, Jacob Dillon—said, they are heroes in this story, but I want to specifically highlight the role of the rescue swimmer that evening of New Year’s Eve—25-year-old PO Evan Grills. Now, Evan is a relative newcomer to the great State of Alaska, but his heroism in saving two lives more than qualifies him to be our Alaskan of the Week.

Before I get into the story of this perilous mission, let me tell you a little bit about the fishing community in Alaska and why our Coast Guard is so very valuable.

Alaska’s seas are the most productive in the world and, by the way, the most sustainably managed in the world. More than 60 percent of all seafood harvested in the United States of America and in Alaska’s waters—6-0. I like to refer to our State as the superpower of seafood, which we clearly are, and our fishermen are probably the hardest working small business men and women around the world. They work hard. They take huge risks. And they produce a product that is second to none anywhere on the planet. They face brutal conditions at sea and sometimes very tough conditions in the market, but they love their work. They love the value they play in supplying the best tasting, most sustainable wild fish products to America and the globe—literally, the best.

The industry used to be incredibly dangerous, and it is still the Nation’s second-most dangerous profession. I am sure a lot of the viewers have seen the show the “Deadliest Catch,” but unlike in previous decades, the culture has trended more toward safety. Most Alaskan fishermen you will meet, though, will have a harrowing story of a time at sea, and, of course, they will have harrowing stories of rescues.

Kodiak, AK, where the Scandies Rose is home-ported, is at the center of our fishing community. Kodiak is one of the biggest fishing ports in the entire United States, both in terms of value and in terms of quantity. For those who have never been there, they have to go to Kodiak, AK. It is a magical, beautiful place. It is an island—one of the biggest islands in America. It is about the size of New Jersey—with beautiful, wonderful people, with tough people. By the way, the biggest brown bears on the planet all reside in Kodiak. The heart of Kodiak beats fish, and when one of its own perishes at sea, it is still doing for Gary, Jr., and David Cobban—two hard-working, fine fishermen from a great family.
Kodiak is also home to the largest Coast Guard base in the United States—the 17th District. By the way, we are making that base bigger, with more assets and more aircraft coming to Alaska, because we need it. As the chairman of this subcommittee, I am going to continue to make that happen, for sure. In an average month in Alaska—get this—the Coast Guard saves 22 lives, performs 53 assists, and conducts 13 security boardings and 22 security patrols. It is very dark.

Year’s Eve. The winds are 40 knots. The Rose Scandies—now to this crabbing boat, the Well Done, he was coming in. They had no idea if anyone was coming to get them. In the Gulf of Alaska on New Year’s Eve, in the Gulf of Alaska on New Year’s Eve.

Now, being a rescue swimmer in the Coast Guard is an elite assignment. Being a rescuer in the Coast Guard station in Alaska is, according to our Alaskan of the Week, PO Evan Grills, the “tip of the spear” of this elite assignment. So let me tell you a little bit about Evan.

Raised in Stuart, FL—the home of our Presiding Officer, Florida—the military had always appealed to Evan. His grandparents and uncles were marines. As a Marine colonel myself, I say “Semper Fi” to them. Some of his older friends and mentors went on to the academies, but going overseas didn’t really appeal to Evan. Serving in the United States and saving American citizens at home did, as did the tough training required to be a Coast Guard rescue swimmer. “It’s the most elite [assignment],” he said, “and that’s what appealed to me, [so I joined].”

Evan had been in Alaska for less than a year when, on New Year’s Eve—just 2 months ago—the call came in that a boat had run aground about 170 miles southwest of Kodiak was in trouble.

Having trained mostly in swimming pools, this rescue—the one he was being called upon—was going to be his first. Think about that. Your first rescue—and I am going to describe conditions that would terrify anyone. Nothing prepared him for what he would soon be undertaking.

Mr. President, let me transport you now to this crabbing boat, the Scandies Rose, in the Gulf of Alaska on New Year’s Eve. The winds are 40 knots. The seas are 30 feet. The boat is listing to the starboard side. It is 10 degrees out. Everything is freezing. It is nighttime.

It was clear the boat was going down, but the captain, heroically, with minutes to spare, was able to get off a mayday call and in doing so let the Coast Guard know exactly where to find them and, as a result of the captain’s actions, save two lives.

The two survivors, Dean Gribble, Jr., and John Lawler, managed to get into their survival suits and a life raft and waited to be rescued in these heavy, rough seas. It was a 4-hour wait. It was very, very cold. They were covered in ice. The seas were pitching their raft. They were hypothermic, it was pitch black, and they had no idea if anyone was coming to get them.

Gribble told a reporter that during the wait, he talked to John.

“We’re not going to die today, John. This isn’t our time. We’re not dying today.

Even though, in his head, he knew they would die if a rescue didn’t come soon; they saw the lights from the helicopter, with Evan Grills aboard, hovering above like an angel coming to save them. But it wasn’t a given that in those conditions, they could even conduct a rescue; that it would be safe for the rescuer to jump in 30-foot swells to save them. To even try in these huge waves, in 40-knot winds, in icy conditions, was a danger to the crew and the pilots. The flight from Kodiak in those conditions had taken 2 hours, and the helicopter was short on fuel. They only had minutes left to make the decision whether to try to rescue them or turn around and go back to Kodiak. That, combined with the extreme winds and seas and freezing temperatures, made any attempt at deploying a rescue swimmer very, very risky.

The pilots conferred with our Alaskan of the Week, Evan. They were nervous for his safety. They were hovering. They had to hover high because they didn’t want to hit the waves. They asked: “Are you good with the plan?”

“I guess so,” Evan said.

This was the first rescue of his career. I don’t think there was much of an option not to do it. A thousand different thoughts went through Evan’s head when he leapt into the frigid waters in a gale-force storm in pitch darkness, risking his life to save others.

When he reached the first survivor, he said:

“I knew exactly what to do and how to do it. It was almost second nature.

His training kicked in. His great Coast Guard training kicked in. He explained the hoist he had come down with—that came down from the helicopter to the first survivor and how it worked to be hoisted up into the helicopter. And then to the second survivor, he said, “We’re going to go up in this hoist together. Relax, I’ve got you covered.” Calm. Courage. Heroic. And he did. He had them covered.

These are the actions of a hero, a true American hero, a true Alaskan hero. These are actions that need to be celebrated and known in our country. How many Americans or Alaskans, even, read about what this young man did to save lives on New Year’s Eve when the rest of America was celebrating and having fun? Well, now they know.

But there are five, as I mentioned, who tragically couldn’t be saved. We know their memories live on. And in Kodiak, the community, the family, and the loved ones of the Cobbans are beginning the long, slow process of healing.

As for Evan, our Alaskan of the week, he thinks a lot about those who were lost, wishing he could have done more, but he is grateful he was able to save two lives. He is also grateful for his training and what the Coast Guard does and how what he had trained for as a rescue swimmer worked. So he knows and now has the confidence that he can save others when they are in trouble.

“That’s the core of it,” Evan said. “Obviously, we don’t ever want anybody to get in trouble on the seas”—particularly the rough seas of Alaska—“but they do. And I’m happy I have the skills and training to save them.” Spoken like a true, humble hero, which this young man is.

We are also glad you have the skills and training to save others, Evan, and we want to thank you.

Petty Officer Grills. Semper Paratus. Thanks for all you are doing. Thanks for your courage, your example, your inspiration, and thank you for being our Alaskan of the week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

TRIBUTE TO LAURA DOVE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I would like to stand here by talking about a friend of ours who has chosen to move on and leave the Senate and spend more time with her wonderful family. I certainly understand that because the job she has, which is Secretary for the Majority, is more than a full-time job; it is living, breathing, sleeping this place, and she does a great job at it.

Her name is Laura Dove. She has been doing this particular job for 7 years. Prior to that, she actually was here on three different occasions, as I understand it, working for the Senate. She grew up with it. Her dad was the Parliamentarian here for 36 years.

Laura is a consummate professional. I work with her a lot on legislation. She helps me to get things through the process here, which is not always easy, but as significant, she works very closely with her counterpart on the Democratic side of the aisle and figures out how to get stuff done, how to keep this whole operation so that the world’s greatest deliberative body, as they call the U.S. Senate, can meet its great potential and expectation.

So, to Laura Dove, we are going to miss you. As much as we understand why you need some time with your family right now and your great, great kids, we are going to miss you a lot.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. President, I am here on the floor today to talk about how this strong American economy has led to historic low unemployment and the right things to respond to that problem, it can become an opportunity—an opportunity to bring Americans off the
sidelines, who for too long have not been in the workforce or have been underemployed, to bring them back to work.

It gives us the potential to do two things. One is to strengthen the economy—our economy is strong, but it would be even stronger if we could fill this gap. By the way, if we don’t fill this gap, if we don’t provide the workforce, the economy will weaken. Second, it is to help millions of Americans who are not working, on the sidelines, or who are underemployed to find meaningful employment with good pay and good benefits.

Pro-growth Federal tax policies, regulatory policies, and other policies over the past few years have worked. Some of us have talked about the need to reform the Tax Code and make it work better. A trillion dollars has been invested in the U.S. economy since tax reform. As an example, we have seen unemployment at low levels—3.6 percent, which is a very low number—almost a 50-year low. The number of people looking for work, and that exceeds the number of jobs out there, there are still millions of Americans who are on the sidelines. It is estimated that there are about 8 million working-age men—this would be between the ages of 25 and 55—who are not looking for work.

This means the unemployment number which I mentioned earlier, at 3.6 percent, which is a very low number—almost a 50-year low—is not the real number. The real number is actually higher than that. If you assume a normal labor force participation rate. In other words, if you had some of these people who are out of work—I mentioned the 8 million men—coming into the workforce, the unemployment rate would be higher. In fact, if you go back to what the normal labor force participation rate would be just before the last great recession, the unemployment rate today would be about 7.6 percent, so about double what it actually is. That is an opportunity. That is an opportunity.

Now, why aren’t these folks working? Well, there are a number of reasons for that. Let’s be honest. We don’t really know. We have held a lot of analysis of it in our own office trying to figure it out, and part of it is the opioid crisis, I am convinced. I have come to the floor 60 times in the last few years to talk about the opioid crisis. We are making progress on that now. That is good. But when surveys are done by the Department of Labor or by the Brookings Institute, they show that a substantial number, as many as 6 million people, say they are taking pain medication on a daily basis who are out of work altogether. So those, roughly, 8 million men, for example, in one study, 47 percent say they are taking pain medication on a daily basis. Two-thirds have acknowledged it is prescription pain medication. This goes to the issue of opioids—opioid prescription drugs, heroin, fentanyl, and so on. When people are addicted, often it is impossible for them to get their act together to be engaged in work on a regular basis. So the opioid crisis definitely affects this.

Another one, of course, is a lot of people are in our jails and prisons. We have a record number of people in prison. A lot of people are now getting out. The idea of the First Step Act and the Second Chance Act, which is legislation that is actually helping to get people back to work, is important, but, frankly, for many of them, it is tough to get a job. That is why we often see these people are on the sidelines.

We have now had 22 straight months of more jobs being offered than there are workers looking for work—22 months, almost 2 years of that. So there are a lot of openings out there. One thing that is interesting is that even though the economy is strong and we have unemployment at about 3.6 percent, there are still people out there on the sidelines who aren’t coming in to work, as they would normally. Economists call this a low labor force participation rate. What that means is, even though we have a lot of jobs out there, there are still millions of Americans who are on the sidelines. We are seeing that. That is great news for the folks I represent in the State of Ohio. It has been about a decade. That used to be a feeling that if they worked hard and had a chance to earn more, to be able to have more opportunities, the economy moving and give people the ability we had in tax reform and tax cuts. As an example, we have seen the highest percentage increase in wage growth over the past 2 years. By the way, that was one of the great victories we won over the past year. And, in my home State of Ohio, its labor force participation rate today is just about a 50-year low in terms of unemployment.

The Congressional Budget Office has told us through recent data that we have grown at a steady 2.3 percent rate in the last 2 years. By the way, that averages 15 million people a year, and that is what we need in order to make up for lost ground over the last 5 years. By the way, that is a very low number—almost a 50-year low—of the real number. The real number is much higher than that. If you assume a normal labor force participation rate. In other words, if you had some of these people who are out of work—I mentioned the 8 million men—coming into the workforce, the unemployment rate would be higher. In fact, if you go back to what the normal labor force participation rate would be just before the last great recession, the unemployment rate today would be about 7.6 percent, so about double what it actually is. That is an opportunity. That is an opportunity.

Another issue that I think needs to be looked at is this skills gap. This is a big part of what is going on right now. There are jobs out there, but they require a certain level of skill. So it is great that we have low unemployment. It is great that we have a lot of things going on right now, but we just don’t have enough skilled workers to fill those jobs that keep growing.

I visited dozens of factories and businesses over the past year, and I keep hearing: We have this job for a welder, and we can’t find any welders. There are plenty of people looking for work out there, on the sidelines looking for work, but there are no welders. There is one company in Ohio that told me they can hire up to 100 welders. It is a big manufacturing company. In Ohio and across the country, there are lots of these job openings for machinists, medical technicians in hospitals, and other positions. By the way, if we don’t fill this gap, if we don’t provide the workforce, the economy will weaken. We are seeing that. That is great news for the American people and the economy moving and give people the ability we had in tax reform and tax cuts. As an example, we have seen the highest percentage increase in wage growth over the past 2 years. By the way, that was one of the great victories we won over the past year. And, in my home State of Ohio, its labor force participation rate today is just about a 50-year low in terms of unemployment.

In fact, among blue-collar workers—what the Labor Department says—non-supervisory employees have seen the highest percentage increase in wage growth. For blue-collar workers, there has been a 6.6-percent wage growth over the past 2 years. By the way, that is about $1.50 an hour on average.

It is a big deal, and it is very important because that was one of the great objectives we had in tax reform and tax cuts, was to ensure that we get the economy moving and give people the chance to earn more, to be able to have a feeling that if they worked hard and played by the rules, they could get ahead. We are seeing that. That is great news for the American people and great news for the folks I represent in Ohio who are finally benefiting from higher wages.

At the same time, I am hearing from small business owners all over the State of Ohio—in fact, businesses at every level—that although they are able to move forward and add jobs, they are looking for workers, and that workforce is their biggest single challenge.

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and technical education, CTE. For those who are a little older, you might think of a vocational school. CTE is so impressive today. It is not your old vocational school, it is high-tech, using much better equipment. The schools that are making it seriously are bringing in excellent teachers from the inside, from industry, to understand what is needed in the real world. CTE is a great opportunity for so many young people.

A few months ago, I toured the Vantage Career Center in Van Wert, OH. I go to a lot of career centers. I love to go. I am very inspired when I go. In Van Wert, they have juniors and seniors from more than a dozen school districts coming into one CTE center. They are studying things such as automotive technology, welding, nursing assistant training, carpentry, and truckdriving. They are finding when these students get out, they can typically get a job. Some are going on to further skills training. Some are going on to community college, some are going on to 4-year institutions, but for young people in high school, look at CTE. It makes so much sense.

I co-founded and co-chair what we call the Senate CTE Caucus. When I first got here in 2011, I started this with Senator TIM KAINE of Virginia. We started off having 3 of us in the caucus, and now there are 29 people in the caucus. Why? My colleagues go home, and they are hearing the same thing I am hearing, which is that we need to close the skills gap. Companies are looking for people, and it is a great opportunity for people who are on the outside to get into the inside to get a job with good pay and benefits.

Our job is to increase awareness of these skills programs as an education option. Our job is to get students who are more interested in skills training into these jobs. This month of February—CTE Career Education Month. We are putting together a resolution. We have 57 Senators who signed on to the resolution so far, and if you haven’t signed on, let us know. It is an opportunity to just raise visibility about what is working well in so many of our States and the amazing opportunities out there for our young people.

We passed some good legislation to help. In 2018, we passed the Educating Tomorrow’s Workforce Act, which is working to improve the quality of CTE education programs, making sure we are using equipment and the standards of today’s industry to make these programs even more effective.

But skills training goes well beyond just these great high school programs. Industry-recognized, certificate-granting technical workforce training programs post-high school are another key to close the skills gap. Think of some of the workforce training programs you have heard about in your community that are being offered by your community college or may be offered by a local technical school. They give people a certificate they can then take to get a job that is industry recognized. For these kinds of post-high school training programs, I think the big opportunity comes in improving access because programs are expensive and a lot of people can’t afford them. A lot of midcareer people can’t afford them.

One thing we can do immediately is say: Let’s expand Pell grants to include these kinds of programs. You can get a Pell grant if you want to go to a community college or go to a 4-year college or university. For some people, that is the right track, but, frankly, for a lot of people, they are looking to get these technical skills and get a certificate and get a job. There is no reason they shouldn’t get the same help that the government is providing someone who wants to go to a 4-year college or university for these programs to provide certificate and the up getting a job, a lot of needed. In fact, I would say we ought to focus on that more. We ought to change our mindset and say: Let’s not just focus on college, as important as it is—and it is the right track for some students—but we ought to have an equal emphasis on skills training.

We have legislation that is very simple. It says that for low-income families, where the students are eligible for Pell for college or university, let’s make them eligible for one of these skills training programs that are less than 15 weeks. It has to be a high-quality program and provide this industry-recognized certificate.

Our legislation is called the JOBS Act. It makes so much sense. It is bipartisan and bicameral and we should get it done. By the way, for those students who go through a technical training program and get that certificate and end up getting a job, a lot of them do go to college, but guess who pays for it? Typically, it is the company who pays for it. So they don’t end up having this big debt or burden that so many students have. Student debt in America is about $27,000 per student; whereas, if you go to one of these programs and end up getting an associate’s degree or bachelor’s degree or master’s degree, typically you aren’t paying anything because your employer is going to pay for you to get that additional training.

My hope is that we can move this legislation forward quickly. It is something I hear from everyone back in Ohio. Our skilled workers held roundtables on workforce at manufacturing businesses such as Stanley Electric in Madison County and Fecon, Inc., in Warren County, and we talked about this issue with businessmen, workers, and community leaders who are actually on the job, and all these groups agree the JOBS Act is needed and needed badly.

What is more, we know that a lot of businesses who are getting engaged in this are willing to help these skills training programs to be more effective and to provide the skills training that actually works for them. The JOBS Act has now been endorsed by the National Skills Coalition, the Association for Career and Technical Education, the Business Roundtable, and other groups. It is the No. 1 priority, we are told, of the Association of Community Colleges and the American Association of Community Colleges. We heard the same thing from the Ohio Association of Community Colleges when I met with them earlier this month.

I must state that I am also very pleased that the JOBS Act is included in the President’s budget this year, as it was last year. I applaud President Trump and his administration for promoting this and on the work they are doing in training, internships, apprenticeships, and the JOBS Act, to provide this funding to encourage more Americans to get the skills training needed for them to have a better future. It is the best proposal out there, I believe, to help fill the skills gap right away.

There are some alternative proposals out there that limit the kind of programs that would be eligible for this by requiring them to be a certain number of hours. Our community colleges in Ohio tell me that none of their short-term training programs would qualify for some of these alternatives that people are talking about. For programs like welding, precision machining, and electrical trades, we need to get the funding into the short-term training programs now.

As I said earlier, this is CTE Month, Career Technical Education Month, so it is a good time to talk about all forms of technical education. If we make expanding these technical skills programs a priority, if we enact the JOBS Act that I have been talking about today, we are going to address the No. 1 issue we hear from our employers, and we are going to help millions of Americans have a better opportunity.

There is momentum in Ohio right now. Businesses are expanding and seeking skilled workers, but, again, the skills gap is still an impediment. We need to seize this opportunity, keep our economy moving in a positive direction, and help Ohioans develop the skills to grow in the career of their choice and fulfill their potential in life.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first, let me comment that the Senator from Ohio is right on target. I know that when we did the authorization bills—we actually have language now that we put in to try to encourage people while they are still in high school to find out what they want to do with their lives. One of the problems we have right now is, we have a great economy—the best economy we have had in my lifetime—but the fact of the matter is, there are a lot of competition out there, and we want to make sure that people are directed into areas where they really can enjoy life and where the market
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will work in their favor. We are very much concerned about that with the two bills we have done so far that has new language in there to encourage people to use pilot programs in high school to know what direction they want to go with their lives.

Mr. President, this week, we voted on two very important bills—the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act and the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. Unfortunately, my colleagues on the Democratic side voted to block these bills, so I would like to thank my colleagues, Senators GRAHAM and SASSE, for their leadership on these bills. I would like to thank Senator MCCONNELL for his efforts to bring these bills to the floor.

Now this short comment period I have here does have a happy ending, and I am actually anxious to share some things with people. When you look at these two bills—first, Senator SASSE’s bill, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act—a bill I co-sponsored in the past—it would ensure that a baby who survives an abortion would receive the same treatment as any other child who was naturally born at the same age. Now that is interesting and it is not many people out there realize that if someone goes to an abortion and they were not successful in killing the unborn baby, when they survive and they are out and they are breathing, they don’t get the same treatment any other baby would get? People are not aware of that.

So that is what this bill is all about. That is just morally right, and I don’t see why there would be any disagreement about it. The bill is not even about abortion. It is about infanticide.

It was 28 years ago that I came down here in this very Chamber to tell the story of Ana Rosa Rodriguez. This is what I said. Keep in mind this was 28 years ago. I said:

Mr. Chairman, there is a big misconception regarding the issue of women’s and their right to protect their bodies. It is not that right that I object to but the right that is given them to kill an unborn fetus—an unborn child.

I want to share with you a story that my colleague Chris SMITH told me some time ago on this very floor.

Ana Rodriguez is an abortion survivor. . . . At birth she was a healthy 3 pound baby girl, except for her injury; she was missing an arm. Ana survived a botched abortion.

Her mother attempted to get an abortion in her 32nd week of pregnancy when she was perfectly healthy—8 weeks past what New York State [at that time would] legally allow. In the unsuccessful abortion attempt, the baby’s right arm was ripped off. However the baby survived and was alive. Pro-life supporters agree that nightmarish situations like the Rodriguez case are probably not common, but abortion-related deaths and injuries occur more frequently than most people are aware.

It is amazing that we [and I am still quoting from 28 years ago] can pay so much attention to such as human rights abroad and can allow the violent destruction of over 26 million children here at home. We are fortunate that Ana was not one of those children. She survived.

That was 1992. And today, we still don’t have explicit Federal protections for babies who survive the brutal abortion process. As I said, this issue is not about abortion, it is about caring for a baby outside the womb. This baby is alive. It is a baby who is living in the real world.

The need for these protections has become even clearer as we see States like New York pass Bills allowing abortion for virtually any reason up to the point of birth and supporting infanticide by removing protections for an infant born alive after a failed abortion.

Just a few years ago, after that speech—and that would have been in 1997—I was on the floor with my good friend Rick Santorum to try to pass a partial-birth abortion ban and end the practice of late-term abortions. Fortunately, we won—we won. But, unfortunately, the constitutional challenge to that legislation ended that practice in 2003. That ban was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2007.

We have yet to pass legislation banning late-term abortion. Only seven countries allow abortions after 20 weeks, including the United States and North Korea. Now, that is horrific. The United States is supposed to be an example in regard to global human rights, yet we are on par with North Korea when it comes to protecting the unborn.

Senator GRAHAM’s Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act would help roll back the practice by prohibiting abortion after 20 weeks post-fertilization. The reason he is using this 20 weeks is there is one agreement that no one takes issue with, and that is, babies feel pain after that time. Most people say that babies feel pain greater than adults do. That is why that 20 weeks was used in the legislation.

This is another commonsense bill that should not divide us along partisan lines. A baby is a baby whethet in or outside the womb, and each baby deserves a chance to live as an individual created in the image of God.

There is still much more we need to do to end the abortion-on-demand culture, but, thankfully, we have the most pro-life President we have had in history. This January, President Trump welcomed the first sitting President to attend the annual March for Life. It is a rally in Washington. Hundreds of pro-life Oklahomans joined the President and tens of thousands of Americans in the march. I had a chance to meet many of these Oklahomans, many of them extremely young baby is high school. They were here marching.

They asked me how to respond when the radical left attacks their views, and I told them to be kind but not to be afraid to voice their opinions. After all, they are still young.

Under President Trump’s leadership, we protected the Hyde amendment. We reinstated and expanded the Mexico City policy and stripped abortion providers like Planned Parenthood from using title X funding for abortions. And not just that, but under this President, we have also confirmed 193 new judges. That is the largest number of judges in this particular timeframe of a President. This is the second highest total in history at this point in a Presidency.

These judges actually understand and uphold the Constitution. I haven’t polled them myself, but I suspect the very majority or maybe all of them are very sensitive to the sanctity of human life.

The need to stand up for our babies is as important today as it was when I made this speech in 1992 and in 1997. I am looking forward to building on the successes under this President.

We have something happening that is unusual now. We have a President who is very pro-life, and we also have a lot of new judges whom we suspect will be conservative, constitutionally. We will overcome evil with good by upholding and affirming the dignity and inherent worth of every human life, and we will seize the opportunity that we have today.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I want to talk today about Black History Month and, specifically, about Black History Month and baseball. This month marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first successful organized black professional African-American baseball players.

On February 13, 1920, a group of eight midwestern team owners got together at the Paseo YMCA in Kansas City, MO, to form the Negro National League. Before then, these African-American teams had a lot of great players. They barnstormed around the country. They played sport of whomever they could and whenever they could. But in 1920, these eight owners got together and decided that everybody would benefit with more structure in the league, and they established a league to see that we got that structure.

In the first 10 years of the league, the Kansas City Monarchs won the pennant four times. As the league thrived, other leagues were formed for African-American players in the South and in the East. Over the years, some of the greatest players in baseball played in the Negro leagues. Jackie Robinson, Satchel Paige, and Kansas City’s own Buck O’Neil played there. There were many others we would recognize who
I have been certainly glad to take my son Charlie to the museum. I go there with some frequency. A few years ago, I encouraged Major League Baseball to have an event there when they were having the All-Star Game in Kansas City. I don’t think there was a player who went to that event at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum who wasn’t both impressed and touched by what they saw there. It is an important part of our history.

Another part of our history that very closely relates to this is something I will be a part of later this afternoon. Congressman DAVID TRONE of Maryland, over on the House side, and I, along with Senator DURBIN and Congressman CLAY from St. Louis and Congresswoman WAGNER from St. Louis, are sending a letter to the Baseball Hall of Fame telling them that they need to include Curt Flood in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Curt Flood was a great player and should be part of the Baseball Hall of Fame just on his playing skills alone. He played with the Cardinals most of his entire career—7 consecutive years. That included two World Series pennants in 1964 and 1967. He won seven Gold Gloves and was a 7-year AAAA designated the best center fielder in the National League.

I remember that team well. We were Cardinals fans in my house. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, you didn’t have satellite TV. You would go to virtually every Cardinals game we could hear on the radio. My mom and dad were dairy farmers. I remember being out hauling hay at night, and whoever was driving the truck should have been almost deaf because if there was a Cardinals game going on, the radio would be as loud as it possibly could be so those of us out tossing the bales on the hay truck could hear the Cardinals game.

I also remember—and I checked myself yesterday to be sure I was accurate—but on that Curt Flood team, that 1964 team, it was Bill White at first base; Julian Javier at second base, Dick Groat, short stop; Ken Boyer, third base, and Tim McCarver catching. Most of the time, and always if available, Bob Gibson was pitching. In the outfield was Lou Brock—the great Lou Brock. Curt Flood was in center field, and Mike Shannon in right field. By the way, Mike Shannon still announced games on the radio and occasionally on television.

It was a great team, and Curt Flood was an important part of that team. Frankly, he should be in the Hall of Fame just because of that—the two World Series, Most Valuable Player, the best center fielder in baseball, at least in the National League, for 7 years straight.

In late 1969, the Cardinals decided they were going to trade Curt Flood to the Phillies. I don’t think Curt Flood necessarily had anything against the Phillies, but he didn’t want to be traded against his will. So he wrote a letter to the commissioner of baseball. In that letter he said: “After 12 years in the Major Leagues, I do not feel that I am a piece of property to be bought and sold irrespective of my wishes.”

That began the challenge of the reserve clause in baseball. Maybe it is particularly significant here in Black History Month that an African-American player was the one who challenged the reserve clause.

With the reserve clause in baseball, you would play for your team’s owner as long as you wanted to. Unless your team’s owner decided you would play for someone else. Then you would play for that person as long as they wanted you to play, unless you decided you didn’t want to play baseball anymore.

It was Curt Flood who challenged that. He lost his Supreme Court case. It was a 5-to-4 loss in the Supreme Court. But it didn’t take too many years before not only was the reserve clause reversed but Curt Flood was recognized in Federal legislation.

There is a copy of that single-page letter filed as part of the 1970 case at the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown. If there is a copy of Curt Flood’s letter in 2021, then Curt Flood should be in the Hall of Fame.

I hope those looking back at what is called the golden years of baseball look at players who didn’t get into the Hall of Fame, take our advice, look at Curt Flood, look at the good things that have made for players playing the game today, and put him in the Hall of Fame.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

IMMIGRATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to say that we have gotten some good news this week from our Southern border. We’re making progress on the wall that President Trump has fought so hard for, and that progress will be further supported by billions of dollars in new appropriations funding to reach the President’s goal of 450 miles by 2021. Think about it—450 miles that have been secured.

What we do know is that as a result of all of these ramped-up security efforts, border apprehensions are down 78 percent from last May’s high of over 120,000. We have halved—numbers every single month for the last 8 months. This is a very good thing. It shows the word is getting out that we are serious about our sovereignty, about securing our border, about ending the access that traffickers—human traffickers, drug traffickers—have had on that border. That is a good thing.

This good news is clouded a little bit by the reality that all is still not well. Border Patrol officials estimate that nearly 1 million migrants—crossed our border illegally and evaded apprehension in
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fiscal 2019. That is the severity of this problem. Think about it—1 million people, additional people. Think about the size of a population of 1 million people. That is the number that moved into our country. We do not know who they are, where they come from, or why they have come from. We do not know if they are traffickers. We do not know if they wish us well or their intent for coming into our country.

While things are trending in the right direction, I think it is fair to say we are not out of the woods yet on this issue of illegal immigration. Until we get this influx of illegal aliens under control and manage the fallout of allowing so many people to come into this country and live illegally, this is what we have.

Every town is a border town and every State will remain a border State because of the problems they have to face every single day.

Let me give an example. On December 29, 2018, Knoxville, TN, fire chief D. J. Corcoran and his wife Wendy’s lives were changed forever, and their happy, healthy family was brutally transformed into a grieving Angel Family. On that day, an illegal alien in Tennessee killed their 23-year-old son, Pierce Corcoran. It was a head-on car crash. Pierce died that day. A few months later, that illegal alien was deported to Mexico.

I have to tell you, for me, as I have worked with Gentleman Corcorans since this time and shared their grief, this is an unsatisfying end to a tragic series of events that never should have happened because the man responsible for Pierce’s death never should have been in Tennessee in the first place.

That story is heartbreakingly. Unfortunately, it is not unique. In 2019, another Tennessean, named Debbie Burgess, was killed in a hit-and-run accident caused by an illegal alien with a lengthy criminal record.

Just last week in Sevier County, TN—and this is something that has shaken the entire community—two elementary school children walking to school were hit by an illegal alien who fled the scene. Tragic.

Every Member of this body is well aware that our country’s permissive attitude toward illegal immigration has real-life consequences. Our constant debate over policy and funding does not exist solely in the abstraction of politics. Starting right now, we must look internally and ask ourselves what changes we can make to disincentivize illegal entry into the United States. What can we do?

It seems so easy to people: Come across the border illegally. You might be able to get benefits. You can have access to education. You can work. There is a way to do this and live in the shadows.

How do we disincentivize this?

While Tennessee, along with a majority of States, prohibits driver’s licenses for illegal aliens, a growing number of States are moving in the opposite direction and allowing dangerous, open-border-style policies.

This month, I introduced the Stop Greenlighting Driver Licenses for Illegal Immigrants Act, and its purpose is precisely what the title of this bill says it will do. It says: If you don’t have a REAL ID, there are some States in red. If you live in one of those States, your State—your State—has agreed to give driver’s licenses to illegal aliens.

Let me tell you a little bit more about this. It is added into law, the bill will halt certain Department of Justice grant funding to States that defy Federal immigration law, non-complying States—that means those States that say: We are not going to comply with Federal law. Oh, no, not us. We are going to be a sanctuary for those who are illegally in the country and are choosing to break the law.

They decided they are going to be a sanctuary for illegal aliens. That is what you call a noncomplying State. Those States will enjoy access to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. This is a program that was created to fund local law enforcement and criminal justice initiatives.

In 2019, the driver’s licenses to illegal immigrants received over $50 million from this program, so their choice to defy the law will result in no small sacrifice. It is their choice. They can choose, if they want to, to say: We refuse to comply with Federal law. They can make that choice, but they are not going to get taxpayer money through law enforcement grants. This is common sense.

I want to encourage my colleagues to think back to the fear and confusion with Federal law.

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I will tell you, I should not have to say: We refuse to comply with Federal law. I will tell you, I should not have to say: We refuse to comply with Federal law. I will tell you, I should not have to say: We refuse to comply with Federal law.

The courts are coming down on the side of security. Yesterday, a Federal appeals court—the Second Circuit Court in New York—upheld President Trump’s authority to enact anti-illegal immigration, anti-sanctuary policies similar to the one that would be codified in my legislation. It would allow for those funds to be restricted for those entities that are making a choice, taking a vote, and deciding they don’t want to comply with Federal law.

I will tell you, I should not have to stand on the floor of the Senate and beg our colleagues to support policies that stand with the rule of law and prevent tragedies like the deaths of Pierce Corcoran and Debbie Burgess.

I ask my colleagues to join me in this effort, join me in standing with the rule of law. Join me in standing with these Angel Families who know grief that wish no one had to know and experience. Join me in supporting the Stop Greenlighting Driver Licenses for Illegal Immigrants Act.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. GARDNER pertaining to the introduction of S. Res. 514 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mr. GARDNER. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.
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Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night in California, an American was diagnosed with the first reported case of coronavirus unrelated to any travel to an infected area—a sign that coronavirus is here on our shores. We must act swiftly and strongly to contain its spread.

Despite months of public warnings about the danger of this disease, the President completely flat-footed it with the coronavirus. And now, instead of quickly marshaling the resources of the Federal Government to respond to this health crisis, President Trump is intent on blaming everyone and everything instead of solving the problem. Instead of stepping up to the plate, he is belittling the urgency of this problem and telling people: Oh, it’s not very much. The experts say the opposite.

As for blame, the President is blaming the press for stoking concern about the virus; the President is blaming social media for magnifying those legitimate concerns; and the President, typi- cally, is blaming Democrats too.

But this President's lack of preparedness in particular is belittling the problem. It was President Trump.

Who cut $35 million from the infectious disease rapid response fund? President Trump.

Who cut $85 million from the emergency infectious disease account? President Trump.

Who cut $120 million from public health preparedness and response programs? President Trump.

And who just proposed cutting 16 percent of CDC’s budget—the agency in charge of fighting this kinds of viruses? Not the Democrats, not the press—President Trump.

Of course Democrats want to work quickly with the President to get a handle on this problem. Lives are at stake, but the President cannot belit- tle the danger. It is real; it is looming; it is serious.

To hear the President last night, when most of his speech was not a sober speech calling America to unite and fight this virus—it was mainly name-calling, politics, blaming, and, in fact, belittling the problem and the danger.

The President must stop trying to minimize the nature of the coronavirus threat. His attempts at spinning the facts are just not credible, and they are harmful to the Federal response.

In order to prevent overreaction by the public and to protect the Federal officials—especially the President and Vice President—level with the American people. Telling the American people the truth and then coming up with solutions to solve it is the way to calm people down—not simply saying “Oh, don’t worry about it” and then spending time blaming others. That is not going to calm people down; that is going to make them more worried.

So let’s let the science and the facts guide us. The American people do not need or want uninformed opinions or spin from its leaders. They want the truth.

Now, the first step the Congress must take is to ensure that the government has the resources to combat this deadly virus and keep Americans safe. I have made a request for $8.5 billion for this purpose—far more than the admin- istration requested; only half of which is new funding. The rest of the President’s proposed funding is stolen from other accounts.

Any emergency funding supplemental the Congress approves must be entirely new funding, not stolen from other accounts, and include, at minimum, strong provisions that ensure, one, that the President cannot transfer these new funds to anything other than coronavirus and American and global preparedness to combat epidemics and infectious diseases; two, vaccines that are affordable and available to all who need them, not just to those who have a good deal of money; three, interest- free loans be made available for small businesses impacted by the outbreak; and four, State and local governments be reimbursed for costs incurred while assisting the Federal response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Democrats in both Chambers will work closely with Republicans to pass a supplemental appropriations package with these criteria in mind. But in the meantime, President Trump must get his act together: Stop blaming, stop be- littling, roll up your sleeves, unite America, and start proposing real solutions.

After months of dithering, after tow- ering and dangerous incompetence, it is time for President Trump to roll up his sleeves and do the right thing.

INDIA

Mr. President, on another matter, the President yesterday returned to the Indian Prime Minister. The United States and India are two of the closest friends and partners, the world will be a safer, more prosperous place. India has an amazing culture and great peo- ple. So unifying America and India is a very good thing.

But did the President do anything on his trip that substantially advanced that objective? No, he did not. Sadly, the President’s trip to India was typ- ical of foreign policy in the Trump era—a big spectacle with handshakes and photo-ops, not without diminishing progress or accomplishment for the United States.

There were real things for the Presi- dent to accomplish in India. We are India’s largest trading partner—one of the largest markets for our agri- cultural products, medical devices, even motorbikes. Did the President make any progress on a trade deal to reduce the significant market access barriers that American companies face? No.

India is in the midst of fierce pro- tests over a law that restricts religious freedom. Did the President stand up for religious freedom and democratic values? No. He didn’t even bring up the issue with the Prime Minister.

There are 4 million Indian Ameri- cans. I am proud to say many are in New York are done and continued to do so much for this great country. Their history, music, culture, literature are woven into the very fabric of American life. Indian- American families form the backbone of many strong communities in New York City, in Long Island and the suburbs, and all over the country. They deserve more than Presidential photo- ops in their native land. They deserve a President who takes the friendship be- tween the United States and India seri- ously and works to build a strategic al- liance.

But this President cannot seem to manage anything beyond reality-show diplomacy, and that is why President Trump will likely end his first term bereft of any significant foreign policy achievement.

TRIBUTE TO LAURA DOVE

Mr. President, finally, on a different note and a very happy note, I want to conclude my remarks by noting the de- parture of a staffer who, although she works for Leader McCONNELL, is truly a resource for and a credit to the Sen- ate as a whole—Laura Dove.

It is a happy note for her. She is moving on to even bigger and better things. But it is a sad note for all of us, Democrats and Republicans, in the Senate because she has done such a good job.

Laura is the Secretary for the Major- ity. As with many job titles in Wash- ington, Laura’s title does not come close to capturing what she actually does, nor does it remotely reflect her importance to this Chamber.

The two caucus Secretaries—Gary Myrick for the Senate minority and Laura Dove for the majority—literally make the Senate function. Their negoti- ations determine when we come in and out of session, which amendments will be considered, and their par- liamentary expertise guides Senators of both parties. Laura’s attention to detail is such that even the dress code of the Senate does not escape her.

Laura has certainly been around this Chamber for as long as many of the Senators she advises. The Senate is in its 172nd year. Her family name was the Senate Parliamentarian. Dinner table conversations in the Dove household must have included the arcane of Senate procedure, particularly because some of those family dinners occurred here in the Senate itself, as Mr. Dove worked the sometimes late hours of the Senate.

Both of Mr. Dove’s daughters served as pages, and now both of Laura’s chil- dren have served as pages as well—a family tradition unique among family traditions. Few have done as much to support the page program as Laura. She not only keeps a watchful and sup- portive eye over their time on the
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLUTURE 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 357, S. 2657, an act to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3173

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, in a message to Congress on July 18, 1862, President Lincoln wrote that the leading object of government was to “elevate the condition of men, to lift artificial weights from all shoulders; to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all; to afford all an unfettered start and a fair chance in the race of life.”

It is no coincidence that he gave this message on the anniversary of our Nation’s birth. Lincoln was echoing the profound legacy of our founding—a legacy that shaped our Nation and thereafter rippled across not only the Western Hemisphere but the entire world.

When the Founders broke off from the yoke of British tyranny, they declared all men to be endowed with certain inalienable rights—rights that come not from the State, a church, any man or woman, or even from a government, but, rather, from God himself. The first of these inalienable rights was life. Never was any nation in the history of human beings born of a higher principle or a deeper connection to human happiness and flourishing. Here, the people would rule. Here, government would serve the people and not the other way around. Here, for the first time ever, each person, no matter his or her station in life, was endowed with these rights and entitled to their equal protection.

Today, 159 years since Lincoln’s message to Congress and 244 years since the Founders’ message to the world, here we stand, sworn, still, to fulfill their promise.

As far as we have come during that time period, we still have so far to go. Today, our government—founded to protect Americans’ rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—threatens unborn Americans on all three counts. The Supreme Court imposes and Congress subsidizes the most
radical abortion policy in the Western world.

Since 1973, more than 60 million little lives, innocent lives, have been lost. The children lost to abortion cannot be seen, they cannot be heard, but the loss of every one of them is real. Mothers have been robbed of their children. There are gaping holes left throughout our Nation, in our families and in our communities—gaping holes that only those unique, unrepeatable souls could have and would have otherwise filled.

For more than four decades, we have failed American women and their unborn children. Today, we have a chance to do better, to aspire for more, not to settle for mediocrity or tyranny but to celebrate and embrace life and liberty. We have a chance to stand up for the very weakest and most vulnerable among us, the ones still being knit together in their mothers’ wombs, the ones we know respond to human touch by the age of 20 weeks, who feel pain by the age of 8 weeks, who feel the sound of their mother’s voice before they are even born.

Science and medicine are only confirming what we know deep down—that unborn human beings are, in fact, just like us. Every day, more scientific evidence confirms our moral intuition that a person is a person no matter how small that person happens to be. The so-called Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which passed the House earlier this week would have banned abortions for babies more than 20 weeks of age, upholding in law what science already confirms; that is, that these babies feel every bit of their life as it is being ended. This should not have been a controversial bill.

Still less controversial should have been the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act takes no position on abortion, and it takes no position even on the rights of the unborn. It simply says that in this country, the United States of America, when a child is born, even if by accident, even in the most dangerous place in the world for an infant—that is, a Planned Parenthood clinic—he or she becomes a citizen of the United States under our Constitution, entitled to the full and equal protection of our laws. It says that when a child intended to be aborted is born alive, he or she cannot simply be “disposed of” in the back room of a clinic or a hospital, as if it were nothing more than medical waste. This bill merely outlaws the murder of the innocent in the first moments of life; that is, the first moments of life outside the womb. It is a tragedy, a blight, and a poor commentary of frightening reflection not only upon this country but on this very legislative body that these measures were considered this week. A minority of this body chooses to reject both the scientific facts of human biology and the essential moral principle of human dignity.

When someone talks about not accepting science, I hope they will remember what happened this week. I hope they will remember that against all medical and scientific evidence, to say nothing of what people know morally, intuitively, and within their own hearts, this bill would end this preferential tax treatment and clarify that this gruesome practice is not healthcare.

We also have the chance to permanently stop the use of our foreign aid money from funding or promoting abortions overseas. The Protecting Life in Foreign Assistance Act will save countless lives across the globe and affirm the truth that the lives of all unborn children, regardless of where they might happen to be, have dignity and worth. Today we can stand to allow all human beings—no matter what their age, their appearance, or their abilities—a fair chance in the race of life.

We have only to remain loyal to that bedrock principle that we claim to defend in the Declaration of Independence: the inalienable, fundamental right to life, the equal dignity, the immeasurable worth of all human life. I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 3173 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the majority party’s anti-women's healthcare agenda has certainly been on display in the last few days here in the U.S. Senate: two votes on Tuesday, more votes and debate today. Every time it is the same basic proposition on offer: legislation that squeezes Republican politicians in between women and their doctors.

I have said the old GOP slogan used to be “a chicken in every pot.” These days it is “a Republican in every exam room.” Not only does this legislation discount the fact that reproductive healthcare, including abortion, is healthcare; it would make women’s healthcare services more expensive. This would head this country back to the days when the healthcare system was just for the healthy and the wealthy.

My view is decisions about the healthcare of women, especially reproductive healthcare—including abortion—are enormously personal. They ought to be decisions made between women and their physicians. Politicians ought to stay away. They ought to stay out of it all. That is what the Roe v. Wade case is all about, and it is the law of the land. So because I believe in keeping politicians out of the medical exam room, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to address these important issues today. I thank my friend and colleague from Oregon for outlining his reasons for objecting to this
As to the suggestion that politicians ought to stay out of this issue, well, let me ask you this: What about the idea that politicians and, therefore, lawmakers ought to stay out of other issues involving violence to a human being? There was a day and age in this country when it was suggested that lawmakers ought to stay out of other issues involving violence, of domestic violence: That is a family matter, after all. Politicians ought to stay out. The law should have nothing to do with that. Well, I don't think violence to another human being.

To say simply that politicians and, therefore, lawmakers and, therefore, the law ought to stay out of a topic means to suggest that it is somehow beyond the reach of the law. If we have reached, if we ever do reach the point where we can't say no human being can kill another human being, we have really, really big problems.

We are not talking here about an exam room. We are not talking about procedures designed to promote, to heal, and to prolong life. We are talking about a procedure to end life. This is, itself, not a bill that talks about the appropriateness or lack thereof of elective abortion. It dealt only indirectly with the topic of abortion. It dealt only indirectly with the topic of abortion, but it had nothing to do with the performance or availability of an abortion itself.

It simply said that, when a baby is born, following or in the middle of a failed attempt at an abortion, if that baby is born alive, notwithstanding the attempt by the abortionist to kill the baby, that baby shouldn't simply be neglected. In any other circumstance, a human being born should be treated as a newborn baby—an infant—to neglect the baby and allow that baby to die of exposure, to not administer lifesaving care or nutrition or sustenance to that baby, to neglect the baby. On the very side of each exposure would be a crime. In some circumstances, it may well be murder. In others, it would be a serious criminal form of deliberate child neglect.

So, to suggest that a baby is somehow different as a result of a subjective intent of the abortionist to kill the baby and that we shouldn't make sure that baby is properly cared for following its birth is barbaric. Look, I get it. Not everybody shares my viewpoint with regard to human life begins. I get it. We have different views with regard to abortion policy. Now, I will defend to my dying day my views on these issues, and I will not shrink from them, but regardless of whether you agree with me on that, I seriously question how anyone would credibly maintain that a human being born alive following a failed abortion attempt shouldn't be given the same protection under the law as any other human being.

In other words, the humanity of a baby shouldn't depend on that baby's "wantedness." The fact that anyone wanted to kill that baby before the baby was born doesn't give anyone the right to kill the baby with impunity. That is what they voted down this week. Let's not pretend that this is about exam rooms. Let's not pretend that this is about actual healthcare. Let's not pretend that this is somehow an anti-woman strategy. By the way, many women I know—most, I would say—actually find quite offensive the suggestion that to be in favor of protecting babies is somehow anti-woman. This is offensive. It is sad to me, more than anything.

This was a lost opportunity that we had this week to protect the dignity of human life, not just unborn human life but human beings who have been born. One day we will look back and see this week through much the same way we now look back on other episodes in American history where we have failed to accord the full dignity to a human life that each human life truly deserves.

I yield the floor to the Presiding Officer, the Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, as Black History Month comes to a close in our land, I rise this afternoon to draw attention to the fact that the first African-American U.S. Senator in our Republic's history was Hiram Rhodes Revels of my State of Mississippi.

As a matter of fact, 150 years ago this week, history was made in this very room when Hiram Rhodes Revels took the oath of office and broke the color barrier in the U.S. Senate. There was celebration. There was a congratulation by the floors of the Senate, but it was not unanimous. As a matter of fact, eight Senators objected to the seating of Hiram Revels as a U.S. Senator, simply because he was a Black man. Thank goodness it was only eight that position did not prevail, and Hiram Revels entered the history books of the United States of America as being our first African-American Senator.

In a moment, I will ask unanimous consent to bring up the resolution recognizing this momentous occasion, some 150 years ago this week. I will not read the entire resolution that I have, but I point out that I
have a resolution cosponsored on a very bipartisan basis by 71 of my fellow Senators. Pointing out a few things about the history of this extraordinary public servant, this giant of American history, Hiram Rhodes Revels, who was born free on October 26 in 1827 in Fayetteville, Cumberland County, NC. He was well-educated in a number of States, including North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois. Then he entered the ministry, where he served in Maryland, Wisconsin, and, eventually, of course, coming to the State of Mississippi.

By 1868, the Reverend Hiram Rhodes Revels was also Alderman Hiram Rhodes Revels in Natchez, MS, and he went on to a career of public service. Then, the legislature, which made those decisions in that time under our U.S. Constitution, chose Reverend Revels to come to Washington, DC, and serve as a Senator.

He served capably. He was well received and well admired, and he brought a degree of conciliation and togetherness to this Senate that we had not had before. He only served a little over a year. He chose, instead, to return to Mississippi to become a college president, continue in education, and continue in the ministry in Mississippi, having served as president of what is now Alcorn State University and also having served in Holly Springs, MS, in what is now Rust College. He was in the ministry in Aberdeen, MS, at the time of his death and is buried in Holly Springs, MS.

I very much appreciate the help of Democrats and Republicans in getting this resolution right. There have only been 10 African Americans in the history of our Republic to serve in the U.S. Senate. One of them—the first one—was Hiram Rhodes Revels. Three of them are serving today in the U.S. Senate.

I will acknowledge the help that I received from a number of my colleagues in adding information to this resolution to make it better and fuller and more complete. I appreciate the bipartisan cosponsorship of this but also the bipartisan suggestions that I received and incorporated into the resolution to make it better.

I am honored to represent the same State that this pioneer represented and to represent some 150 years ago this week.

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 508) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Senator from Ohio.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, over and over, we see the President and Republicans in Congress trying to take healthcare away from people, particularly women. We see it with the President's lawsuits, trying to take away healthcare for preexisting conditions. We see the vote in the Senate—defeated by one vote, but a vote in the Senate—which would have scotched the bipartisan Medicaid expansion in Ohio that my Republican Governor—I am a Democrat—and we did bipartisan. We have seen Senate attempts by Republicans to take away healthcare then, and now we—especially just this week—see that with women's healthcare. That is what the bills we voted down this week were all about. These bills are putting themselves in the middle of the sacred doctor-patient relationship. It intimidates women, and it intimidates medical professionals. Doctors aren't sure what might happen to them in some cases. It takes away the freedom of women to make their own decisions.

We defeated them earlier this week, but they are not letting up. They tried again to pass yet another bill that has only one purpose: stigmatizing women's health.

Supporters of these bills, including the President of the United States, have spread lies and misinformation. It is despicable. That is why doctors and medical experts alike oppose these bills.

Think about these groups: the American College of Nurse-Midwives, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medical Women’s Association, the American Public Health Association—all of these groups have written in to oppose politicians interfering in the patient-provider relationship and the criminalization of patient choice. Do we want a bunch of male politicians, do we want people like President Trump and Vice President Pence from the President’s office home State, and do we want a bunch of politicians like Mitch McConnell—do we want them to be able to criminalize a doctor, get in the middle of a patient-doctor relationship and criminalize that? There is no question that is what this is about.

They act as though they know better than you—a woman—and your doctor. It is a new newness. We have seen it over and over. We have seen Washington politicians, we see Columbus politicians in my State, most of them men, obsessed with trying to assert themselves into women's healthcare decisions. They can't help themselves. They just keep doing it. Those decisions should be and are between a woman and her doctor, period.

It is time, if I can say this, that old men in Washington and in courtrooms and in State legislatures stop trying to take away women’s healthcare, particularly when we have so much work to do in healthcare.

We could be working instead of a bunch of votes—I mean, I understand; we know Senator McConnell is in his office down the hall, and we know what he does. We know he brings forward legislation to get his base excited, to make sure the most conservative voters in the country come out to vote. We know how he does it. We know he wants the time to help his big financial contributors—to help the drug companies, to help the insurance companies, to help the gun lobby. We know that is what Mitch McConnell does.

Instead of trying to compromise about women’s lives and about the relationship between a woman and her doctor.

All of these groups that I mentioned, again, the American College of Nurse-Midwives, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Medical Women's Association, American Public Health Association—all of these groups have written in to oppose politicians interfering in the patient-provider relationship and the criminalization of patient choice. Do we want a bunch of male politicians, do we want people like President Trump and Vice President Pence from the President’s office home State, and do we want a bunch of politicians like Mitch McConnell—do we want them to be able to criminalize a doctor, get in the middle of a patient-doctor relationship and criminalize that? There is no question that is what this is about.

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Instead of trying to compromise about women’s lives, take healthcare away, instead of eliminating consumer protections for preexisting conditions, he could actually do something about drug prices. We could be working to protect the millions of Americans with preexisting conditions.

In this country, 10 years ago, we passed a bill which said that if you are sick—you are really sick—and you go bankrupt. We changed that. We passed a bill which said that if you are sick—you are really sick—and you go bankrupt. We changed that. We passed the Affordable Care Act said: No, you can’t. Just because you are sick and you go bankrupt. We changed that. We passed the Affordable Care Act said: No, you can’t. Just because you are sick and you go bankrupt. We changed that. We passed the Affordable Care Act said: No, you can’t. Just because you are sick and you go bankrupt. We changed that. We passed the Affordable Care Act said: No, you can’t. Just because you are sick and you go bankrupt. We changed that. We passed the Affordable Care Act said: No, you can’t. Just because you are sick and you go bankrupt. We changed that. We passed the Affordable Care Act said: No, you can’t. Just because you are sick and you go bankrupt. We changed that.
February 27, 2020

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

President Trump has tried for 3 years now to change that and take away those consumer protections. He has gotten support from MITCH MCCONNELL and from virtually almost every—except for John McCain and a couple of other senators from their side—almost every Republican in this Senate to say that it is OK to take away consumer protections for preexisting conditions.

Instead of doing that, we could work to keep drug prices down. We could give tax credits to help people afford insurance. We could protect the ability to stay on your parents’ healthcare. If you are 25 years old, you could be on your parents’ health insurance. They are trying to take that away. They are trying to take Medicaid expansion away.

They are trying to make limits on how much you pay out of pocket each year. Those are the kinds of things we should be agreeing on.

Free preventive screening services—if you are a senior, if you are on Medicare, you can get free screening for osteoporosis, free screening for diabetes. The President and this Congress tried to take those services away.

Fifteen million Ohioans under 65 have preexisting conditions. Basically, if you are over 50 in this country, the chances are overwhelming that you have a preexisting condition. Do you want to lose those consumer protections? Of course not.

Instead of making it harder for Ohio women to get the care they need, instead of tearing down the Affordable Care Act, let’s make it stronger. Let’s tell uninsured Ohio women to get the care they need, instead of taking away the preexisting conditions. Basically, if you are 25 years old, you could be on your parents’ health insurance. They are trying to take that away. They are trying to take Medicaid expansion away.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general
Col. Joseph R. Harris, II
Col. Mary K. Hawkins

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. Barry M. Nabors

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general
Col. AnnMarie K. Anthony
Col. Taft O. Aujoer
Col. Douglas H. Bilder
Col. Robert D. Bowie
Col. Barbara S. Buis
Col. Donald K. Carpenter
Col. Konata A. Crumbly
Col. Johan A. DeDeutscher
Col. Patrick W. Donaldson
Col. Bradford R. Everman
Col. Virginia L. Gaglo
Col. Caesar R. Garduno
Col. Patrick M. Hanlon
Col. Robert E. Hargens
Col. Jeffrey L. Hodgess
Col. Samuel C. Keener
Col. Robert I. Kinney
Col. Jerry P. Reedy
Col. Bryan E. Salomon
Col. Tamala A. Saylor
Col. James S. Shigekane
Col. Kimbra L. Sterr
Col. Michael A. Valle
Col. Brian E. Vaughn

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general
Col. Dann S. Carlson
Col. Shawn M. Coco
Col. Steven E. Conley
Col. Patrick E. DeConcini
Col. Paul E. Franz
Col. John F. Hall
Col. Kenneth J. Haltom
Col. Chris J. Ioder
Col. Robert A. King
Col. Michael J. Lovell
Col. Sue Ellen L. Mohler
Col. Christopher J. Sheppard
Col. Charles A. Shurlow
Col. Lisa K. Snyder

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. Steven J. deMilliano
Brig. Gen. David J. Meyer
Brig. Gen. Russell L. Ponder

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. Andrew J. MacDonald

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. Todd M. Audet
Brig. Gen. Kimberly A. Baumann
Brig. Gen. Floyd W. Dunstan
Brig. Gen. Randal K. Efferson
Brig. Gen. Laurie M. Farris
Brig. Gen. James R. Kriesel
Brig. Gen. William P. Robertson
Brig. Gen. Charles M. Walker
Brig. Gen. David A. Weishaar
Brig. Gen. Gregory T. White

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. Christopher E. Finerty

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general
Col. Ronald F. Taylor

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. Michael S. Martin

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general
Col. Douglas K. Clark
Col. John F. Kelliher, III

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY’S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE
PN144 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning JOSHUA E. ERLANDSEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN144 AIR FORCE nominations (44) beginning MATTHEW G. ADKINS, and ending CATHERINE M. WARE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN144 AIR FORCE nominations (31) beginning JENARA L. ALLEN, and ending SARAH M. WHEELER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN144 AIR FORCE nominations (129) beginning DANIEL J. ADAMS, and ending ZACHARY E. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN144 AIR FORCE nominations (18) beginning JENNIFER R. BEIN, and ending ANGELA K. STANTON, which nominations
were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1448 AIR FORCE nominations (55) beginning WESLEY M. ABADIE, and ending SCOTT W. KANE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1449 AIR FORCE nominations (52) beginning JASON L. JENKS, and ending HYUN J. YOON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1450 AIR FORCE nominations (294) beginning JASON K. ADAMS, and ending DANIELLE N. ZIEHL, which nominations were received by the Senate and in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1451 AIR FORCE nomination (52) beginning VICTORIA M. AGLEWILSON, and ending DEBORAH L. WILLIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1452 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning JULIENE M. BUNGAY, and ending ALEXANDRA L. MCCRARY-DENNIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1453 AIR FORCE nomination of Christopher J. Nastal, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1454 AIR FORCE nomination of Alexander Khutoryan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1455 AIR FORCE nomination of Daniel S. Kim, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1456 AIR FORCE nomination of Marilyn L. Smith, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

IN THE ARMY

PN1457 ARMY nomination of Zachary J. Conly, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1458 ARMY nomination of Audrey J. Dean, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1459 ARMY nomination of Michael W. Brancamp, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1460 ARMY nomination of Tracy J. Brown which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1461 ARMY nomination of Kenneth A. Wieder, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1462 ARMY nomination of Chong K. Yi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1467 ARMY nominations (11) beginning JOHN C. BENSON, and ending SEAN M. VIEIRA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1468 ARMY nomination of Ross C. Puffer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1469 ARMY nomination of Amanda G. Lusch, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

IN THE NAVY

PN1471 ARMY nominations (2) beginning YASMIN J. ALTER, and ending DEBBY L. POLOZECK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1472 ARMY nominations (3) beginning OTHA J. HOLMES, and ending JONATHAN W. MURPHY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1473 ARMY nomination of Shaun P. Miller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1475 ARMY nomination of Krista H. Clarke, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1476 ARMY nomination of Peter K. Martin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1477 ARMY nomination of Angela L. Iyanabo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

IN THE MARINES

PN1378 NAVY nominations of Daniel L. Lark, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1478 NAVY nomination of John J. Landers, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1479 NAVY nomination of David P. Fromm, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to the two bills that the Senate considered this week that would severely restrict women’s access to reproductive healthcare. I have always believed that a woman’s most personal and difficult medical decisions should be made with her doctor and her family and free from political interference.

These bills would prevent doctors from providing a full range of reproductive healthcare that meets the needs of their patients. These bills put women’s health at risk, which is why they are opposed by groups that represent healthcare professionals, including the American Public Health Association. They would also disproportionately impact women of color, LGBTQ people, those facing intimate partner violence, and those living in rural areas.

All Americans deserve access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, including the full range of reproductive healthcare that meets the needs of their patients. These bills put women’s health at risk, which is why they are opposed by groups that represent healthcare professionals, including the American Public Health Association. They would also disproportionately impact women of color, LGBTQ people, those facing intimate partner violence, and those living in rural areas. All Americans deserve access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, including the full range of reproductive healthcare that meets the needs of their patients. These bills put women’s health at risk, which is why they are opposed by groups that represent healthcare professionals, including the American Public Health Association. They would also disproportionately impact women of color, LGBTQ people, those facing intimate partner violence, and those living in rural areas. All Americans deserve access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, including the full range of reproductive healthcare that meets the needs of their patients. These bills put women’s health at risk, which is why they are opposed by groups that represent healthcare professionals, including the American Public Health Association. They would also disproportionately impact women of color, LGBTQ people, those facing intimate partner violence, and those living in rural areas. All Americans deserve access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, including the full range of reproductive healthcare that meets the needs of their patients. These bills put women’s health at risk, which is why they are opposed by groups that represent healthcare professionals, including the American Public Health Association. They would also disproportionately impact women of color, LGBTQ people, those facing intimate partner violence, and those living in rural areas. All Americans deserve access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, including the full range of reproductive healthcare that meets the needs of their patients. These bills put women’s health at risk, which is why they are opposed by groups that represent healthcare professionals, including the American Public Health Association. They would also disproportionately impact women of color, LGBTQ people, those facing intimate partner violence, and those living in rural areas. All Americans deserve access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, including the full range of reproductive healthcare that meets the needs of their patients. These bills put women’s health at risk, which is why they are opposed by groups that represent healthcare professionals, including the American Public Health Association. They would also disproportionately impact women of color, LGBTQ people, those facing intimate partner violence, and those living in rural areas. All Americans deserve access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, including the full range of reproductive healthcare that meets the needs of their patients. These bills put women’s health at risk, which is why they are opposed by groups that represent healthcare professionals, including the American Public Health Association. They would also disproportionately impact women of color, LGBTQ people, those facing intimate partner violence, and those living in rural areas.
BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. ENZI, Mr. President, I rise to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for February 2020. This is my fourth scorekeeping report since I filed the deemed budget resolution for fiscal year 2020 on September 9, 2019, as required by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, BBA19. The report compares current-law levels of spending and revenues with the amounts agreed to in BBA19. In the Senate, this information is used to determine whether budget points of order are breached outlay limitations by more than $3 billion over 10 years and increase revenues by nearly $3 billion over the same period. Direct spending effects are largely attributable to the act’s provisions related to the dairy industry, while revenues are expected to increase due to higher receipts from tariffs on motor vehicles and parts. The USMCA Implementation Act also included $843 million in discretionary appropriations, designated as emergency spending, for Federal agencies to execute the USMCA and affected both revenue—USMCA—Implementation Act, United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement—USMCA—Implementation Act, into law. The measure implemented the USMCA and affected both revenue and outlay categories. According to CBO, the USMCA Implementation Act will decrease direct spending outlays by $74 million over 10 years and increase revenues by nearly $3 billion over the same period. Direct spending effects are largely attributable to the act’s provisions related to the dairy industry, while revenues are expected to increase due to higher receipts from tariffs on motor vehicles and parts. The USMCA Implementation Act also included $843 million in discretionary appropriations, designated as emergency spending, for Federal agencies to execute the agreement.

Budget Committee Republican staff prepared tables A-D.

The BBA19 enacted a statutory discretionary spending limit for current the fiscal year. Those limits for regular discretionary spending are $666.5 billion for accounts in the defense category and $621.5 billion for accounts in the nondefense category of spending.

The 2018 budget resolution contained points of order limiting the use of changes in mandatory programs, CHIMPs, in appropriations bills. Table C, which tracks the CHIMP limit of $15 billion for 2020, shows the Appropriations Committee has complied with the CHIMP limit for this fiscal year.

Table D provides the amount of budget authority enacted for 2020 that has been designated as either for an emergency or for overseas contingency operations, OCO, pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. Funding that receives either of these designations results in budgetary effects. Any Senator may challenge the designation with a point of order to strike the designation on the floor. The addition of $843 million in emergency-designated funds from P.L. 116–113 brings total emergency and OCO spending to $88.9 billion for the 2020 appropriations cycle.

In addition to the tables provided by Budget Committee Republican staff, I am submitting CBO tables, which I will use to enforce budget totals approved by Congress.

CBO provided a spending and revenue report for 2020, Table 1, which helps enforce aggregate spending levels in budget resolutions under CBA section 311. The current level is now in excess of allowable levels by $15.4 billion for budget authority and $1.7 billion for outlays in 2020. Details on 2020 levels can be found in CBO’s second table.

Current-law revenues and expenditures are below enforceable levels for all enforceable fiscal years. Revenues are currently $394.4 billion, $150 billion, and $383.2 billion lower than assumed in the deemed budget resolution for 2020, 2020 through 2024, and 2020 through 2029, respectively.

Social Security spending levels are consistent with the budget resolution’s figures for 2020; however, Social Security revenue levels are $15 billion below assumed levels. CBO’s report also provides information needed to enforce the current-law PAYGO rule, Table 3. This rule is enforced under section 4106 of the 2018 budget resolution. The Senate PAYGO scoreboard currently shows an enacted deficit decrease of $864 million in 2020, but projected deficits increase by $861 million and $2.2 billion over the 2019–2024 and 2019–2029 periods, respectively. The deficit effects of the USMCA Implementation Act do not include the amounts designated as supplemental appropriations because those amounts are recorded as discretionary spending, which is not recorded on the Senate’s PAYGO scoreboard.
TABLE A.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS 1—Continued

(Budget authority, in millions of dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Security</th>
<th>Nonsecurity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>622,527</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy and Water Development</td>
<td>24,210</td>
<td>24,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Services and General Government</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>23,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeland Security</td>
<td>2,383</td>
<td>48,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>35,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>183,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Branch</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>11,315</td>
<td>92,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>46,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>73,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Level Total</td>
<td>666,500</td>
<td>621,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table is current through February 21, 2020.

1 Security spending is defined as spending in the National Defense budget function (050) and nonsecurity spending is defined as all other spending.

2 This table excludes spending pursuant to adjustments to the discretionary spending limits. These adjustments are allowed for certain purposes in section 251(a)(2) of BBEDCA.

TABLE B.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS 1—Continued

(Budget authority, in millions of dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Security</th>
<th>Nonsecurity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (−) Statutory Limits</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table is current through February 21, 2020.

Since our last letter dated January 15, 2020, the Congress has cleared, and the President has signed, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act (P.L. 116-113). That Act has significant effects on budget authority and outlays in fiscal year 2020.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

TABLE C.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAMS (CHIMPS)—Continued

(Budget authority, millions of dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Security</th>
<th>Nonsecurity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2020</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table is current through February 21, 2020.

TABLE D.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED EMERGENCY AND OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS SPENDING

(Budget authority, millions of dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Security</th>
<th>Nonsecurity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas Contingency Operations</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is the table current through February 21, 2020.

1 Security spending is defined as spending in the National Defense budget function (050) and nonsecurity spending is defined as all other spending.

2 This table excludes spending pursuant to adjustments to the discretionary spending limits. These adjustments are allowed for certain purposes in section 251(a)(2) of BBEDCA.

TABLE A.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS 1—Continued

(Budget authority, in millions of dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Security</th>
<th>Nonsecurity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>5,737</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy and Water Development</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Services and General Government</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeland Security</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Branch</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Level Total</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is the table current through February 21, 2020.

1 Security spending is defined as spending in the National Defense budget function (050) and nonsecurity spending is defined as all other spending.

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TABLE A.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS 1—Continued

(Budget authority, in millions of dollars)

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<th>Security</th>
<th>Nonsecurity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (−) Statutory Limits</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Since our last letter dated January 15, 2020, the Congress has cleared, and the President has signed, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act (P.L. 116-113). That Act has significant effects on budget authority and outlays in fiscal year 2020.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

TABLE C.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAMS (CHIMPS)—Continued

(Budget authority, millions of dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Security</th>
<th>Nonsecurity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2020</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table is current through February 21, 2020.

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TABLE A.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS 1—Continued

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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.
Entitlements and Mandates

Total Current Level  

Current Level Over Senate Resolution

Current Level Under Senate Resolution

Memorandum

Revenues, 2020–2029

Senate Current Level

Senate Resolution

Current Level Over Senate Resolution

Current Level Under Senate Resolution

Source: Congressional Budget Office.


e The amounts shown in this report do not include $567 million in budget authority and $798 million in estimated outlays.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020, AS OF FEBRUARY 21, 2020—Continued

(In millions of dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Authority</th>
<th>Outlays</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authority</td>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>Revenues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Division H, P.L. 116–94)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Original Aggregates printed on September 9, 2019

Revisions

Adjustment for P.L. 116–113, United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act ........................................................................... 107,274  47,530  0
Adjustment for P.L. 116–113, United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act ........................................................................... 843  338  0

Revised Senate Resolution

3,816,965  3,733,409  2,740,538

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF FEBRUARY 21, 2020

(In millions of dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vote Date</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Motion to Waive</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3101-long-term deficits</td>
<td>Sen. Inhofe (R–OK)</td>
<td>82–12, waived</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>973</td>
<td>Sen. Shelby (R–AL)</td>
<td>64–30, waived</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>792</td>
<td>Sen. Grassley (R–IA)</td>
<td>78–2, waived</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 All motions to waive were offered pursuant to section 1001 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2 Senator Enzi raised a 3101(b) point of order against the conference report because the legislation would increase on-budget deficits by more than $5 billion in each of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030.

3 Senator Enzi raised a 3101(b) point of order against the conference report because the legislation would increase on-budget deficits by more than $5 billion in each of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030.

4 Senator Tomsky raised a 3101(c) point of order against the conference report because the legislation would increase on-budget deficits by more than $5 billion in each of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030.

5 Senator Enzi raised a 3101(b) point of order against the conference report because the legislation would increase on-budget deficits by more than $5 billion in each of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030.
ARM SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may not be consummated. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY
Arlington, VA.

Hon. James E. Risch,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19–76 concerning the Army’s proposed letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Jordan for defense articles and services estimated to cost $360 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–76
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY
Arlington, VA.

Hon. James E. Risch,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19–76 concerning the Army’s proposed letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Jordan for defense articles and services estimated to cost $360 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.

Enclosures.
TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–75
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended
(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the Netherlands.
Other Military Equipment: Total $85 million.
(iii) Description and Quantity or Qualities: Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:
Non-MDE: Also included are spare parts, containers, associated hardware, torpedo handing equipment, and cables; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.
(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.
(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.
(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.
(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 27, 2020.
*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION
Netherlands—MK–48 Torpedo Conversion Kits

The Government of the Netherlands has requested to buy sixteen (16) MK–48 Mod 7 Advanced Technology (AT) torpedo conversion kits. Also included are spare parts, containers, associated hardware, torpedo handing equipment, and cables; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

The total estimated program cost is $85 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve security of a NATO ally which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Northern Europe.

The Netherlands desires to upgrade additional MK 48 Mod 4 torpedoes to the MK 48 Mod 7 AT. They intend to use the MK 48 Mod 7 AT torpedo on their Walrus Class submarines. The Netherlands will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Raytheon Company, Portsmouth, RI. The Netherlands may require offset agreements in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the Purchaser and the prime contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not represent the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Netherlands. Travel of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Netherlands on a temporary basis for program technical support and management oversight will be required.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–76
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act
Annex Item No. vii

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Tunisia.
(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment* $123.2 million. Other $202.6 million.
Total $325.8 million.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION
Tunisia—AT–6 Light Attack Aircraft

The Government of Tunisia has requested to buy four (4) AT–6C Wolverine Light Attack Aircraft; two (2) Pratt & Whitney PT6A–66D 1600 SHP engines (spares); six (6) MXU–1006 C/B Air Foil Groups (AFG); sixteen (16) BDU–50s (MK–82 Filled Inert). This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security interests of the United States by helping to improve security of a NATO ally which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Northern Europe.

The proposed sale will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Northrop Grumman Corporation, Patuxent River, MD. The provisions of this proposed sale will not cause the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Netherlands. Travel of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Netherlands on a temporary basis for program technical support and management oversight will be required.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19–77
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Tunisia.
A1184

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

February 27, 2020

TREASMMNTAL NO. 19-71

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Senate: Emerging Technology:

1. The AT-6 Wolverine is a Beechcraft light attack, armed reconnaissance and irregular warfare and counterinsurgency mission aircraft. With a single engine PT6A-66D Pratt & Whitney engine and Lockheed Martin A-10C mission computer and plug-and-play weapons management system with Seek Eagle certification, the AT-6 Wolverine can carry laser-guided rockets and deliver general purpose and inertially-aimed munitions.

2. GBU-12 is a 500lb Mk-82 General Purpose (GP) bomb body fitted with the M904 (nose) and M905 (tail) fuzes or the radar-proximity FMU-118 air-burst fuze. The Mk-82 is a 500 pound, free-fall, unguided, low-drag training weapon. There are no explosive elements with a GP fuze and the weapon will not detonate when it hits the ground. It is used from flight training to give the pilot the insight into aircraft handling characteristics with the additional weight on the wing.

3. GBU-58 is a 250lb Mk-81 GP bomb body fitted with the MXU-650 AFG, and MAU–168L/B Computer Control Group (CCG) to guide to its laser designated target. The GBU-58 is a maneuverable, free-fall LGB that guides to a spot of laser energy reflected off of the target. Laser designation for the LGB can be provided by a variety of laser target markers or designators.

4. MK-82 General Purpose (GP) bomb is a 500 pound, free-fall, unguided, low-drag weapon usually equipped with the mechanical M904 (nose) and M905 (tail) fuzes or the radar-proximity FMU-118 air-burst fuze. The Mk-82 is a 500 pound, free-fall, unguided, low-drag weapon. There are no explosive elements with a GP fuze and the weapon will not detonate when it hits the ground. It is used from flight training to give the pilot the insight into aircraft handling characteristics with the additional weight on the wing.

5. Joint Programmable Fuze (JPF) FMU-152 is a multi-delay, multi-arm and proximity sensor compatible with general purpose blast, frag and hardened-target penetrator weapons. The JPF settings are cockpit selectable in flight when used with JDAM weapons.

6. Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) II All-Up-Round (AUR) is an air-to-ground weapon that consists of an APKWS II Munitions Enhancement (MKE) Mod 4 rocket motor, and legacy KM152 and MK465/468 warhead/fuze. The APKWS II is a semi-active laser seeker. The OSL is installed between the rocket motor and warhead to create a guided rocket. The APKWS II may be procured as an independent component to be mated to appropriate 2.75-inch warheads/ fuzes and rocket motors separated, or may be purchased as an AUR.

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

8. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide substantial protection for the technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

9. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide substantial protection for the technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

10. The House Impeachment Managers have presented overwhelming evidence of high crimes and misdemeanors. The obligation of the Senate is to accord the President, the accused, the right to a fair trial defending against the House’s exclusive constitutional prerogative to bring Articles of Impeachment. At the core of the Senate’s task is the fundamental understanding that our system of laws recognizes the rights of defendants and the responsibilities of the prosecution to prove its case. Such a basic tenet of our law and our experience as a free people does not evaporate in the rarified atmosphere of a Court of Impeachment, simply because the accused is the President and the accuser is the House of Representatives.

II. STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

On December 18, 2019, the United States House of Representatives transmitted H. Res. 755, “Impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.” II. RELEVANT ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT. The first Article declares that the President abused his power by soliciting foreign interference to help his bid for reelection in 2020. The second Article claims the President obstructed Congress by directing the categorical, indiscriminate defiance of subpoenas for witness testimony and documents deemed vital to the House Impeachment inquiry.

Pursuant to Article I, Section 3 of the United States Constitution, the United States House of Representatives voted on January 16, 2020, and each Senator took an oath to “do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws.” Alexander Hamilton wrote that the Senate’s role in an Impeachment trial in Federalist Paper No. 65, when he wrote, “What other body would be likely to feel confidence enough to preserve unwav and uninfluenced the necessary impartiality between an individual accused and the representatives of the people, his accusers?”

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III. THE CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS FOR IMPEACHMENT

“The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments.” With these few words, the Framers of the Constitution entrusted the Senate with the most awesome power within a democratic society: whether to remove an impeached President from office.

A. High Crimes and Misdemeanors

The Constitution states, “The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.”

“Treason” and “Bribery” are foundational impeachable offenses. No more heinous example of an offense against the constitutional order exists than betrayal of the nation’s security by treason; the President’s actions betray our national interests above the interests of the United States. The House Impeachment Managers have proven that the President’s abuse of power and congressional obstruction amount to the waging of war, the violation of international laws and treaties, and the abuse of high office for personal gain.

In interpreting “high Crimes and Misdemeanors,” we must not only look to the
Later commentators expressed similar views. In 1833, Justice Joseph Story quoted favorably from the scholarship of William Rawle, who concluded that the “legitimate causes of impeachment . . . can have reference only to public character, and official duty . . . In general, those offenses, which may be committed equally by a private person, as an officer, are not the subject of impeachment.”15

This line of reasoning is buttressed by the careful and thoughtful work of the House of Representatives in debate proceedings. The Democratic staff of the House Judiciary Committee concluded that, “Because impeachment of a President is a grave step for the nation to be and dedicated only upon conduct seriously incompatible with either the constitutional form and principles of our government or the proper performance of constitutional duties of the presidential office.”17

The deliberations at the Constitutional Convention also demonstrate a consensus movement to narrow the terminology as a means of raising the threshold for the Impeachment process to require an offense against the State. Early in the debate on the issue of presidential impeachment in July of 1787, it was suggested that Impeachment and removal could be directed “by showing of ‘impracticity,’ ‘neglect of duty,’ or ‘corruption.’”18 By September of 1787, the issue of presidential impeachment had been referred to the Committee of Eleven, which was created to resolve the most contentious issues. The Committee’s official consideration of whether the grounds for impeachment should be “treason or bribery” was significantly more restricted than the amorphous standard of “malpractice,” too restricted, in fact, for some delegates. George Mason objected, and the Committee itself further clarified the standard by re-placing “State” with the “United States.”23

At the conclusion of the substantive deliberations on the constitutional standard of impeachment, Madison expressed a sense that only serious offenses against the governmental system would justify impeachment and subsequent removal from office. However, the final stylistic touches to the Constitution were applied by the Committee of Style. This Committee had no authority to alter the meaning of the carefully debated language, but we can see consistency through, among other things, the elimination of redundancy. In its zeal to streamline the text, the words “against the United States” were eliminated as unnecessary to the meaning of the passage.24

The weight of both authoritative commentary and the history of the Constitutional Convention provide convincing proof that the Impeachment process was reserved for serious breaches of the constitutional order that threaten the country in a direct and immediate manner.16

C. An Impeachable Offense Is Not Limited to Possible Crimes

In the case before us, the President’s Counsel-wholly rejects a longstanding understanding that the abuse of power is not an impeachable offense and by positing that “the Framers restricted impeachment to specific offenses against ‘already known and established law.’”25

This assertion is clearly wrong. Article I, Section 3 of the United States Constitution provides that “Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the President, Vice-President, and all civil Officers of the United States shall be answerable, for any taxable Conduct in their Office, at the Impeachment of the Senate, and Trial by the House of Representatives; judgment in this Case shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States.”25

The Founders were also gravely concerned about the dangers of foreign influence corrupting our elections and interfering with the rule of law.26 The United States was then at war with France, an ally of Britain, with help from the French during the American Revolution. As
such, the Founders rightly feared that foreign governments might try to exploit American politics in order to further their own interests. During the Constitutional Convention, a delegate from Massachusetts, warned that “[foreign powers will] intermeddle in our affairs, and spare no expense to influence them.” The Founders were acutely aware of the potential for public officials to betray their office to a foreign power, if the temptation were strong enough. Hamilton conceded in Federalist Paper No. 22 that “[o]ne of the weak sides of republics, among their numerous advantages, is that they afford too easy an object to foreign corruption.” In Alexander Hamilton’s view, when ordinary men are elevated by their fellow citizens to high office, they “may find compensations for betraying their trust, which to any but minds animated and guided by superior virtue, may appear to exceed the proportion of interest they have in the common stock, and to over-balance the obligations of duty. Hence it is that history furnishes us with so many mortifying examples of the prevalence of foreign corruption in republican governments.”

E. Conclusion

Authors are commentary on, together with the structure of the, the Constitution makes it clear that the term, “other high Crimes and Misdemeanors,” encompasses conduct that the President abused his constitutional powers to engage in any number of abusive conduct ranging from the unlawful use of their power. In impeaching these judges, the Founders debate on these matters was critical for Senators confronting the gravest of constitutional choices. Differentiating Impeachment from criminal trials, Alexander Hamilton in Federalist Paper No. 65, that impeachments “can never be tied down by such strict rules . . . as in common cases serve to limit the discretion of courts in the personal security of individuals.” In this regard, Hamilton further distinguished Impeachment proceedings from a criminal trial by stressing that an impeached official would be subject to the established rules of criminal prosecution after Impeachment.

During the Clinton Impeachment trial, I believed, as I do now, that the House Impeachment Managers bear the burden of proving their case. In that trial, the House Impeachment Managers asserted that the Senate engaged in a constitutionally unsound proceeding where the Senate could not hold a President in contempt of court, to the ordering of a jury to find a defendant guilty, to the improper conduct ranging from the unlawful use of their power. In impeaching these judges, the Founders had carefully calibrated the powers between Congress and the Executive. Ultimately, the President’s Counsel argue that a President who does something to benefit the national interest, has not committed an impeachable offense. As the charges in this case against President Trump were primarily concerned about violations of the public trust. The President’s Counsel instead argue that the Framers were specifically concerned about an Executive that would be beholden to a heavy-handed legislature. Indeed, during the debates at the Constitutional Convention, this fear was raised by a delegate from Massachusetts, said “[impeachment by Congress] would be destructive of the independence of the President and of the principles of the Constitution. He relied on the vigor of the Executive as a great security for the public liberties.” Clearly, King’s argument is unconvincing here.

In drafting the Constitution, the Framers had carefully balanced the powers between Congress and the Executive. Ultimately, they decided that it was necessary to protect the nation without any recourse against a President who would be in a unique and potent position to engage in any number of abusive conduct without a mechanism for removing him. The Framers had carefully calibrated the powers between Congress and the Executive. As such, a definition slightly higher than the “preponderance of the evidence” of King’s argument because under this view, the President’s Counsel argue that a President who does something to benefit the nation’s interest, has not committed an impeachable offense. As the charges in this case against President Trump were primarily concerned about violations of the public trust. The President’s Counsel instead argue that the Framers were specifically concerned about an Executive that would be beholden to a heavy-handed legislature. Indeed, during the debates at the Constitutional Convention, this fear was raised by a delegate from Massachusetts, said “[impeachment by Congress] would be destructive of the independence of the President and of the principles of the Constitution. He relied on the vigor of the Executive as a great security for the public liberties.” Clearly, King’s argument is unconvincing here.

The Framers debate on these matters was prescient, as public officials have, in fact, been found to have committed impeachable offenses including abuse of power. Most well-known, President Nixon resigned after the House Judiciary Committee (hereinafter the “Committee”) found he had abused his powers on multiple occasions. Three district judges were also impeached during the 20th century for abusing their power. In impeaching these judges, the House used “abuse of power” to describe misconduct ranging from the unlawful use of their power. In impeaching these judges, the House used “abuse of power” to describe misconduct ranging from the unlawful use of their power. In impeaching these judges, the House used “abuse of power” to describe misconduct ranging from the unlawful use of their power. In impeaching these judges, the House used “abuse of power” to describe misconduct ranging from the unlawful use of their power.
interference, unlawfully withhold security assistance, use his powers to target his political opponents and engage in a whole host of corrupt conduct that might help him get re-elected. Vice President Biden told President Nixon when he said “Well, when the president does it that means it is not illegal.”

A.1. Definition of Abuse of Power

Black’s Law Dictionary defines “abuse of power” as including “The misuse or improper exercise of one’s authority; esp., the exercise of a statutorily or otherwise duly conferred power in a way that is fraudulent, unlawful or outside its proper scope.”

In its Impeachment inquiry of President Richard Nixon, the Judiciary Committee found that Nixon repeatedly abused the power while in office. Among its findings, the Judiciary Committee determined that President Nixon unlawfully directed or authorized federal agencies, including the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to investigate and surveil American citizens, and used the resulting information for his own political purposes. The Judiciary Committee further found that Nixon then interfered with investigations into these and other actions to conceal, distort, and strengthen Nixon’s actions in all of these instances “served no valid national policy objective.”

The Judiciary Committee concluded that the “conduct of Richard M. Nixon has constituted a repeated and continuing abuse of the powers of the presidency in disregard of the fundamental principle of the rule of law in our system of government. This abuse of the powers of the President was carried out by Richard M. Nixon, acting personally and through his subordinates, for his own personal advantage, not for any legitimate governmental purpose and without due consideration for the public good.”

In the current Impeachment of President Trump, the Judiciary Committee has defined abuse of power as occurring “when a President exercises the powers of his office to obtain an improper personal benefit while incurring and ignoring the national interest.”

From these sources, I have concluded that an abuse of power while in office has the following three elements:

1) The use of official governmental power;
2) For personal or some other corrupt purpose;
3) Without due consideration for the national interest.

President Trump’s conduct in soliciting foreign interference in the 2020 presidential election meets each of these elements of the crime of abuse of power while in office. Among these actions is the following:

The scheme directed by the President comprised two separate efforts—both aimed to damage his political rivals and benefit his reelection prospects. The first effort was to have the Ukrainian president announce an investigation into baseless accusations propagated by a Russian disinformation campaign,54 that Ukraine interfered in the election, and to have the President’s political rival, Hillary Clinton (hereinafter referred to as the “2016 campaign theory”). The 2016 campaign theory comprised numerous allegations, including concluding that Ukraine colluded with the Democrats to influence the 2016 election and that the cyber-attacks were allegedly allowed to be owned by a Ukrainian oligarch, investigated the hack of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) computer infrastructure, suggested that Ukrainian culpability in the cyber-attack by hiding the servers from the FBI inside Ukraine.

President Trump’s fixation on the 2016 campaign theory appears to have been intended to change public perceptions of President Trump’s connection to Russia, in the wake of the Intelligence Community assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 election to support then candidate Trump,55 and the Special Council Report including to review “any links or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the Trump campaign.”56 The Special Council Report (of President Trump’s) advisors recalled that the President viewed stories about his Russian connections, the Russian investigations and the Intelligence Community assessment of Russian interference as a threat to the legitimacy of his electoral victory.57 Further, in the spring of 2019, the Special Council affirmed the Intelligence Community and concluded that while there was no direct conspiracy or coordination between the Kremlin and the Trump campaign, “...the Russian government perceived it would benefit from a Trump presidency and worked to secure that outcome, and that the campaign expected it would benefit electorally from information stolen and released through Russian efforts...”58 In directing this effort of the scheme, the President was attempting to rewrite history by favoring and giving political advantages to validate his allegations that it was Ukraine colluding with the Democrats rather than Russia interfering to benefit then candidate Trump and exonerate himself of any wrongdoing or ties to Russia.

In addition, the 2016 campaign theory sought to implicate the President’s political rival in 2016, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. As Deputy Assistant Secretary George Kent testified, the President “wanted Ukraine investigating less than President [Zelensky] to go to [a] microphone and say investigations, Biden, and Clinton.” He confirmed that “short-and” for Clinton “was 2016.”59 The scheme’s second effort to get the Ukrainian government to announce an investigation into unfolding corruption allegations against former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden (hereinafter referred to as “Biden/Burisma theory”). The allegations associated with this theory surround Vice President Biden in Ukraine. The Ukrainian President Poroshenko to remove Ukrainian Prosecutor General Victor Shokin in 2016, who purportedly was investigating a Ukrainian oligarch, one whose board Hunter Biden served.60 Vice President Biden is a potential presidential challenger to President Trump in 2020 and was a frontrunner during the spring and summer of 2019 when President Trump directed such efforts to further the scheme. The President needed to undercut Vice President Biden as a candidate to enhance his chances of reelection.

In successfully pressuring the Ukrainian government to announce investigations into the 2016 campaign and Biden/Burisma theories, the President likely sought to garner several political benefits including help with his reelection efforts. As the House Impeachment Managers state in their trial memo:

Although these theories are soundless, President Trump sought a public announcement by Ukraine of investigations into them in order to help his 2020 reelection. By soliciting investigations into Ukraine interfering in the 2016 election, Ukraine’s announcement of that investigation would bolster the perceived legitimacy of his Presidency and, therefore, his political standing going into the 2020 race.61

President Trump needed to obfuscate what was known and present the idea nothing involved him personally in the 2016 election to bolster the credibility of claims of Ukrainian Government involvement in the 2016 election and corruption allegations against Vice President Biden ahead of the 2020 election. By soliciting investigations into the 2016 campaign and Biden/Burisma theories, the President sought to accomplish both of those goals.

Throughout this scheme, which began in late 2018, President Trump employed Mr. Giuliani as his principal agent,62 enlisted several U.S. government officials to assist with efforts to compel Ukrainian officials to launch investigations into these baseless theories.

Mr. Giuliani involved associates in this scheme, including Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, both of whom were charged in the Southern District of New York for conspiracy to violate election laws.63 Parnas and Fruman leveraged their Ukrainian connections to facilitate requests between Mr. Giuliani and then Ukrainian Prosecutor General Victor Shokin to advance the scheme. Both Parnas and Fruman were removed from their positions under a cloud of corruption.

The corrupt Ukrainian Prosecutors General Lutsenko and Shokin were among Mr. Giuliani’s sources for the unfounded allegations in support of the 2016 campaign and Biden/Burisma theories. During a January 2019 call via Skype, Mr. Shokin asserted he had overseen the investigation into Burisma.64 Mr. Shokin alleged that Vice President Biden’s unproven position to stop further investigation into Burisma and cover up wrongdoing.65 He made additional allegations including that he had wanted to check on the United States to share information regarding corruption at the Embassy, and that U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch desisted a U.S. embassy because she was close to Vice President Biden.66

Mr. Shokin later provided an affidavit espousing allegations against Vice President Biden,67 and Mr. Lutsenko’s scheme was made at the behest of a pro-Putin Ukrainian oligarch.68

Also, in January 2019, Mr. Giuliani met in November 2018 with Yuri Lutsenko, then the Ukrainian Prosecutor General. During these initial conversations with Mr.

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Giuliani, Mr. Lutsenko made multiple allegations that Ukrainian government officials interfered in the 2016 election to help Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. He also made additional corrupt payments to Burisma and raised the possibility that there could have been improper payments to Hunter Biden. In addition, Mr. Lutsenko made false allegations that Vice President’s personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, and other allies of the President.

Using these unfounded allegations, Mr. Giuliani undertook a smear campaign on traditional and social media. In the spring of 2019, Mr. Giuliani and his associates worked with columnist John Solomon, who wrote under a pseudonym, The Hill, to amplify the false allegations of Mr. Lutsenko and Mr. Shokin. Through these columns and a related interview, Mr. Lutsenko announced his solicitation of Ukrainian political interests above the interests of the nation. In doing so, the President abused the power of his office.

C. President Trump's Misuse of his Office to Advance the Corrupt Scheme

President Trump used the powers of his office to advance the corrupt scheme through multiple efforts, violating the public trust and placing his own personal political interests above the interests of the nation. In trying to arrange a meeting with President Zelensky, Mr. Giuliani was acting in a new capacity, not official or to advance official U.S. policy. On May 10, 2019, Mr. Giuliani wrote to then-President-elect Zelensky to request meetings on his capacity as "personal counsel to President Trump and with his knowledge and consent." Mr. Giuliani made clear in the letter that he intended to tell President Zelensky to pursue investigations into the 2016 campaign and Biden/Burisma theories. Then on May 11th, Mr. Giuliani cancelled his trip to Ukraine, declaring that President-Elect Zelensky had surrounded himself with "enemies of the President" (referring to President Trump).

President Trump intertwined Mr. Giuliani's private mission and the activities of public officials when he directed U.S. officials to aid his personal attorney in advancing this scheme. At a May 23rd meeting in the Oval Office, President Trump was briefed by Special Envoy Volker, Ambassador Gordon Sondland, and Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, who would subsequently describe themselves as the "Three Amigos," (herein referred to as the "Three Amigos") on their recent trip to attend the inauguration of President Zelensky. Witness testimony indicates that despite their positive assessments about President Zelensky, President Trump was unconvinced, and replied that the Ukrainians tried to "take me down" in 2016, referring to the debunked 2016 campaign theories. The President recanted previous allegations he made to Mr. Giuliani, including admitting that he had no evidence of wrongdoing by Vice President Biden or Hunter Biden. Ambassador Volker explained Mr. Lutsenko's motivations for making allegations about Burisma theories. The President directed the corrupt scheme to solicit investigations into the 2016 campaign and Biden/Burisma theories for his personal political gain.

C.1. President Trump Solicited Ukrainian President Zelensky to Open Investigations into the 2016 Campaign and Biden/Burisma Theories

President Trump abused the powers of his office to advance the corrupt scheme by attempting to leverage the Ukrainian desire for an Oval Office meeting and U.S. security assistance as a quid pro quo for Ukrainian investigations into his political opponents that would benefit his re-election in 2020. Starting in May 2019, President Trump directed a sustained campaign to solicit new-identified Ukrainian President Zelensky to undertake investigations into the 2016 campaign and Biden/Burisma theories.
interests in supporting Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression, the irregular channel was engaged in pursuing a quid pro quo to secure Ukrainian investigations into the 2016 campaign theory, including allegations associated with the debunked Russian hacking theory. At an inter- view with The Washington Post before the Trump-Zelensky phone call, OMB officials instructed relevant U.S. government departments and agencies to withhold obligation or disbursement of funds, in the context of the direction of the President.128 According to multiple witnesses, OMB did not provide a reason for the President’s hold on the Ukraine security assistance through September 11th, when OMB lifted the hold, again without providing a rationale for the change of course.

The President’s Counsel claim that the President’s hold on security assistance was caused by a policy that claim is not supported by the evidence. The man- ner in which the White House placed the hold on security assistance for Ukraine differed significantly from the process in which holds of assistance to other countries based on pol- icy considerations had previously occurred. As the House Impeachment Managers stated, "What the President did is not the same as the routine withholding of foreign aid to ensure that it aligns with the President’s policy pri- orities, and that can undermine the political dev- elopments."130 The President began asking about the hold based on the announcement of the release of funds, after the Department of Defense had the Ukrainian government made progress on corruption re- form, showing that the hold was not placed due to policy considerations. Further, no geopolitical circumstances had changed in that timeframe to warrant the placing of a hold on security assistance funds to Ukraine.

In addition, despite substantial evidence that U.S. officials were deeply concerned about conflicts with the Impound- ment Control Act (ICA), there was no notifi- cation of the delay to Congress as required by this law, belying the idea that the Presi- dient harbored legitimate concerns about policy.132 Congress has an established bipartisan record of robust support for Ukraine. Despite the Trump Administration’s assertions to the contrary, it is clear that the favor President Trump sought in the President’s phone call was the confirmation that the Ukrainian president would make progress on corruption re- form in order to unwinding the hold and securing crucial aid to Ukraine.

C.1.b. President Trump withheld military assistance

President Trump also used the powers of his office to order, through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the temporary withholding of congressionally appropriated se- cureity assistance to Ukraine. The evidence shows that the President fixated on a June 19, 2019, meeting with Mr. Volker in which he was told to inform the lawmakers about what happened in the meeting, adding that he was not be part of "whatever drug that Mulvaney is cooking up."133

C.1.b.1. The initiating of the hold

In withholding the security assistance for Ukraine, the President violated his duty to faithfully execute the laws. Congress enacted the ICA in 1974 as one of many responses to the Watergate scandal and to ensure that the President to obligate funds appro- priated by Congress, unless Congress other- wise authorizes the withholding.134 The ICA provides the President with narrowly cir- cumscribed authority to withhold, or "impound," appropriated funds only in limited, specified circumstances, and included a re- quirement to inform Congress. At no point did the Trump Administration either assert that it was impounding the Ukraine security assistance to ensure that Ukraine was making progress in its fight against Russian aggression, the irregular channel was engaged in pursuing a quid pro quo to secure Ukrainian investigations into the 2016 campaign theory, including allegations associated with the debunked Russian hacking theory. At an inter- view with The Washington Post before the Trump-Zelensky phone call, OMB officials instructed relevant U.S. government departments and agencies to withhold obligation or disbursement of funds, in the context of the direction of the President.128 According to multiple witnesses, OMB did not provide a reason for the President’s hold on the Ukraine security assistance through September 11th, when OMB lifted the hold, again without providing a rationale for the change of course.

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of an arrangement and he felt no pressure during the July 25th phone call. However, evidence shows that the President’s surrogates prepared President Zelensky ahead of the call.188 They would condition investigations into the 2016 campaign and Biden/Burisma theories in order to get a White House meeting. Ambassador Volker and Sondland worked with President Zelensky and his aide Mr. Yermak ahead of the call. Ambassador Volker, after having breakfast with Mr. Giuliani, told Ambas-
diator Bolton that he was “prepped” for this call.190 President Trump directed President Sondland to speak to President Trump, he would “run a fully transparent in-
vestigation and turn over every stone.”191 which he indicated in testimony referred to the “Burisma and the 2016” investigations.192

The morning of the July 25th call, Ambas-
diator Sondland spoke to President Trump and then alerted Ambassador Volker to con-
tact him.193 Approximately a half hour later, Ambassador Volker texted Zelensky aide Mr. Yermak, “Heard from White House—assuming
President Zelensky) knows Trump will be interested in the Burisma/Biden
investigation that related to Mr. Biden and the 2016 U.S. elections.”194

> But the hold happened in 2016, we will nail down a date
> that we will be very serious about the case and will work on the investiga-
tion.”195 Lt. Col. Vindman testified that as part of the call, including President Zelensky bringing up Burisma, suggested
> that he was “prepped” for this call.196 President Zelensky knew what “favor” President Trump was asking for as a condition for re-
ceiving the White House meeting.

C.1.d. The actions of Administration officials following the July 25th phone call demon-
strate that the President conditioned U.S. military aid for Ukraine on the white-
house meeting on President Zelensky announcing the investigations into the 2016 campaign and Biden/Burisma theories. The President’s Counsel assert that any claims that President Trump made any such linkage, particularly relating to the military aid, are unsupported and based on second or third-hand sources and speculation. They claim that no one with first-hand of the President’s thinking came forward and testified that he conditioned the delivery of these official acts for Ukraine on the investigations. These claims are manifestly erroneous and wrong.197

> Furthermore, the actions of Administra-
> tion officials after the July 25th phone call make clear President Trump’s request was a quid pro quo.198 Approximately 90 minutes after the call, OMB official Mike Duffy di-
rected Acting DoD Comptroller McCusker to formally hold the Department of Defense secu-
rity assistance to Ukraine.199

> In addition, conversations on July 26, 2019, detail that President Trump appeared solely focused on whether efforts to pressure Presi-
dent Zelensky to authorize the investigations into the 2016 campaign and Biden/Burisma theories.200 Ambassador Volker and Sondland worked with President Zelensky’s aide Mr. Yermak to generate an acceptable statement.201

> After the initial Ukrainian draft of the statement came from President Zelensky to fight corruption, Amb-
> assador Volker and Sondland consulted Mr. Giuliani who responded that if the state-
> ment didn’t say Burisma and the 2016 U.S. elections, the U.S. government officials realized the connection between the hold and the desire for Ukrainian announcements of investiga-
tions into President Trump’s political rivals. By early September, Ambassador Taylor said he understood that President Trump would withhold security assist-
ance until President Zelensky “committed to pursue the investigations.”202 Ambassador Volker’s forthcoming book reportedly includes contemporaneous notes reflect that President Trump wanted President Zelensky “in a box by making a public announcement about the investigations.”203 Ambassador Taylor responded to Ambassador Sondland that “everything” (the Oval Office meeting and meeting security assistance) was tied to the Ukrainian government announcing the political investigations.”204 Ambassador Taylor responded to Ambassador Sondland that it was because the Ukrainians realized that making such a statement was tantan-

to a quid pro quo.205

> Furthermore, witness testimony shows that the same time, the “security assistance continued through the late summer, U.S.
government officials realized the connection between the hold and the desire for Ukrainian announcements of investiga-
tions into President Trump’s political rivals. These directions came from the President.206 Ambas-
diator Sondland testified that he had passed a memo to Mr. Bolton that President Zelensky’s aide Mr. Yermak on September 1, 2019, that, “I believed that the resumption of U.S. aid would not likely occur until Ukraine took some kind of action on the public statement that we had been discussing for weeks.”207

> Affirming this account, Ambassador Taylor testified that advised Mr. Yermak that, “although this was not a quid pro quo, if President Zelensky did not clearly announce certain aspects of the investigations in public, we would not be able to generate an acceptable statement.”208

> The President’s Counsel argue that there could not have been a quid pro quo because
House Committee on Foreign Affairs opened intelligence, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs opened an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the call including the role of Mr. Giuliani.\(^{185}\) The President was reportedly briefed by White House Counsel on the existence of a whistleblower complaint, however a threat to our government.\(^{192}\) The President could have directed his Attorney General to make an official request of the Government of Ukraine, he could have done so through established diplomatic channels.

Moreover, the corrupt scheme did not end even after the House Committees began the Impeachment Inquiry. Mr. Giuliani, at the direction of the President, has continued to travel to Ukraine to generate compromising material.\(^{208}\) Ukraine is using the power of his office to advance a corrupt scheme.\(^{202}\) President Trump during the two calls he had with President Zelensky, 201 despite that President Trump had longstanding concerns about corruption.\(^{204}\) The President’s Counsel asserted that President Trump had longstanding concerns about corruption and burden-sharing by European allies in support of Ukraine. Upon careful review of the whistleblower complaint, it simply do not square with the facts. While there is some basis for the assertion that President Trump was unhappy with the way Ukraine was handling corruption and burden-sharing by European allies in support of Ukraine, he could have made an official request of the Government of Ukraine, he could have done so through established diplomatic channels.\(^{210}\)

The President’s Counsel stated that President Trump had longstanding concerns about corruption and burden-sharing by European allies in support of Ukraine. The witness testimony indicates that there was no evidence to support the claim that President Trump withheld Ukrainian military assistance out of concern about European assistance.\(^{219}\) President Trump may be skeptical about European contributions to mutual defense, European contributions to mutual defense.\(^{220}\) The United States is using the power of his office to advance a corrupt scheme.\(^{202}\) President Trump during the two calls he had with President Zelensky, 201 despite that President Trump had longstanding concerns about corruption.\(^{204}\) The President’s Counsel stated that President Trump had longstanding concerns about corruption and burden-sharing by European allies in support of Ukraine. Upon careful review of the whistleblower complaint, it simply do not square with the facts. While there is some basis for the assertion that President Trump was unhappy with the way Ukraine was handling corruption and burden-sharing by European allies in support of Ukraine, he could have made an official request of the Government of Ukraine, he could have done so through established diplomatic channels.\(^{210}\)

The second element of the offense of abuse of power is an ongoing threat to our government’s security assistance or the White House meeting. Specifically, the Ukrainian officials do not indicate that President Trump held Ukrainian security assistance due to concern about corruption in Ukraine. As discussed earlier, Ambassador Volker was requested to have multiple contacts with President Zelensky and his close aide Mr. Yermak ahead of the July 25th call. No evidence shows that President Zelensky was advised that the President was taking to address corruption on the call.\(^{204}\)

Similarly, previously discussed diplomatic efforts in August focused on securing a public commitment by President Zelensky to investigate the 2016 campaign and Biden/Burisma theories specifically, and a commitment to investigate general corruption more generally.\(^{166}\) This was deemed insufficient to meet President Trump’s request.\(^{203}\)

The evidence also does not indicate that President Trump used his office to undertake a corruption investigation in furtherance of official U.S. government policy. If the President was interested in pursuing a particular corruption investigation with the Government of Ukraine, he could have done so through regular inter-governmental channels.\(^{209}\) The President could have directed his Attorney General to make an official request of the Government of Ukraine, he could have done so through established diplomatic channels.\(^{210}\) Mr. Giuliani, and Attorney General Barr to pursue investigations into his political rivals.\(^{207}\) That the President did not go through regular inter-governmental channels supports the conclusion that his interest in Ukrainian investigations was for his personal political benefit and not legitimate policy considerations.

In addition, there is no evidence to support the claim that President Trump withheld Ukrainian military assistance out of concern about European contributions to mutual defense. European contributions to mutual defense.\(^{220}\) The United States is using the power of his office to advance a corrupt scheme.\(^{202}\) President Trump during the two calls he had with President Zelensky, 201 despite that President Trump had longstanding concerns about corruption.\(^{204}\) The President’s Counsel stated that President Trump had longstanding concerns about corruption and burden-sharing by European allies in support of Ukraine. Upon careful review of the whistleblower complaint, it simply do not square with the facts. While there is some basis for the assertion that President Trump was unhappy with the way Ukraine was handling corruption and burden-sharing by European allies in support of Ukraine, he could have made an official request of the Government of Ukraine, he could have done so through established diplomatic channels.\(^{210}\)

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from Europe while the aid was on hold. Mr. Sandy testified that he was not aware of any other countries committing to provide more financial assistance to Ukraine prior to the lifting of the hold on September 11, 2019.

Moreover, as the GAO decision makes clear, the President does not have the authority, much less the discretion, to withhold funds appropriated for a specific purpose. The GAO determined that “the law does not permit the President to substitute his own policy priorities for those of Congress and act into law.OMB withholds funds for a policy reason, which is not permitted under the Impoundment Control Act (ICA). The withholding of funds without a lawfully authorized policy reason is not permitted by the ICA.”

VI. ARTICLE II: OBSTRUCTION OF CONGRESS

A. Obstruction of Congress Is An Impeachable Offense

When any one branch of government seeks to obstruct an essential function of another branch, it threatens a central feature of our constitutional system: the separation of powers. In the case where a President seeks to derogate the authority of another branch, it can also undermine the President’s constitutional obligation to “take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.”

President Trump continues to thwart Congress’ oversight and investigative powers, obstructing an essential function of the Legislative Branch. In 

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McGrain v. Daugherty, the Supreme Court firmly established that such inquiry power is “an essential attribute of the ‘legislative function’ and included the ability to seek and enforce demands for information.
The need to comply with subpoena-backed requests for information, including in an Impeachment, has been explicitly stated. In *Kilbourn v. Thompson*, the Supreme Court held that in a question of impeachment, the power to conduct investigations is before either the House or Senate acting in its appropriate sphere on that subject of impeachment, we see no reason to limit the power to compel the attendance of witnesses, and their answer to proper questions, in the same manner and by the use of the same means that courts of justice can to this case.

Part of Congress’ broad oversight authority is the power to hold sitting presidents accountable for grave misconduct and abuses of power. As explained in Section V, Subsection A of this Memorandum, Congress has broad power to impeach and render the Impeachment process toothless. By refusing to provide any information to Congress, President Trump is trying to stop Congress from gathering relevant information and rendering process meaningful. As John Quincy Adams noted, it would make a “mockery” of the Constitution’s impeachment power for Congress to have an impeachment but not the power to obtain the evidence and proofs on which their impeachment was based.

The Judiciary Committee also confirmed that subverting the constitutionally vested powers of the Legislative Branch can be an impeachable offense, when it previously approved Articles of Impeachment charging President Richard Nixon with the failure to comply with duly authorized congressional subpoenas. The Judiciary Committee explained: 

In refusing to produce these papers and things, Richard M. Nixon, substituting his judgment as to what materials were necessary for the inquiry, interposed the powers of the Presidency against the lawful subpoenas of the House of Representatives, thereby assuming to himself functions and duties not provided by the Constitution in the House of Representatives.243

Based on the above historical and case precedent, I conclude that obstruction of Congress can be an impeachable offense. I also conclude that a sitting President commits contempt of Congress by:

1. Contravening the lawful authority of the Legislative Branch;
2. By imposing the powers of the presidential branch over the legislative branch and thereby preventing Congress from exercising its constitutionally vested power in the case of impeachment;
3. Without lawful cause or excuse.

*The House of Representatives Exercised Its Lawful Authority in the Impeachment Inquiry*

As explained in Section V, Subsection A of this Memorandum, Congress has broad power to conduct oversight and issue demands for information, and is vested with the sole power to conduct investigations under the Constitution.244

In this case, the House of Representatives was using both its lawful investigative and impeachment authorities, when it issued lawful subpoenas to another branch of government, by adoption of House Resolution 660 on October 31, 2019, which formalized the ongoing investigations into whether sufficient grounds existed to impeach the President Donald John Trump.

On September 9, 2019, the House Committees on Intelligence, Foreign Affairs, and Oversight (hereinafter the “Impeachment Committees”) first announced that they would be starting an investigation into reports that President Trump and his associates might have been seeking assistance from the Ukrainian government in his bid for reelection.245 As part of this inquiry, the House Intelligence Committee sought to compel the White House provide documents related to the President’s July 25th call with the Ukrainian President.

Speaker Pelosi subsequently announced on September 24, 2019 that the House would be commencing “an official impeachment Inquiry. The Investigating Committees then subpoenaed documents and witness testimony from the White House,246 the Department of State,247 the Department of Defense248 and the Executive Branch,249 the Department of Energy,250 and Rudy Giuliani.251

Once H.R. 660 was approved by the House on October 8, 2019, the subpoenas as part of the ongoing investigations leading up to the adoption of H.R. 660 remained in full force.252 In addition, the House Intelligence Committee issued new subpoenas for witness testimony to officials at the National Security Council,253 White House,254 Office of Management and Budget,255 and the Office of the Vice President.256

As such, I conclude that there is overwhelmingly clear and convincing evidence that the House had the power and authority to conduct its impeachment inquiry.

C. President Trump Used the Powers of the Presidency to Subvert the Powers of Congress

President Trump used the vast powers of his office to prevent the House of Representatives from exercising its oversight authority and sole power of impeachment. The President did so by ordering the entire Executive Branch not to cooperate with the House Impeachment Inquiry, White House Counsel Donald McGahn,257 Speaker Pelosi and the Investigating Committees on October 8, 2019, declaring that “President Trump cannot permit his Administration to participate in this partisan inquiry under these circumstances.”258 It is notable that, even before sending the October 8th letter, President Trump had made his intentions clear to obstruct any and all oversight by Congress, proclaiming, “We’re fighting all out.”259

The President’s sweeping directive on October 8th had the foreseeable effect of obstructing and preventing production of materials through the House Impeachment inquiry. Following President Trump’s categorical order, the Department of State,260 the Office of Management and Budget,261 the Department of Energy,262 and the Department of Defense263 failed to produce a single document in response to requests or demands for records in their possession, while only documents the Executive Branch has released are summaries of President Trump’s phone calls with President Zelensky on April 21, 2019.264 Even these documents are not complete. The President claimed the July 25th call is, “an exact word for word transcript of the conversation.”265 However, the notes released to the public by the House Impeachment inquiry show that there were key omissions. NSC official Lt. Col. Vindman, who listened to the calls, testified that edits were made to the document that docu- ment based on his notes were not included in the transcript that was released. Lt. Col. Vindman’s edits included a reference to a transcript of the conversation.”266

Therefore, the relevant question on the validity of the House subpoenas does not turn

Additionally, as a result of the October 8th directive, multiple Trump Administration officials have defied congressional subpoenas and refused to testify in the Impeachment Inquiry.267 Growth of the President’s abuse of power has come to light, despite the President’s obstreeristic efforts, largely because key Administration of- ficials have also been neither complying with subpoenas nor responding to written requests issued by the House. Even in those cases, agency leadership worked to ensure that those officials would be able to provide testimony. In particular, the Department of State,270 the Department of Defense,271 and the Department of Justice all asserted that sub- poenas were not properly served.

Once these witnesses were denied the opportunity to have documents that could have helped them give more specific testimony, and some had to rely on their own notes and recollections.272 President Trump personally sought, through intimidation or influence, to impede the testimony of officials that cooperated with the House Impeachment inquiry. He specifically sought to impede the testi- monies of Ambassador Gordon Sondland,273 Ambassador William Taylor,274 Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch,275 Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman,276 and Jennifer Williams.

There is indeed overwhelmingly clear and convincing evidence that President Trump used the powers of his office to prevent the House from exercising its constitutionally granted authority to conduct oversight related to the Impeachment inquiry.

D. President Trump Obstructed the Impeach- ment Inquiry Without Lawful Cause or Excuse

Whether President Trump obstructed Congress turns on whether there is evidence that he had legal cause or excuse for his total non-cooperation with the Impeachment inquiry. I will address how each of the arguments that the President’s Counsel have made in attempting to justify the President’s stonewalling do not provide sufficient legal excuse for his conduct.

D.1. Validity of Congressional Subpoenas

The President’s Counsel argue that subpoenas related to the impeachment proceeding are invalid, if they were issued before the House voted to approve H.Res. 660 formalizing the Impeachment inquiry on October 25, 2019. In their brief, Counsel states that “It was entirely proper for Administration officials to decline to comply with subpoenas issued pursuant to a purported ‘impeachment inquiry’ before the House of Representatives had authorized any such inquiry. No House committee can issue subpoenas pursuant to its impeachment power without authorization from the House itself.”278 Relying on the argument that subpoenas issued prior to the passage of H.Res. 660 were invalid,279 Counsel states that “‘It was entirely proper for Administration officials to decline to comply with subpoenas issued pursuant to a purported ‘impeachment inquiry’ before the House of Representatives had authorized any such inquiry. No House committee can issue subpoenas pursuant to its impeachment power without authorization from the House itself.’”280

The President’s Counsel’s argument broadly fails because it goes against well-established case law recognizing Congress’s power to conduct investigations281 and issues subpoenas, even when it is not engaged in an impeachment proceeding.282

Therefore, the relevant question on the validity of the House subpoenas does not turn
on whether they were issued before or after H.Res. 660, as the President's Counsel argue. Rather, it should center on whether they were issued as part of a lawful congressional investigation. In this case, the issue of privilege is one of the more important issues involved in the legitimate purpose of investigating whether President Trump and his associates sought assistance from the Ukrainian government to influence their election. As a result, there is convincing evidence that the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and the House Oversight and Reform Committee on Oversight and Reform had valid investigative and subpoena authority, even before the passage of H.Res. 660.

Even though first made by the President’s Counsel, the Trump Administration failed to abide by its rule. Following the President’s Counsel’s own logic, the President would have to recognize the validity of and comply with subpoenas issued after the Impeachment inquiry was formalized, on October 31, 2019. Yet, the President did not permit officials from OMB and the National Security Council to testify even though they were subpoenaed after H.Res. 660 passed the House.

**Presidential Privilege**

To the extent that the President has legitimate executive privilege claims, he failed to properly assert them or to go through the proper accommodation process to keep information confidential.

**D.2.a. Presidential privilege is not absolute**

The President’s Counsel have stood by the October 8th letter from Mr. Cipollone to Speaker Pelosi declaring that the President and his Administration would not participate in the Impeachment inquiry. President Trump himself has articulated his expansive view of his powers saying, “Honorable senators, it is this President who has the power to pardon.”

The President’s Counsel argue that the President used the powers of his office to stop the House from fully pursuing its investigation. In so doing, they believe that the President intended to keep the requested information confidential. They believed that the President intended to keep the requested information confidential. They believed that the President intended to keep the requested information confidential. They believed that the President intended to keep the requested information confidential.

In this accommodation process that is not the norm, a wholesale refusal by one branch to another. “Cooperation dominates over separation of powers, and this is one of the President’s Counsel’s primary objectives.”

**D.2.b. Accommodation of legislative branch**

Moreover, even if President Trump did have a legitimate need to keep information confidential, the accommodation is required to accommodate the legitimate needs of the others to maintain the separation of powers. If President Trump had a valid need to keep confidential some of the information that the House requested, the agencies and offices involved could have entered into good-faith negotiations with the House to resolve their conflicting needs.

The Courts have suggested that the Framers intended dynamic compromise as the most effective way to solve disputes between the branches. The Court stated that “Under this view, cooperation will exist in an exclusively adversary relationship to one another when a conflict in authority arises. Rather, each branch should take cognizance of an implicit constitutional mandate to seek optimal accommodation through a realistic evaluation of the needs of the conflicting branches in the particular fact situation.”

It is this accommodation process that is the norm, not a wholesale refusal by one branch to another. “Cooperation dominates over separation of powers, and this is one of the President’s Counsel’s primary objectives.”

In this accommodation process that is not the norm, a wholesale refusal by one branch to another. “Cooperation dominates over separation of powers, and this is one of the President’s Counsel’s primary objectives.”

A review of the D.C. Court circuit case, Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities v. Nixon, affirmed that presidential privilege is not absolute and could not be overcome by a “strong showing of need by another institution of government.”

The Court in this case articulated the following test in making its decision: Congress in using its authority, the President may override presidential privilege when it makes the requisite showing of need that “the subpoenaed evidence is demonstrably critical to the responsive fulfillment of the Committee’s function, such as a legitimate oversight or legislative purpose.”

In this case, Mr. Cipollone’s October 8th letter makes clear that the President intended to exercise privileges over the whole of the Executive Branch, regardless of whether an agency was involved in foreign policy or national security. In contrast, investigating committees overwhelmingly demonstrated a particularized interest in obtaining information to ascertain whether the President and his associates violated foreign interference on his behalf in the 2020 election. In addition, it would be hard to think of a setting where congressional need for information is greater than during an Impeachment, which is the Constitution’s most potent way to hold the President accountable for his conduct as far as to instruct the Senate that it could not consider the evidence the House did obtain saying that “The Senate may not rely on a congressional investigation proceeding through constitutionally deficient proceedings to support a conviction of the President of the United States.”

In addition, as the Senate Impeachment proceedings were underway, new and material evidence of President Trump’s misconduct continued to come out. Lev Parnas, a co-associate of Rudy Giuliani, testified that President Trump was fully aware of efforts to dig up “dirt” on his political rival, as were Vice President Mike Pence, Attorney General William Barr, and former Energy Secretary Rick Perry. According to news reports, it also has come to light that President Trump directed John Bolton, his then-national security adviser, to help with his pressure campaign against the Ukrainian government.

The President’s Counsel argue that the subpoenas issued by the House are invalid not only because of when they were issued. They argue that the Impeachment inquiry itself is defective and unauthorized and therefore any compliance is unnecessary. The President’s Counsel argue that “the House has never undertaken the solemn responsibility of a presidential impeachment proceeding.”

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As explained in Section V, Subsection D.1 of this Memorandum, Congress’s power to conduct investigations is an emergency power, even when not as part of an Impeachment, has been repeatedly and firmly settled by the Courts. Therefore, even if one accepts that the Executive Branch is no longer bound to follow the rules unless authorized by the House, it does nothing to diminish the power of the committees at hand to engage in an oversight investigation.

**D.3. Purported Defectiveness of Impeachment Inquiry**

The President’s Counsel argue that the subpoenas issued by the House are invalid not only because of when they were issued. They argue that the Impeachment inquiry itself is defective and unauthorized and therefore any compliance is unnecessary.

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Here, I am also persuaded by the House Impeachment Managers’ argument that the Constitution grants the “sole Power of Impeachment” to the House of Representatives. In addition, the Constitution also explicitly states: “[t]he Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments.”313 Nowhere does the Constitution empower the President to unilaterally decide that an impeachment is illegitimate. I conclude that investigations leading up to H.R. 660 and the formal inquiry that continued afterward were duly authorized.

D. A. Further Litigation

The President’s Counsel argue that its categorical and comprehensive defiance cannot be deemed to be obstruction of Congress because “the President sought judicial review of the subpoenas issued as part of the Impeachment inquiry.” This argument is unconvincing given that the involvement of the Courts in information access disputes between the Legislative and Executive Branches has been rare, at least with respect to conflicts over House subpoenas. As the Congressional Research Service explains:

The traditional preference for political rather than judicial solutions seems supported by neither the history nor precedent. The President appears to have turned to the courts to resolve an investigative dispute until the 1970s . . . . The courts themselves have largely failed to avoid entangling investigative disputes between the executive and legislative branches, instead encouraging settlement of their differences through a political resolution. Consistent with that approach, lower federal courts have suggested that judicial intervention in investigations should be postponed until all possibilities for settlement have been exhausted.” . . . [In addition] some evidence suggests that both the House and the courts have viewed judicial involvement in an impeachment inquiry as inappropriate or in excess of the judiciary’s power.314

Moreover, the argument of the President’s Counsel is ineffective in the context of the dilatory tactics the Trump Administration has been using in other pending cases where the House also has subpoenaed documents. In particular, the President’s Counsel argue that the President cannot be held accountable by either the Judicial or Legislative Branch. This is in effect a gambit in a case currently pending in the D.C. Circuit Court, Committee on the Judiciary v. McGahn. In this case, the House Judiciary Committee sought to enforce a subpoena against former White House Counsel, Don McGahn. The D.C. District Court ruled against the DOJ, which claimed that McGahn has a governmental immunity from congressional subpoenas for his testimony. In its decision, the Judge compares the DOJ’s inconsistent arguments in the McGahn case with the arguments regarding investigatory subpoenas for the President’s tax returns. The Judge points out that the DOJ “stood silent with respect to the jurisdictional question. President Trump (in his personal capacity) has invoked the authority of the federal courts, on more than one occasion, seeking resolution of a dispute over the admissibility of a legislative subpoena concerning his tax returns. A lawsuit that asserts that a legislative subpoena should be quashed as unlawful is merely the flip side of a lawsuit that argues that a legislative subpoena should be enforced. And it is either DOJ’s position that the federal courts have jurisdiction to review such subpoenas or the President’s position that they do not.”

Constitution grants the "sole Power of Impeachment" to the Senate. This constitutional phrase is rooted in basic constitutional principles of fundamental fairness. Determining due process of the law "require[s] . . . that state action, whether through one agency or another, be consistent with fundamental principles of liberty and justice which lie at the base of all our civil and political institutions and not infrequently are designated as the "law of the land." In evaluating whether President Trump was afforded protections that are consistent with the "fundamental principles of liberty and justice," the analysis should center on whether he was given rights customarily given to presidents in previous Impeachments.

During the Clinton Impeachment inquiry, the President’s Counsel was invited to attend all Judiciary Committee executive sessions and open hearings, was allowed to cross-examine witnesses, object to pieces of evidence, and request additional evidence, and to present additional evidence, and to participate in the House Judiciary Committee’s proceedings during the impeachment inquiry. This included the right to do so in every Judiciary Committee hearing; request additional witnesses during these hearings; present evidence orally or in writing; have the President’s Counsel cross-examine witnesses; and raise objections during Judiciary Committee hearings. In a November 29th letter to the President, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Nadler inquired which of these privileges the President’s Counsel wished to exercise.322 In his December 6th response, Mr. Cipollone chose not to exercise any of these rights and concluded that the Impeachment inquiry violated due process rights.327

After reviewing this comparison, I conclude President Trump has been afforded as least as much evidence as Presidents Nixon and Clinton, and therefore standards of fundamental fairness requisite for due process have been met in the current Impeachment proceeding.

Based on the above analysis, I find that there is overwhelming clear and convincing evidence that President Trump obstructed the House’s Impeachment inquiry without lawful cause or excuse and that President Trump is guilty on the second Article of Impeachment.

VII. LACK OF EVIDENTIAL RECORD

A. Senate’s Role in Lack of Witnesses and Documents

As I have explained, the House of Representatives, as part of its Impeachment investigation, subpoenaed documents from multiple Executive Branch agencies. To date, the Administration has produced zero responsive documents. In fact, the Administration has engaged in a systematic effort to deny relevant evidence and testimony to the House of Representatives in defiance of lawful Congressional subpoena power.

Fortunately, patriotic and law-abiding federal employees and former officials compiled

February 27, 2020

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
with lawful subpoenas and appeared at depo-
sitions or public hearings. As described pre-
viously, testimony provided by witnesses is
probative of the President’s guilt on both Ar-
ticles of Impeachment.

Once the Articles of Impeachment were re-
cceived by the Senate, the Senate had the op-
opportunity to utilize its own oversight and Impeach-
ment powers. While pursuant to Article I of the Con-
mvention to gather relevant doc-
uments and testimony, however, in this Impeach-
ment trial, unlike previous ones con-
ducted under the Constitution, whether of Novem-
ber 9, 2019, or other officials, no witnesses were al-
lowed.328

My Republican colleagues voted against holding a fair trial. For example, Senator 
McConnell initially sought to have a set of rules governing this Impeachment trial that would not have included a provision to auto-
matically adopt the House’s evidence.329 He also sought to have twenty-four hours of opening arguments over two days to speed up the trial.330 My Republican colleagues re-
lettered on these points, allowing the House 
Impeachment Managers and the President’s Coun-
sele to each have twenty-four hours of 
argument over three days.331 The Republic-
an authored resolution ultimately 
did not 
guarantee witnesses, only providing for a 
vote on whether witnesses could be heard at 
the end of the argument, and the question 
period.332 From my perspective, my fellow 
Republicans were reluctant to have evidence and arguments put in front of the American peo-
ple for judgment.

My Democratic colleagues offered eleven amendments in an effort to ensure a fair trial.334 The amendments, if adopted, would have permitted Senators and the American people to see relevant evidence and hear from witnesses. These amendments were de-
feated—almost entirely along party lines.335

After the answer period of the Impeachment trial, the Senate voted on amendments offered by my Democratic col-
leagues that would have provided for wit-
nesses and documents.336 These amendments were again defeated, largely along partisan lines.337 It is crucial to note, that this second 
series of votes was taken after reports that 
Ambassador Bolton’s draft manuscript con-
tained evidence relevant and central to the 
allegations in the Articles of Impeachment.

Through the end of the trial, the vast major-
ity of witness and evidence discussed related to 
conversations with and around the President, with no witnesses to dispute his 
words. The trial ended with a single, brief vote on whether to permit the introduction of documents into evidence.338

VIII. CONCLUSION: REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT 
TRUMP IS THE SOLE APPROPRIATE REMEDY

Conviction and removal of a President 
from office is a high standard, and one that should be reserved for when there were no other remedies available. As I laid out dur-
ing the 1998 Impeachment trial of President 
Clinton, “the independence of the Impeach-
ment process from the prosecution of crimes underscores the function of Impeachment as a means to remove a President from office, not because he has committed a crime but be-
cause the President poses a threat to the Constitution.”340 Furthermore, dur-
ing the Clinton Impeachment proceedings, I laid out the following principle: “The 
President's misconduct must represent a continuing threat to the American people.”341 In the current case, I have concluded that 
allowing President Trump to remain in office such a threat to our electoral system and the Constitution.

A Subversion of the Constitutional Order and an Unaccountable President

The President’s Counsel have argued that even if President Trump abused the power of his office to withhold U.S. military assistance to an ally, in order to pressure 
that country to conduct investigations for his personal and political benefit, doing so would not be an impeachable offense. Ac-
cording to the President’s Counsel, “if a President does something which he believes 
will help him get elected—in the public in-
terest—that cannot be the kind of quid pro quo that results in impeachment.”342 It is on this basis that my Republican colleagues fur-
ther argue that, even if the President did in 
fact condition security assistance for Ukraine on politically-motivated investigations, it was not an impeachable 
of
cese.343 That argument violates the funda-
mental principle of our constitutional sys-
tem that no one is above the law.

Furthermore, President Trump has shown that he will block any congressional check on his misuse of office by ignoring subpoenas 
and appearing at depositions for his 
personal and political benefit, doing so 
would not be an impeachable offense. Ac-
cording to the President’s Counsel, “If a 
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mental principle of our constitutional sys-
tem that no one is above the law.

President Trump’s defiance of both Con-
gress and the Courts on subpoenas threatens to nullify the constitutional authority of both the House and Senate, not merely to check the personal 
excesses of any given president, but also to oversee the entire 
Executive Branch. As the Founders’ 
original design demands, the President 
was intended to serve as an independent 
check on executive mismanagement, abuse, 
corruption, and overreach embodied in the 
power of congressional oversight.

B. Ongoing Harm to the Constitutional Order

An additional reason for the rem-

oval of a President from office is that the 
President’s behavior was not a one-
time indiscretion, but rather part of a pat-
tern of behavior to invite foreign influence 
into our electoral system. 

The Constitution, based on the 
perception that our elections are tainted 
lead voters to question whether their vote 
matters. That is why one of our jobs as law-
makers is to ensure the integrity of the elec-
toral process. We work to ensure that every vote cast is fairly and accurately counted.
We work to ensure that external forces, for- eign or otherwise, cannot sway or pre-deter- mine the outcome of the election. The United States government should not be played and our democracy should not be taken for granted. This government is one of laws, and our institutions are structured to protect the integrity of our elections and the sanctity of our democracy.

President Trump is the only logical finding in the February 27, 2020 hearing. The on-the-record testimony of multiple witnesses, including former National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, former National Security Advisor John Bolton, former Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale, and former White House Advisor Stephen Miller, established beyond a reasonable doubt that President Trump engaged in a coordinated campaign of political interference that the Intelligence Community unanimously concluded occurred in the 2016 election. Through acquittal, the Senate will give its blessing for President Trump to use any means at his disposal to sway the next election in his favor, with no con- sequences. President Trump has already demonstrated unequivocally that he has no compunction about violating the law, ob- structing congressional oversight, and putting our nation and allies at risk. The differ- ence now will be that President Trump will know that the Senate will give him cover for his future abuses of office. The on- going threat to the constitutional order must be remedied, and therefore removal of the President is the only logical finding in this case.

ENDNOTES
9. Id. at 2133.
11. The Federalist No. 65, supra note 3, at 439 (emphasis in original).
13. Id.
14. 4 The Debates in the Several State Conventions on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution 113 (Jonathan Elliot ed., 2nd ed. 1861).
19. Id. at 550.
20. Id.
21. Id.
22. Id.
23. Id.
24. Id. at 600.
27. 1 The Collected Works of James Wilson 736 (Kermit L. Hall and Mark David Hall eds. 2011).
28. Memorandum from William Barr, At- torney General, Department of Justice, to Rod Rosenstein, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice, and Steve Engel, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice 12 (June 8, 2018) (on file with the New York Times).
29. 2 The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787, supra note 12, at 66.
33. Id.
36. The Federalist No. 65, supra note 3, at 441.
37. Id. at 442.
40. Id. at 67.
45. 2 The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787, supra note 12, at 65.
47. Id. at 139–40.
48. Id. at 139–140.
49. Id. at 180.
51. Impeachment Inquiry: Fiona Hill and David Holmes Testify Before the Select Comm. on Intelligence, 116th Cong. 40 (2019) (state- ment of Dr. Fiona Hill). (On November 21, 2019, NSC senior adviser Fiona Hill described the theory of Ukrainian interference in the 2016 election as “a fictional narrative that is being perpetrated and propagated by the Russian security services themselves.”)
53. Office of the Director of National Intel- ligence, National Intelligence Council, As- sessing Russian Activities in Recent U.S. Elections, a report by the National Intelligence Council unanimously concluded on January 6, 2017, that Russia interfered in the 2016 elec- tion to “undermine public faith in the US democratic process, denigrate Secretary Clinton and her electability and potential Presidency.” The Intelligence Community further assessed that “Putin and Russian Government developed a clear preference for President-elect Trump.”
54. 1 Robert S. Mueller, III, Report On The Investigation Into Russian Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election 1–2 (Mar., 2019). (The Special Counsel’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 con- structively that the Special Counsel perceived it would benefit from a Trump presidency and worked to secure that outcome, and that the campaign expected it would benefit electorally from information stolen and released through Russian efforts . . .”)
55. 2 Robert S. Mueller, III, Report On The Investigation Into Russian Interference In Ukraine. For example, Ambassador Volker stated: “When Vice President Biden made those representations . . . he was represent- ing U.S. policy at the time.”).
56. See e.g. Arlette Saenz, Joe Biden An- nounces He is Running for President in 2020, CNN, Apr. 25, 2019, https://www.cnn.com/2019/ 04/25/politics/joe-biden-2020-president/index.html. (Vice President Biden declared his candidacy for president on April 25, 2019, for a longer months’ postponing review about whether he would run and being cast by the press as a formidable rival to President Trump.)
Biden called for Mr. Shokin to be fired and told Ukrainian authorities that the United States would withhold $1 billion in loan guarantees if he was not relieved of his position.

68. See generally Karen Freidel & Aram Roston, Exclusive: Trump Lawyer Giuliani Was Paid $500,000 to Provide Legal Advice to Ukrainian to Trump, Reuters, Oct. 14, 2019, https://www.reuters.com/article/us-us-trump-whistleblower-giuliani-excl-exclusive-trump-lawyer-giuliani-ukraine-trump.html. (According to Mr. Giuliani, the President was fully witting of the Mr. Giuliani’s activities to further the scheme. Mr. Giuliani told the New York Times that he “basically known what I’m doing, sure, as his lawyer,” and, “[m]y only client is the president of the United States. He’s the one I have an obligation to report to and answer to.”)

69. Id. at 45. (Regarding Mr. Shokin, Deputy Assistant Secretary George Kent stated in discovery that he did not object to the visa because Mr. Shokin was “very well and very unfavorably known to us. And we felt, under no circumstances, should we issue a visa to someone who knowingly subverted and wasted U.S. taxpayer money.” Mr. Kent further testified that White House aide Robert Blair called to “force a visa on Shokin even though Shokin was denied a visa.”

70. Id. at 245-265 (199). (Ambassador Yovanovitch stated at her closed-door interview, “The embassy had received a visa application for a tourist visa from Mr. Shokin, the previous prosecutor general. And he said that he was coming to visit his children, who live in the United States . . . The consular folks got the application, recognized the name, and believed he was ineligible for a visa, based on his . . . corrupt activities . . . so I alerted the White House that this had happened. And the next thing we knew, Mayor Giuliani was calling the White House as well as the Assistant Secretary of Consular Affairs, saying that I was blocking the visa for Mr. Shokin, and that Mr. Shokin was coming to meet him to provide information about corruption at the embassy, including my corruption.”)

71. Notes from Interview with Mr. Shokin, Rudy Giuliani (Jan. 23, 2019) (on file with the State Department).
91. Chris Gracescandi, President Trump's Former National Security Advisor 'Deeply Disturbed' by Ukraine Scandal: 'Whole World is Watching', ABC News, Sept. 29, 2019, https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/donald-trump-unhappy-former-national-security-adviser-deeply-disturbed-ukraine/story?id=65255747. (Mr. Tom Bossert, President Trump's former Homeland Security Adviser, stated that the 'crowdstonal allegations are, “completely debunked.” Mr. Bossert further stated, “The United States government reached its conclusion on disbar the DS C hack in 2016 before it even communicated it to the FBI, before it ever knocked on the door. So a server inside the D N C was not relevant to our determination to the attribution. It was made up front and before-hand.”)

92. Allan Smith, "Enough": Trump's Ex-Homeland Security Advisor 'Disturbed,' 'Frustrated' by Ukraine Allegations, Says President Must Let 2016 Go, NBC News, Sept. 29, 2019, https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/enough-trump-s-ex-homeland-security-adviser-disturbed-ukraine-allegations-1.90660. (Sept. 26, 2019, Mr. Lutsenko said that Hunter Biden was false. In May 2019, Mr. Lutsenko said there was no evidence of wronging by Vice President Biden and Ukraine, or that Vice President Biden acted corruptly in calling for the removal of then-Acting Deputy Attorney General Shokin. Multiple media outlets have also undertaken investigations into the allegations regarding Vice President Biden and Hunter Biden, and produced no evidence of wrongdoing.)

93. Interview of: Kurt Volker Before the H. Perm. Select Comm. On Intelligence, Joint with the Comm. on Oversight and Reform and the Comm. on Foreign Affairs, 116th Cong. 36-37 (2019).

94. Alan Cullison, Biden in Ukraine: An Explorer, Wall Street Journal, Sept. 22, 2019, https://www.wsj.com/articles/biden-anticorruption-effort-in-ukraine-overshadowed-sons-work-in-country-11561917872. (For example, Ukraine expert Anders Aslund from the Atlantic Council recalls, “Everyone in the Western community wanted Shokin sacked. The whole G-7, the IMF, the EBRD, I think everybody went up there to support the President.”)

95. Geoffrey Pyatt, then-U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, expressed concern that Shokin’s office “not only did not support investigations into corruption, but rather undermined prosecution work in legitimate corruption cases.” Ambassador Pyatt specifically brought up Burisma as an example of an investigation that had languished under Shokin’s tenure as Prosecutor General.


97. See Joe Biden, then-Vice President, United States, Remarks to the Ukrainian Rada in Kyiv, Ukraine (Dec. 9, 2015). (On December 9, 2015, Vice President Biden stated in front of the Ukrainian Parliament (Rada): “... you cannot name me a single democracy in the world where the cancer of corruption is prevalent. You cannot name me one. They are thoroughly inconsistent. And it’s not enough to set up a new anti-corruption bureau and establish a special prosecutor fighting corruption. The Office of the General Prosecutor desperately needs reform. The judiciary should be overhauled. The energy sector needs to be competitive, ruled by market principles—not political deals.”)


99. Interview of: Kurt Volker Before the H. Perm. Select Comm. On Intelligence, Joint with the Comm. on Oversight and Reform and the Comm. on Foreign Affairs, 116th Cong. 36-37 (2019).

100. Oliver Darcy & Allan Smith, "I'm a political animal.")

101. Interview of: Kurt Volker, supra note 94, at 354.

102. Vogel, supra note 67.

103. Id. (Mr. Giuliani said, “He basically knows what I am doing, sure, as his lawyer.”)

104. Letter from Rudolph Giuliani to Arsen Avakov, Minister of Internal Affairs, Ukraine (May 10, 2019) (on file with H. Perm. Select Comm. on Intelligence). (The letter was made public by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and was made public on January 14, 2020. In the letter, Mr. Giuliani wrote, “I will be accompanied by my legal colleagues Victoria Toensing, a distin-
guished American attorney who is very fa-
miliar with this matter.”).


erlease).

121. Id. at 14-15. (For instance, Vice Presidential aide Williams testified that she learned about the hold on July 3, 2019, until it was lifted on September 11, 2019, she never came to under-


stand why President Trump ordered the hold.); Deposition of: Lieutenant Colonel Alex-


ander S. Vindman Before the H. Perm. Select Comm. on Intelligence, Joint with the Comm. on Oversight and Reform and the Comm. on Foreign Affairs, 116th Cong. 55 (2019). (Vice Presidential aide, Jennifer Williams testified that she learned of a hold on State Department security assistance funds (FMF) on July 3, 2019.)

122. Deposition of: William B. Taylor Before the H. Perm. Select Comm. on Intelligence, Joint with the Comm. on Oversight and Reform and the Comm. on Foreign Affairs, 116th Cong. 57 (2019). (Multiple witnesses testified to this announcement oc-


curring at the July 18 interagency meeting on Ukraine, including Political Counselor to US Embassy in Kyiv.)

claimed that the House Impeachment Managers didn’t try to obtain first hand witnesses while they were making their case in the House. The President’s Counsel argued, “They didn’t even subpoena John Bolton. They didn’t even try to get his testimony. To insist now that this body will become the investigative body—that this body will have to sit as a Court of Impeachment while now discovery will be done. It would be Ambassador Bolton, and if there are going to be witnesses, in order for there to be, as they said, a fair trial, fair adjudication, they would have to give his opportunity to call his witnesses, and there would be depositions. This would drag on for months. Then that will be the new procedure. I’m sure the House Impeachment Managers argued, these assertions do not actually represent the facts. “We asked John Bolton to testify in the House, and he refused. We asked his deputy, Dr. Kupperman, to testify, and he refused. Fortunately, we asked their deputy, Dr. Fiona Hill, to testify, and she did. We asked her deputy, Colonel Vindman, to testify too. We did seek the testimony of John Bolton as well as Dr. Kupperman, and they refused. When we subpoenaed Dr. Kupperman, he sued us. He took us to court. When we raised a subpoena with John Bolton’s counsel, the same counsel for Dr. Kupperman, the answer was, ‘you serve us a subpoena, we will not serve you too.’ We know based on the McGahn litigation, it would take months, if not years, to force John Bolton to come and testify.”


156. Impeachment Inquiry: Fiona Hill and David Holmes notes, supra note 29, at 17.

157. Id. at 29–30.


159. Id.


161. Impeachment Inquiry: Ms. Laura Cooper and Mr. David Holmes, Select Comm. on Intelligence, 116th Cong. 14 (2019) (statement of Ms. Cooper).

162. Deposition of: Andrew E. Croft Before the H. Perm. Select Comm. on Intelligence, Joint with the Comm. on Oversight and Reform and the Comm. on Foreign Affairs, 116th Cong. 86–87, 101 (2019). (Croft, a career foreign service officer, further testified that she was surprised at the effectiveness of their “diplomatic tradecraft,” noting that “they found out very early on” that the United States was withholding critical security assistance to Ukraine.)

163. Deposition of: Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman Before the H. Perm. Select Comm. on Intelligence, Joint with the Comm. on Oversight and Reform and the Comm. on Foreign Affairs, 116th Cong. 314 (2019).

164. Deposition of: Counsel to the President’s Office Before the H. Perm. Select Comm. on Intelligence, Joint with the Comm. on Oversight and Reform and the Comm. on Foreign Affairs, 116th Cong. 68 (2019).

165. Id.

166. Deposition of: Ambassador to Russia, Ukraine, and Australia about their roles in the investigation even traveling to Italy to seek help. For example, at the Attorney General’s request, the President asked the governments of Australia and the United Kingdom to assist with the investigation including looking into the role that their intelligence and law enforcement agencies played. The New York Times further reported that Attorney General Barr was helping planning the investigation even traveling to Italy to seek help from foreign officials there. . . . Mr. Barr has also contacted government officials in Britain and France regarding their roles in the early stages of the Russia investigation.); Interview by Rachel Maddow supra note 88. (Additionally, Giuliani associate Lev Parnas stated that he “had to know everything” and was “basically at the role that their intelligence and law enforcement agencies played. The New York Times further reported that Attorney General Barr was helping planning the investigation even traveling to Italy to seek help from foreign officials there . . . Mr. Barr has also contacted government officials in Britain and France regarding their roles in the early stages of the Russia investigation.); Interview by Rachel Maddow supra note 88. (Additionally, Giuliani associate Lev Parnas stated that he “had to know everything” and was “basically on Intelligence). (Text messages between Ambassador Volker, U.S. Ambassador to NATO and Special Envoy to Ukraine, to Gordon Sondland, U.S. Ambassador to EU, to Kurt Volker, U.S. Ambassador to NATO and Special Envoy to Ukraine (July 25, 2019) (on file with H. Perm. Select Comm. on Intelligence).


148. Impeachment Inquiry: Ambassador Gordon Sondland, supra note 114, at 27.

149. Id. at 94–95.

150. Id. at 52–55; Text Message from Gordon Sondland, U.S. Ambassador to EU, to Kurt Volker, U.S. Ambassador to NATO and Special Envoy to Ukraine (July 25, 2019) (on file with H. Perm. Select Comm. on Intelligence).


153. Interview of: Kurt Volker, supra note 71–72. (Ambassador Volker testified in his closed interview regarding the process on the draft statement: “Rudy discussed, Rudy Giuliani and Gordon [Sondland] and I. what it is they are looking for. And I shared that with Andriy [Yermak]. And then Andriy came back to me and said: We don’t think it’s a good idea. So that was obviously before Andriy came back and said: We don’t want to do that.” Ambassador Volker further elaborated: “So the Ukrainians thought that just coming out of the blue and making a statement didn’t make any sense to them. If they’re invited to come to the White House, to be specific date to Zelensky’s visit, then it would make sense for President Zelensky to come out and say something, and it would be a much broader statement about a reboot of U.S.-Ukraine relations, not just on we’re investigating these things [2016- Burisma].”)

154. Deposition of: William B. Taylor, supra note 113, at 39. (For instance, Ambassador Taylor testified that he spoke to Gordon Sondland by phone and that Sondland, “said he had talked to President Trump . . . Trump was adamant that President Zelensky himself be to clear things up and do it in public.”)

202. Impeachment Inquiry: Ms. Jennifer Williams and Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman, supra note 123, at 24–25. (Lt. Col. Vindman’s prepared talking points for the April 21 call included rooting out corruption.); See Memorandum from The White House of President Trump’s Telephone Conversation with President-Elect Zelensky of Ukraine (Apr. 21, 2019). (The memorandum of telephone call from April 21 shows the issue was not raised.); Impeachment Inquiry: Ambassador Williams and Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman, supra note 123, at 31. (Lt. Col. Vindman further testified that he prepared the President’s talking points for his July 25th phone call with President Zelensky and the topics for that call included, “cooperation on supporting a reform agenda, anticorruption efforts, and helping President Zelensky to investigate corruption, to end Russia’s war against Ukraine.’’); Memorandum from The White House of President Trump’s Telephone Conversation with President-Elect Zelensky of Ukraine (July 25, 2019). (The memorandum of telephone call from July 25, 2019, indicates that the President did not raise the whistleblower complaint.); Impeachment Inquiry: Kurt Volker and Timothy Morrison, supra note 117, at 34. (NSC official Morrison testified that references to Crowdstrike, the DNS server, go back to the President, and the President Biden and his son, were not included in the President’s talking points as written by the NSC.)

203. Deposition of: Tim Morrison, supra note 168, at 41. See further discussion of this topic on pages 22–23.

204. See further discussion of this topic on page 23.

205. Impeachment Inquiry: Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, supra note 116, at 199. (Ambassador Volker testified that to his knowledge there was not an official request from the Department of Justice.)

206. Interview of: Kurt Volker, supra note 94, at 191. (Ambassador Volker testified that “Andriy [Yermak, President Zelensky’s close aide] asked whether any request had ever been made by the U.S. to investigate election interference in 2016.” Ambassador Volker confirmed (just as Yermak’s inquiry equated to “a request from the Department of Justice.”)

207. Memorandum from The White House of President Trump’s Telephone Conversation with President Zelensky of Ukraine (July 25, 2019).


209. Interview of: Kurt Volker, supra note 94, at 191.

210. Delegation to Ukraine: The Select Committee on Intelligence, Joint with the Select Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, United States Senate (July 17, 2019).
231. Interview of: Kurt Volker, supra note 94, at 15.

232. Interview of: George Kent, supra note 63, at 114.


235. Id.

236. See generally The Federalist Paper No. 47 (James Madison) (Jacob E. Cooke ed. 1961); The Federalist Paper No. 48 (James Madison) (Jacob E. Cooke ed. 1961); The Federalist Paper No. 50 (James Madison) (Jacob E. Cooke ed. 1961); The Federalist Paper No. 51 (James Madison) (Jacob E. Cooke ed. 1961). (Federalist Nos. 47 through 51 show how the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches were to be wholly separated from each other, yet accountable to each other through a system of checks and balances.)

237. U.S. Const. art. II, § 3.

238. McGraw v. Daugherty, 273 U.S. 135, 174–175 (1927). ("... legislative action cannot legislate wisely or effectively in the absence of information respecting the conditions which the legislation is intended to affect or change; and where the legislative body does not itself possess the requisite information—which not infrequently is true—recourse must be had to others who do possess it. Experience has taught that mere requests for such information often are unavailing, and also that information which is volunteered is not always accurate or complete; so some means are necessary and essential to obtain what is needed. All this was true before and when the Constitution was framed and adopted. In that period the power of inquiry—with enforcing process—was regarded and employed as a necessary and appropriate attribute of the power to legislate—indeed, was treated as inhering in it. Thus there is ample authority, as we do not doubt the constitutional provisions which commit the legislative function to the two houses are intended to include this attribute to the end that the function may be effectively exercised.")


240. U.S. Const. art. I, § 2, cl. 5.

241. Frank O. Bowman III, High Crimes & Misdemeanors: A History of Impeachment for the Age of Trump, 200–209 (2019). ("... the subpoena power in impeachment cases arises directly from an explicit constitutional directive that the House conduct an adjudicative proceeding akin to a grand jury, the success of which is necessarily dependent on the availability of relevant evidence. Without the power to compel compliance with subpoenas and the concomitant right to impeach a president for refusal to comply, the impeachment power would be nullified.")


244. Press Release, H. Perm. Select Comm. on Intelligence, Three House Committees Launch Investigation, trumpet-guliukian Ukraine Scheme (Sept. 9, 2019).

245. Letter from Eliot L. Engel, Chairman, H. Comm. on Foreign Affairs, et al., to Pat A. Cipollone, Counsel to the President, The White House, (Sept. 9, 2019).
The day after Ambassador Taylor’s October 22, 2019, deposition before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, President Trump suggested that Taylor’s testimony was politically motivated: “Never Trump Republican John Bellinger, represents Never Trump Diplomat Bill Taylor (who was a very good choice). Do Nothing Democrats allow Republicans to work together for American interests (esp. Make a mess out of process that works).”

277. Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Twitter (Nov. 15, 2019, 10:01 AM), https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1193530860729766006?

278. The White House (WhiteHous), Twitter (Nov. 19, 2019, 12:49 PM), https://twitter.com/WhiteHouse/status/119680175729707468

279. Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Twitter (Nov. 17, 2019, 2:57 PM), https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1196156341710027525?

280. Trial Memorandum of President Donald J. Trump, supra note 25, at 37.


282. See Watkins v. United States, 354 U.S. 787, 805 (1957). (Even in exercising its ordinary oversight powers, the Supreme Court held in Watkins v. United States that “[t]he power of the Congress to conduct investigations is inherent in the legislative process. That power is broad. It encompasses inquirers concerning the administration of existing laws and authorization of new legislation, or possibly needed statutes. It includes surveys of defects in our social, economic or political system for the purpose of enabling the Congress to remedy them. ‘If legislation is needed ... the very heart of Congress’s constitutional role. Indeed, the former is necessary to the proper exercise of the latter: accord- ing to the Supreme Court, ‘the power to compel testimony is “necessary to the effective functioning of courts and legislatures . . . . Thus, Congress’s use of (and need for vindica- tion of) such subpoena power is no less legitimate or important than was the grand jury’s in United States v. Nixon, Both involve core functions of a co-equal branch of the federal government, and for the reasons identified in Nixon, the President may only be entitled to a presumptive, rather than an absolute, privilege here. And it is certainly the case that if the President is enti- tled only to a presumptive privilege, his close advisors cannot hold the superior card of absolute immunity.”


284. Both transcripts of the presidential calls, & the refusal of the Ukraine to release the She went turned bad. She started off in Somalia, how did that go? Then fast forward to Ukraine, where the new Ukrainian President spoke unfavorably about her in my second phone call with him. It is a U.S. President’s absolute right to appoint ambassadors . . . . They call it “serving at the pleasure of the President.” The U.S. now has a very strong and powerful foreign policy, much different than proceeding administrations. It is called, quite simply, America First! With all of that, however, I have done F&R for decades. I do not want to be involved in individual affairs is invalid if unrelated to any legislative purpose, because it is beyond the powers conferred upon Congress by the Constitution.

285. Letter from Adam B. Schiff, Chairman, H. Perm. Select Comm. on Intell., et al., to Paul W. Butler, Esq., Counsel to Michael van der Velden, Associate Counsel to the President, The White House, and Deputy Legal Advisor, National Security Council (Nov. 3, 2019); Letter from Adam B. Schiff, Chairman, H. Permanent Select Comm. on Intelligence, et al., to Karen Williams, Esq., Counsel to Preston Wells Griffith, Senior Director for International Energy and Environ- ment, National Security Council (Nov. 4, 2019); Letter from Adam B. Schiff, Chairman, H. Permanent Select Comm. on Intelligence, et al., to Whitney C. Ellerman, Counsel to Robert B. Blair, Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor to the Chief of Staff, The White House (Nov. 3, 2019); H. Perm. Select Comm. on Intelligence, Subpoena to John A. Eisenberg, Deputy Counsel to the President for National Security Affairs, the White House and Legal Advisor, National Security Council (Nov. 1, 2019); H.R. Rep. No. 116–346, at 134–135 (2019).

286. Letter from Pat A. Cipollone to Nancy Pelosi, supra note 259, at 2.


289. Id. at 706, 713. (Dicta from United States v. Nixon further suggests that a claim of confidentiality of presidential communications would be stronger if a need to protect mili- tary, diplomatic, or sensitive national secu- rity secrets is shown.)


291. See id. at 731.


293. Mcgrain v. Daugherty, 273 U.S. 156, 175 (1927). (The Supreme Court in Mcgrain v. Daugherty elaborated on Congress’ occa- sional need to compel information, writing that ‘‘the legislative body cannot legislate wisely or effectively in the absence of infor- mation respecting the conditions which the legislation is intended to affect or change; and while the right of the legislative body does not itself possess the requisite information—which not infrequently is true—recourse must be had to others who do possess it. Experience has taught that mere request for informa- tion often are unavailing, and also that information which is volunteered is not always accurate or complete; so some means of compulsion is necessary which is need- ed.’’); See also Watkins v. United States, 354 U.S. 178, 187–95 (1957); See also Eastland v. U.S. Servicemen’s Fund, 421 U.S. 504, 65 (1975).


295. Watkins v. United States, 354 U.S. 178, 179 (1957). (The Supreme Court held in Watkins that “In authorizing an investigation by a committee, it is essential that the Senate or House should spell out the committee’s jurisdiction in sufficient particularity to insure that compulsory process is used only in furtherance of a legislative purpose.” As such, the court also held that an investigation into individual affairs is invalid if unrelated to any legislative purpose, because it is beyond the powers conferred upon Congress by the Constitution.

296. William French Smith, Assertion of Executive Privilege in Response to a Congressional Subpoena in Opinions of the Legal Counsel, Department of Justice 31 (October 13, 1981). (“The accomplishment required is not simply an exchange of concessions or a test of polit- ical will. It is a test of both branches, each branch to make a principled effort to ac- knowledge, and if possible to meet, the legitimate needs of the other branch.”)

297. William P. Barr, Congressional Requests for Confidential Executive Branch Information in Opinions of the Legal Counsel, Department of Justice 152 (June 19, 1989).

298. Id. at 122, 125. (“Types of intermediate options [when there are executive privilege claims] include the executive pro- viding the requested information in tim- ed stages, the executive releasing expurgated or redacted versions of the information, the executive preparing summaries of the informa- tion, Congress promising to maintain confidentiality regarding the information, and Congress requesting the material while it re- mains in executive custody.”)


300. Id. (The request for executive privilege did not reach a standstill and these officials concluded that the circumstances warrant in- vestigation over the requested information for the White House counsel to present the issue to the president for his or her decision. Traditionally, this presentation of an in camera inspection of the agency that received the congressional re- quest explaining the information sought by Congress, why the information is privileged, and the executive efforts that failed to date to accommodate the congressional re- quest; a memorandum from the attorney general evaluating the legal basis for a privi- leged claim; and a summary of the informa- tion, including whether the qualified privi- ilege might be overcome in the balancing of
Letter from Pat A. Cipollone, Counsel to the President, The White House, to Jerrold Nadler, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Dec. 6, 2019).

339. Interview by George Stephanopoulos (June 16, 2019).

340. Opinion Memorandum of United States Election Commissioner,写的, “Let me give you a simple and clear message: the American public and anyone running for public office: It is illegal for any person to solicit, accept, or receive anything of value from a foreign government as a quid pro quo for the promise of influence or support.”

341. Ellen L. Weintraub (@EllenLWeintraub), Twitter (June 13, 2019, 7:11 PM), https://twitter.com/EllenLWeintraub/status/1139309394968096768/photo/1. (In response to President Trump’s statement to George Steinbrenner that he would consider taking information from a foreign government as a quid pro quo for the promise of influence or support.”

Mr. CASEY, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of a more comprehensive version of my statement regarding the impeachment trial of President Donald John Trump be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATIONERY OF THE IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT DONALD JOHN TRUMP

I. INTRODUCTION

This is not a novel concept. Electoral interference from foreign governments has been considered unacceptable since the beginning of our nation. Our Founding Fathers sounded the alarm about ‘foreign interference, intrigue and influence.’ They knew that when foreign governments seek to influence American public and anyone running for public office: It is illegal for any person to solicit, accept, or receive anything of value from a foreign government as a quid pro quo for the promise of influence or support.”

341. Ellen L. Weintraub (@EllenLWeintraub), Twitter (June 13, 2019, 7:11 PM), https://twitter.com/EllenLWeintraub/status/1139309394968096768/photo/1. (In response to President Trump’s statement to George Steinbrenner that he would consider taking information from a foreign government as a quid pro quo for the promise of influence or support.”

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I. INTRODUCTION

This is not a novel concept. Electoral interference from foreign governments has been considered unacceptable since the beginning of our nation. Our Founding Fathers sounded the alarm about ‘foreign interference, intrigue and influence.’ They knew that when foreign governments seek to influence American
This inscription helped me frame my own understanding of the evidence offered during this trial because I believe that President Trump and every public official in America must be judged by our standards every day. The sacred responsibility is given to us "in faith" by virtue of our election. The question for the President—and every official—is: Will we accept that? And are we willing to honor our sacred conduct? The trust set forth in the inscription is an echo of Alexander Hamilton’s words in Federalist No. 65, where he articulated the standard for presidential conduct: "the trust that the people placed in him. CPA II: MATTER FACTS Special Counsel Mueller & Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election To fully understand the facts established by the House Managers in this case, it is necessary to first understand the context in which President Trump engaged in this behavior. In May 2017, Special Counsel Robert Mueller was appointed to investigate "the Russian government's efforts to interfere in the 2016 presidential election," including any "links between Russia and individuals associated with the Trump Campaign." Special Counsel Mueller released his comprehensive report in May 2019, providing, in particular, in detail that Russian President Vladimir Putin personally directed an ongoing and systemic Russian attack on the 2016 presidential election. Special Counsel Mueller’s conclusions were also confirmed by the United States Intelligence Community and the bipartisan Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

The Mueller investigation did not find evidence that President Trump’s 2016 campaign conspired or coordinated with Russian government officials, but Special Counsel Mueller did confirm that "the Russian government perceived it would benefit from a Trump presidency." Furthermore, and that the [Trump] Campaign expected it would benefit electorally from information stolen and released through Russian efforts. For example, President Trump declared during a public rally in July 2016: "Russia, if you’re listening, I hope you’re able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing." Then-candidate Hillary Clinton’s email server. Russian hackers targeted Clinton’s personal server within hours of Trump’s request.

After the Mueller Report, in June 2018, President Trump was asked whether he would accept opposition research from a foreign government against his political opponent. President Trump responded "I think I’d take it." Rather than embrace the Special Counsel’s investigation and condemn Russian interference in the election, President Trump repeatedly referred to it as "horse stuff," "fake news," and "hoax." In fact, in Volume II of his report, Special Counsel Mueller detailed the President’s numerous efforts to limit the Special Counsel’s investigation into Russian interference and his attempts to remove the Special Counsel in order to end the investigation.

The Special Counsel identified ten separate episodes of potential obstruction of justice including, but not limited to: (1) President Trump firing former FBI Director James Comey; (2) President Trump attempting to fire Special Counsel Mueller; and (3) President Trump requesting his White House Counsel lie and publically deny that the President tried to fire Special Counsel Mueller.

Neither Special Counsel Mueller nor Attorney General William Barr charged President Trump with a crime for the actions detailed in Special Counsel Mueller’s report in part because of a controversial Office of Legal Counsel opinion indicating that a sitting President cannot be indicted for a crime. However, over a thousand former federal prosecutors, who served under Republican and Democratic Administrations, signed a statement shortly after the release of the Special Counsel’s report that stated, in part, as follows: In his view, he believes that the conduct of President Trump described in Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s report would, in the case of any other person not covered by the Office of Legal Counsel policy against indicting a sitting President, result in multiple felony charges for obstruction of justice.

After releasing his report in April, Special Counsel Mueller testified before the House Judiciary Committee and the House Intelligence Committee on July 24, 2019. During his testimony, Special Counsel Mueller confirmed that he was engaged in ongoing efforts to attack future elections and warned that the United States must "use the full resources that we have to address this." On July 25, one day after Special Counsel Mueller testified, President Trump spoke on the phone with the newly-elected President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky. Known at the time, this phone call would soon set off the comprehensive investigation leading to President Trump’s impeachment and the current trial in the Senate.
Volodymyr Zelensky was elected President of Ukraine and later that day, President Trump called him to congratulate him on his victory. On that call, President Trump extended an invitation to Mr. Biden to visit the White House and he also promised that he would send a "very, very high level" representative from the United States to attend President Zelensky's inauguration.

Two days after President Trump's call with President Zelensky, on April 23, a media report raised questions that former Vice President Joe Biden would enter the 2020 presidential race. Around this time, the President's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, was leading a smear campaign to tarnish and promote two conspiracy theories that have been seeking "revenge against" Ambassador Yovanovitch for exposing their misconduct.

On the day after the media report that former Vice President Biden was entering the presidential race, President Trump re-called Ambassador Yovanovitch from her position in Ukraine.

Mr. Lutsenko and Mr. Giuliani both promoted two conspiracy theories that have been pursued by President Trump. One of the conspiracy theories alleged that Ukraine hacked the Democratic National Committee (DNC) server in 2016 in order to frame Russia for election interference and help the Clinton Campaign. The other theory alleged that former Vice President Biden coerced the Ukrainian government into firing Mr. Shokin to "prevent an investigation into Burisma Holdings, a Ukrainian energy company that former Vice President Biden's son, Hunter, served as a board member." Both theories have been criticized and debunked by officials in the Trump Administration.

On May 3, 2019, shortly after President Zelensky's election, President Trump and his delegation called Ambassador Yovanovitch from her position in Ukraine and even indicated that President Trump suggested that "he knew Ukraine was the real culprit of 2016 election interference" because "Putin told me..." On May 9, the New York Times reported that the President's personal attorney, Mr. Giuliani, would be traveling to Ukraine to pressure the Ukrainian government to open investigations into the conspiracy theories about Burisma and the 2016 election. Mr. Giuliani specifically acknowledged "[t]his isn’t foreign policy, this is business, and this business will be very, very helpful to my client." Around May 13, President Trump ordered Vice President Pence to cancel plans to attend President Zelensky's inauguration and sent a lower-ranking delegation, despite his promise to President Zelensky to send a "very, very high level" representative. This delegation included Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland, Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations Ambassador Kurt Volker and NSC Director for Ukraine Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman.

On May 23, despite positive reports from the delegation regarding Zelensky's effort to combat corruption, President Trump said he "didn’t believe" the delegation because that was not what Mr. Giuliani had told him. The President also reiterated that Ukraine "tried to take me down" during the 2016 election, confirming that he believed the theory that Ukraine, not Russia, was actually responsible for 2016 election interference.

President Trump directed Ambassador Sondland and Volker to "talk to Rudy" and coordinate engagement with the Ukraine government.

On June 24, the Department of Defense (DOD) and the State Department certified that Ukraine "had taken substantial actions to decrease corruption." This was important because it was a necessary requirement in order for DOD to release $300 million in military aid that had been appropriated and authorized by Congress. The House had also appropriated and authorized another $414 million to be administered by the State Department for security assistance to Ukraine.

However, by July 12, the President had ordered a block on all military and security assistance for Ukraine conditioned explicitly on Ukraine publically announcing investigations into the 2016 election and Burisma. The hold was unequivocal in his description during his complaint regarding President Trump's July 25 phone call with President Zelensky. In his complaint, President Trump stated as follows: "I would think that if they [Ukraine] were honest about it, they’d start a major investigation into the Bidens. It’s a very simple answer. They should investigate the Bidens. Why wouldn’t they want to do that? To me, it’s a no-brainer...I think it’s time to get serious about security assistance for the Bidens in Ukraine." On September 7, President Trump and Ambassador Sondland spoke on the phone and the President directed that President told him "there was no quid pro quo, but President Zelensky must announce the opening of the investigations and he should do so to show no compromising one another. On September 9, Ambassador Taylor texted Ambassadors Sondland and Volker and explicitly told them to characterize this whistleblower complaint regarding President Trump's July 25 phone call with President Zelensky.

On September 9, Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced on September 24 that the House would move forward with an official impeachment inquiry.

As noted above, Congress was notified on September 12 of the whistleblower complaint regarding President Trump's phone call with Ukraine. Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced on September 24 that the House would move forward with an official impeachment inquiry.

On September 9 and September 24, three House committees sent letters to White House Counsel Pat Cipollone requesting for six specific categories of documents related to the Ukraine investigation.

On September 11, the Committees issued a subpoena to Acting White House Chief of Staff, Mick Mulvaney. On September 12, Mr. Cipollone responded and indicated that "President Trump cannot permit his Administration to participate in this...
partisan inquiry under these circumstances.\textsuperscript{16} The letter called the inquiry “constitutionally invalid” even though the Constitution grants the House the sole power of impeachment.\textsuperscript{17} The letter made clear, however, that “to long-established Executive Branch confidentiality interests and privileges,”\textsuperscript{18} although President Trump has never specifically articulated what constitutes a privileged single piece of information related to the inquiry.

As a result of President Trump’s blanket directive, every Executive Branch agency that received an impeachment inquiry request or subpoena has not complied with the request.\textsuperscript{19} Specifically, the Executive Branch has not complied despite the dismissal of a single witness to testify in response to a subpoena.\textsuperscript{20} The only witnesses who did testify or submit documents did so in direct violation of the President’s directive.\textsuperscript{21}

IV. ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

As we know, Article I, Section 2, Clause 5 of the Constitution states that “[t]he Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments.”\textsuperscript{22} As a Senator reviewing this case, I have based my assessment of the evidence on the following two questions:

(1) Did the President do what he is charged with in the Articles?; and

(2) If so, is that action an impeachable offense that warrants removal from office?

Abuse of Power

In the Article of Impeachment, the House of Representatives charged President Trump with abusing his power as President by corruptly “soliciting the Government of Ukraine to publicly announce investigations that would benefit his reelection, harm the election prospects of a political opponent, and influence the 2020 United States Presidential Election.”\textsuperscript{23} In reaching this conclusion, I have found that the House has presented substantial, persuasive evidence to prove the allegations in Article I.

First, the evidence shows that the White House directly withheld $391 million dollars in military aid from Ukraine.\textsuperscript{24} The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) held the aid, at the direction of the President, despite the Department of Defense and the State Department certifying that Ukraine was taking necessary measures to reduce corruption.\textsuperscript{25} Furthermore, the facts strongly supported the release of the aid because it was in the national interest of the United States.

Nor is it a dispute that President Trump withheld a White House meeting with President Zelensky. On his April 21 phone call, President Trump explicitly invited President Zelensky to the White House in the future.\textsuperscript{26} However, after former Vice President Joe Biden announced his candidacy for President just a few days later, President Zelensky—despite numerous efforts—still has not met with President Trump at the White House.

Second, the evidence establishes that President Trump conditioned the availability of the White House meeting on Ukraine announcing investigations into Burisma and the 2016 election. In the July 25 phone call, President Trump asked President Zelensky to “do us a favor though” and referenced the 2016 election and Burisma investigations immediately after President Zelensky brought up military aid.

Related to the White House meeting, Ambassador Sondland could not have been more clear when he testified that “yes,” there was a quid pro quo conditioning a White House meeting with Ukraine announcing investigations into the Bidens and Burisma.\textsuperscript{27} He further testified that the conditioning of the White House meeting and military assistance on Ukraine publicly announcing investigations was as clear as “2+2=4.”\textsuperscript{28}

So, the question is: Why? Was President Trump acting corruptly to advance his own personal interests, or was he, as his defense attorneys would have us believe, deeply concerned about Ukraine and “burden-sharing”?\textsuperscript{29} The facts clearly established that President Trump was acting corruptly to further his own political interests.

First, while the President’s defense lawyers have rightly argued that the President “defined legal terms to set the facts,”

asserted substantial, persuasive evidence to prove the allegations in Article I.

Second, the President was utilizing his personal attorney, Mr. Giuliani, to coordinate the announcement of investigations in Ukraine. Mr. Giuliani explicitly said that he was not engaged in foreign policy, but was acting on behalf of President Trump in his “personal capacity.”\textsuperscript{30} The State Department and other agencies, including the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) held the aid, at the direction of the President, despite the Department of Defense and the State Department certifying that Ukraine was taking necessary measures to reduce corruption.\textsuperscript{31} Furthermore, the facts strongly supported the release of the aid because it was in the national interest of the United States.

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of “high Crimes and Misdemeanors” was informed by centuries of English legal precedent. This understanding was reflected in Federalist No. 65, written by Alexander Hamilton. In that essay, Hamilton explained that impeachment should stem from an “abuse or violation of some public trust.”129 Noted historian Ron Chernow explained that Hamilton’s understanding of the Constitution should not be discounted lightly because he was the foremost proponent of a robust presidency, yet he also harbored an abiding fear that a brazen demagogue could seize the office. Confident in our common sense about the sacred notion of historical precedent, credible scholarship or public trust,”131 broadly to mean “serious violations of the Constitution—an “abuse or violation of some public trust”—it is clear that President Trump’s conduct exceeds that standard. Any effort to construe presidential immunity so as to provide President Trump with a safe harbor from accountability for his conduct would reflect our collective repudiation of the bedrock principles of our Republic. We must hold those accountable who violate this sacred trust. President Trump disdained that public trust, given to him by abusing his power for personal, political gain. In order to prevent continuing interference in our upcoming election and blatant obstruction of Congress, the Senate should find him guilty under both Articles.

ENDNOTES

1. THE FEDERALIST NO. 65 (Alexander Hamilton).


5. Helsinki Transcript, supra note 3.


9. See id. at 88–89. Related to the Ukraine interference theory, President Trump, in a written statement released on September 24, 2019, said that his conduct “toward Ukraine should not be viewed as our common sense about the sacred notion of historical precedent, credible scholarship or public trust.”

10. This argument is not supported by historical precedent, credible scholarship or our common sense about the sacred notion of the public trust. When applying the accurate Hamiltonian standard for impeachment—an “abuse or violation of some public trust”—it is clear that President Trump’s conduct exceeds that standard. Any effort to construe presidential immunity so as to provide President Trump with a safe harbor from accountability for his conduct would reflect our collective repudiation of the bedrock principles of our Republic. We must hold those accountable who violate this sacred trust. President Trump disdained that public trust, given to him by abusing his power for personal, political gain. In order to prevent continuing interference in our upcoming election and blatant obstruction of Congress, the Senate should find him guilty under both Articles.

VI. CONCLUSION

Our Founders had the foresight to ensure that impeachment of the President was not unlimited and that Congress could—if necessary—hold the Executive accountable for abuses of power through the impeachment process. This Senate trial is not simply about grave presidencial abuse of power, it is about our Democracy, the sanctity of our elections, and the very values that the Founders agreed should guide our Nation.

The inscription—“[a]ll public service is a trust, in a heaven and in another, to be administered by the Common Assembly in the fear of God and the integrity of conscience.”110 Confident in our common sense about the sacred notion of historical precedent, credible scholarship or public trust, the next election, I find him “guilty” under both Articles.
Trump’s former Homeland Security Advisor, Tom Bossert, publicly stated that it was “not only a conspiracy theory, it is completely debunked.” Id. at 89. Dr. Fiona Hill, former Senior Director of European and Russian Affairs at the National Security Council, called it a “fictional narrative that is being perpetrated and propagated by the Russian security services.” Id. at 88. She also indicated that former National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster “spent a lot of time” trying to convince President Trump that the theory was Russian propaganda. Id. at 89. Furthermore, FBI Director Christopher Wray observed that the FBI had “no information that indicates that Ukraine interfered with the 2016 presidential election.” Luke Barr & Alexander Mallin, FBI Director Pushes Back On Debunked Conspiracy Theory About 2016 Election Interference, ABC News (Dec. 9, 2019), https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/fbi-director-pushes-back-debunked-conspiracy-theory-2016/story?id=67690244.

46. HPSCI REPORT, supra note 33, at 46.

47. Id. at 47.


49. Id. at 48. Id. at 50.

50. Id. at 50.

51. Id. at 50.

52. Id. at 50.

53. Id. Despite reports that certain Ukrainian officials did praise Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election, there is little comparison to the Russian interference personally directed by President Vladimir Putin to assist the Trump campaign. “There’s little evidence of such a top-down effort by Ukraine. Longtime observers suggest that the rampant corruption, factionalism and economic struggles plaguing the country—not to mention its ongoing strife with Russia—would render it unable to pull off an ambitious covert interference campaign in another country’s election.” Michael P. Vogel & David Stern, Ukrainian Efforts to Sabotage Trump Backfire, POLITICO (Jan. 11, 2017), https://www.politico.com/story/2017/01/ukraine-sabotage-trump-backfire-233446.

54. HPSCI REPORT, supra note 33, at 50.

55. Id. at 57.

56. Id. at 57–58.

57. Id. at 59.


59. See, e.g., EVIDENTIARY RECORD, vol. II, pt. 1, supra note 49, at 48–49 (testifying that burden-sharing was first provided as a rationale to him in September).

60. HPSCI REPORT, supra note 33, at 59–62.

61. Id. at 72.
There is also a jury, the U.S. Senate. Like a courtroom jury, we sit in silence throughout the trial listening to the arguments of both sides and are asked to render a verdict at the conclusion. However, unlike a courtroom but as instructed by the Constitution we are not jurors subject to peremptory challenge; we are elected officials instructed to offer impartial justice based on the evidence presented to us. We are not expected to check our knowledge of the relationships at the door. If this were a true trial, all Senators would have to recuse themselves for the inherent bias connected to the election certificate they earned. As Alexander Hamilton wrote in Federalist Paper 65, “In many cases, if impeachment will connect itself with the pre-existing factions, and will enlist all their animosities, partialities, influence, and interest on one side or on the other.” Rather, we are asked to follow our conscience, to hear the arguments presented with an open mind and deliver a verdict. We also differ from courtroom jurors in that we establish the rules for the proceedings. This is done through organizing resolutions we debate and pass.

Before considering the merits of this particular case, it is important to discuss the idea of impeachment itself in light of the present context. During President Trump’s hearing, the President’s legal team alluded to the idea that “the President can do essentially whatever he or she wants, and it will not be considered an impeachable offense as long as that President’s interests in doing so align with the interests of the United States.” “If a President does something which he believes will help him get elected in the public interest, that cannot be the kind of quid pro quo that results in impeachment,” said Alan Dershowitz, a member of the President’s legal team, during the trial.

I feel that particular statement is wrong. The Constitution grants no President absolute power. There is a threshold that can be reached. Thankfully, this was later clarified by Mr. Dershowitz in an opinion piece he wrote for The Hill entitled “I never said the President could do anything to get re-elected.” In it, he said:

Any action by a politician motivated in part by a desire to be re-elected was, by its nature, directed toward my response to my re-election. I listed three broad categories of relevant motives, which are pure national interest to help the military, pure corrupt motive to obtain a benefit, and mixed-motive to help the national interest in a way that can also help a re-election effort. I said the third motive was often the reality of politics, and helping your own re-election efforts cannot by itself necessarily be deemed corrupt.

In the end, it is the duty of every Senator to determine whether the President acted in a purely self-interested manner without any regard for the national interest. Given the full context of his actions, it is clear President Trump did not act in a purely selfish, boundless manner.

While the question of whether a President can commit a crime and therefore be impeached is firmly settled, there arises another question this impeachment trial did not sufficiently answer but must be addressed in the future.

The Constitution states it is the job of the House of Representatives to impeach a President whose trial is held before the Senate. According to current Senate rules, our body must move forward with impeachment proceedings, but is that according to the Constitution?

Article I, section 3 of the Constitution states:

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two-thirds of the Members present.

With this impeachment behind us, now is the time we as a body need to evaluate the constitutionality and wisdom of our move to impeach the Senate to move forward with any impeachment articles. We must reaffirm our right to dictate what is considered on the Senate floor and when it is considered, which is not without precedent.

Article II, section 2 of the Constitution says:

He [the President] shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States.

In 2016, after the passing of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, President Barack Obama appointed a Supreme Court nominee. However, with the election of a new President just months away, the Senate declared it would not consider this particular nominee and would instead let the people decide whom they would like to nominate a Supreme Court Justice.

The Senate was well within its right to decide the timing and consideration, or lack thereof, of this constitutional obligation to consider judicial nominations, and the same should be true of impeachment trials.

This is a question in need of an answer for future impeachment proceedings because impeachment articles brought by the House completely derailed the Senate’s investigative activity. We are unable to consider legislation, nominations, or conduct any floor activity.

While I agree such an enormous responsibility should elicit our undivided attention, it seems illogical to automatically grant primacy to impeachment articles, especially those as flawed as the ones presented by House Democrats.

The House’s impeachment process was entirely partisan. Since the moment the House Democrats schemed to remove Donald Trump from office. By May of 2017, 26 Democratic Members of Congress had called for the impeachment of President Trump. Speaker Pelosi herself said impeachment was 2½ years in the making.

When House Democrats finally agreed on a reason to impeach the President, their vote to begin the proceedings did not receive any Republican votes and multiple Democrats voted against it. It does not seem unreasonable to me that a vote to begin an impeachment inquiry which has only partisan support and bipartisan opposition—as this one did—is not what the Founders had in mind and is what they firmly rejected and cautioned us against.

“Complaints are everywhere heard from our most considerate and virtuous citizens, equally the friends of public and private faith, and of public and personal liberty, that our governments are too unstable, that the public good is disregarded in the conflicts of rival parties, and that measures are too frequently decided not on the rules of justice and the rights of the minor party, but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority.” Founding Father James Madison wrote in Federalist Paper 10. “However anxious we may be that certain complaints had no foundation, the evidence, of known facts will not permit us to deny that they are in some degree true.”

When it came time for the House to vote on impeaching the President, the same “overbearing majority” outcome occurred. No minds were changed, but the country was further torn apart and the process strayed beyond the original intent of the Constitution. The two Articles of Impeachment before this body were, in my view, without merit. They were an affront to this institution and to our Constitution, representing the very same partisan disagreements and the same partisan deceptions that worried our Founding Fathers so much that they made the threshold for impeachment so high.

I think it would be universally agreeable that Impeachment Articles passed by a majority of one party and opposed by the members of both parties—by the very least fail the spirit of the Constitution. To this point, detractors could say the partisan nature of this impeachment proceeding is the fault of Republicans who blindly follow President Trump, rather than Democrats whose hatred for this President compels them to act more than the facts in front of them.

Such an argument quickly falls apart when you read the statements of Republicans who found the President’s actions inappropriate but did not believe they rose to the level of impeachment.

That argument further corrodes when you consider the content of the Impeachment Articles and the partisan arguments House Democrats followed in writing them.

Fundamentally, the Articles of Impeachment were incomplete. Democrats did not complete their own investigation before drafting and ultimately passing the articles, which is why Senate Democrats spent most of their time demanding witnesses and more documents. The House also did not provide...
due process to the President, nor to the minority during the House investigation. In October of 2019, as the House began formally considering impeachment in earnest, Senator Lindsey Graham led several Senators in introducing S. Res. 378. It laid out specific issues, which the House members hoped it would remedy the situation before sending the articles to the Senate.

In it, we mentioned five rights President Trump was denied, although the House had provided similar due process to Presidents Nixon and Clinton during their impeachments. The denied rights included allowing the President to be represented by counsel, permitting the President’s counsel to be present at all hearings and depositions, permitting the President’s counsel to present evidence and object to the admission of evidence, allowing the President’s counsel to call and cross-examine witnesses; and giving the President's counsel access to and the ability to respond to the evidence offered by the Committee.

The impeachment process against President Trump had been nothing more than secretive hearings and selective release of evidence. It was an effort to sway public opinion and hurt the President politically. It was a hyper-partisan process completely void of due process, and that never changed until it reached the Senate. In our resolution, we also highlighted the fact that “the main allegations against President Trump are based on assertions and testimony from witnesses whom he is unable to confront, as part of a process in which he is not able to offer witnesses in his defense or have a basic understanding of the allegations lodged against him.”

The issue of evidence, both its origin and the lack of compelling proof from the House managers, became the foundation of this impeachment. This investigation because an anonymous national security official approached Democratic chairman Adam Schiff with a secondhand claim that President Trump sought to withhold aid to a foreign country to force it to announce it would launch an investigation into one of the President’s political rivals.

President Trump was quick to offer the transcript of the phone call where this allegedly occurred. He did, and it showed in fact, no quid pro quo, and House Democrats in their investigation were never able to produce a firsthand witness to testify otherwise.

Future Senators should be sure to note the eagerness or reluctance of an accused President to share clarifying information. President Trump took unprecedented action to release the transcript of the conversation Democrats called into question—an action he was not legally required to take and most of his predecessors have never done. Contrast that with President Nixon, who fought until the end to hide his recorded conversations because he knew the contents were damning. Contrast President Trump’s actions even further with the House Democrats who pursued a secretive, one-sided process to craft the narrative they wanted.

Despite several pieces of information demonstrating Trump’s innocence and none to the contrary, House Democrats continued this crusade. Their fixation on his removal was a conclusion in search of a justification. They manufactured criminality from a single phone call among world leaders, leaked by one of the many career bureaucrats who seem to have forgotten they work for the elected leaders in this country, not the other way around. Motives matter. In the future, Senators should be vigilant in figuring out an accuser’s intention.

There is a common narrative that career bureaucrats are simply righteous, opinion-less civil servants. This impeachment and the actions leading up to it prove the exact opposite. By no means are all of them evil or ill-willed, but this proceeding showed they are far from unbiased, and they are capable of weaponizing the tools and access they are given.

Unsurprisingly, this led to two impeachment Articles being sent to the Senate on a party-line vote that were without merit. They were an affront to this institution and to our Constitution, representing the very same partisan derangement that worried our Founding Fathers so much they made the threshold for impeachment this high.

The Founders created the Senate for moments just like this. When Impeachment Articles are sent to the Senate, it is not our job to fix the mistakes made by the House, and it is not our job to finish an investigation it admittedly did not complete. It is the Senate’s solemn duty to set aside the heat of the moment, prevent short-term stress from long-term decay, and deliver impartial justice.

As James Madison said at the Constitutional Convention, “The Senate is to consist in its proceeding with more coolness, with more system, and with more wisdom, than the popular branch.” That is why, even under the cloud of purely partisan politics of the House of Representatives, the Senate conducted a complete, comprehensive trial. The obvious result of which was the conclusion that the Democratic-led Representatives failed to meet the most basic standards of proof and dramatically lowered the bar for impeachment in the future to unacceptable levels.

With all of this established, we as a Congress and as a nation must unite around some commonsense changes, both to institutional rules and to our understanding of the impeachment process. Lowering the bar for impeachment undermines our shared democratic principles.

Impeachment must be a tool employed only when the evidence is overwhelming and well-founded. We must discourage future House actions like what we just witnessed from ever occurring again.

We must also find ways to take on a bureaucracy run rampant. President Trump was impeached because an unelected bureaucrat provided false-hood to an overly receptive Democratic House chairman’s office with a directive to remove President Trump. The opinion of Federal career staff is not sacrosanct. Without further action, these impeachment proceedings will be implicated as an attempt by them, rather than a reminder of who holds constitutional power.

Finally, as we seek to apply the lessons learned from this historic time, I was reminded of the words Chaplain Black offered to us during his daily opening prayer. “We must pray for God’s will to be done.” There is a higher power than any of us, and our country would benefit from remembering that more often.

BAHRAIN

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, 9 years ago this month, citizens of Bahrain took up banners to demand a greater voice in their society and political process. Bahrain’s ruling monarchy cracked down on the peaceful protestors; State police and security forces arrested hundreds and killed more than a dozen, according to press reports at the time. Bahrain’s leaders promised accountability and reforms in response to international condemnation, but they would implement hardly any of them, and they rolled back some of the few they did implement.

Indeed, the situation in Bahrain has only grown worse. Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain wrote last year that “since 2017, the government has intensified the repression through mass detention, and conviction of individuals who draw attention to the kingdom’s human rights record or criticise the government.”

Last month, Human Rights Watch wrote, “Bahrain’s human rights record worsened in 2019, as the government carried out executions, convicted critics for peaceful expression, and threatened social media activists.”

It gives me no great pleasure to point out the monarchy’s increasing repression and no personal animosity toward Bahrain, which remains an important U.S. ally.

But the U.S. Government has a duty—an obligation—to be honest with friends and allies and to hold them to a high standard. I regret to say that the Obama administration did not do nearly enough to hold Bahrain to that high standard, as I repeatedly came to this floor to discuss. The Trump administration has, for its part, been even more callously indifferent to the human rights abuses perpetrated by State Mike Pompeo speaking many times about the importance of human rights.
February 27, 2020

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S1213

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, our Nation’s continued progress and the socioeconomic mobility of our citizens are contingent on the education and skills of the American workforce and its ability to adjust to and fulfill the needs of the 21st-century economy. Career and Technical Education, CTE, programs are essential to every student’s education, providing them access to the important knowledge, skills, and credentials needed to obtain careers in rapidly growing, high-demand industries. Additionally, there are a diverse of students across the Nation are enrolled in CTE programs offered by thousands of career academies, comprehensive high schools, CTE high schools, community colleges, and CTE centers. Through applied learning, these students obtain workplace skills and technical training that mirror in-demand positions in the workforce.

In the next decade, nearly 3 million skilled workers will be needed to fill infrastructure positions in the United States; including jobs related to designing, building, and operating transportation, housing, telecommunication, and utilities facilities. CTE programs intentionally match skills with workforce demands, lowering the probability of high school dropout and increasing the likelihood of graduating on time. These skills-based training programs will help fill the estimated 30 million U.S. jobs available with an average income annual income of $55,000 that do not require a bachelor’s degree but necessitate some level of postsecondary education.

Across Virginia, I hear from manufacturers frustrated by the shortage of qualified skilled production employees—roles that require the training and instruction provided by CTE. It is essential that we highlight the importance of CTE by passing the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, which supports CTE programs in secondary and postsecondary education.

Today, with my Senate CTE Caucus co-chairs Senator Portman, Senator Baldwin, and Senator Young and more than half of my colleagues in the Senate, I am pleased to introduce a bipartisan resolution to designate February as Career and Technical Education, CTE, Month. CTE Month encourages students, parents, counselors, educators, and school leaders to learn more about the diverse and educational opportunities offered in their communities and recognize the valuable role of CTE in developing a well-educated and highly skilled workforce in the United States.

By formally recognizing CTE Month through this resolution, it is our aim to raise greater awareness of the importance of improving access to high-quality CTE for millions of America’s students and our Nation’s ongoing economic competitiveness.

RECOGNIZING THE WYOMING STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. Barrasso. Mr. President, Scott Sims and his family are ranchers at McFadden, in southeastern Wyoming. Scott also serves as president of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association.

The Sims family are practitioners of holistic management and low-cost production. They believe they have a responsibility “to take care of the land, with its weather, beauty, isolation and recreation.” We strive to live independently and to follow our passion: with power of choice, faith in States rights, and freedom from excessive regulation.

The values the Sims family follow in their work and lives are simple: honesty, respect, integrity, trust, fairness, tolerance, work ethic, self-work, and appreciation of each other and individual faith.

The Wyoming Stock Growers Association is making plans to celebrate their 150th anniversary in 2022. They are laying the groundwork for the association to begin its next 150 years of service to Wyoming’s livestock businesses and families with a strong commitment to Wyoming’s resources, the industry and their communities.

In the Winter 2020 edition of Cow Country, the official magazine of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Scott wrote a thoughtful article titled “Defining the Path Forward.” I believe his words apply just as much to life in America today as they do to the association’s planning for the next 150 years. I wish the Stock Growers all the best as they complete their first 150 years in Wyoming, and begin their next century of work on behalf of Wyoming’s livestock producers.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an article written by Scott Sims be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

TRIBUTE TO LAURA DOVE

Mr. Shelby. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor Laura Dove as she retires from serving as Secretary for the Majority of the U.S. Senate.

Laura began her service many years ago as a Senate page. She returned as an assistant in the Senate Republican Cloakroom under Republican Leader Bob Dole. In her more than 20 years of dedicated service, she has worked in various capacities, including in the Republican Cloakroom, with the Senate Republican Conference, under Republican leadership, and in her current
role as Secretary for the Majority. This is quite an honor and an accomplish-
ment, as Secretaries for the Majority and the Minority are elected officers
nominated by the party’s leader. Dur-
ing her time in the Senate, Laura pro-
vided much-needed parliamentary
guidance to Senator Shelby. She
was no stranger to this type of advice, as her father served as the Senate Par-
liamentarian for many years.

Laura has succeeded in every aspect of her service to the U.S. Senate, and I can personally say she will be greatly missed throughout the Upper Chamber. I wish her all the best as she transitions to the next exciting chapter in her life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE PUGH

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Professor George Pugh for his distinguished legal career and outstanding tenure as an educator at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University LSU. His dedication to the law, along with his many accomplishments and military career, is exceptionally impressive and displays his commitment to his community and fellow American.

Pugh was born on Bayou Lafourche in 1925 and in 1942 began his studies at LSU. In the midst of World War II, he volunteered for military service and was deployed to France. After the war, he returned to LSU after three semesters, he enrolled in LSU Law School. He earned his juris doctor in 1950 and went on to Yale Law School to earn his doctorate of juridical science in 1952. Later that year, he joined the LSU Law School faculty as an assistant pro-

Pugh served 2 years on the Judicial Council as the State’s first judicial ad-
ministrator for the Louisiana Supreme Court. He is known as the “intellectual father” of the Louisiana Code of Evi-
dence, as he and his fellow co-reporters confected the Code of Evidence for the Louisiana State Law Institute, using the Federal Rules of Evidence as its model. It would be enacted into state law in 1998 and serve as an invaluable resource for judges, district attorneys, and other legal professionals. In all, he has provided 43 years of instruction to almost three generations of students.

Pugh also served as a member of the Baton Rouge, LA, and American Bar Associations, chairing several commit-
tees. He was a member of the American Law Institute and received several in-
vitations to teach at law schools in America and around the globe. At LSU, he received the “Hub” Cotton Faculty Excellence Award and an honorary doc-

TRIBUTE TO FRED AND TRESSIE FIKE

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Fred and Tressie Fike of Mineral Coun-
try for their commitment to helping others in the community.

Fred and Tressie lead the Superior Community Church Shoebox Ministry, which is part of the Samaritan’s Purse’s national initiative, Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry.

Fred and Tressie partner with their church and folks in the community to provide shoeboxes filled with toys, hygiene items, clothes, sewing kits, and school supplies around the world to children impacted by devastating circum-
stances like war, natural disasters, poverty and disease.

When Superior Community Church first participated in this ministry 15 years ago, they were able to deliver 25 boxes. In 2019, thanks to the leadership of Fred and Tressie, they delivered 900.

It is my honor to recognize Fred and Tressie for their tireless and selfless efforts within their church ministry helping children across the world. The world is a better place as a result of their dedication.

REMEMBERING CHARLES PITMAN

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today pay tribute to the memory of retired U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Charles Pitman, a leader who served in our Nation’s Armed Forces for nearly 40 years, earn-
ing the Silver Star, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, and a Purple Heart.

Chuck Pitman was born in Chicago in 1935 and enlisted in the U.S. Naval Re-
serve in 1952 in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1953. A pilot by the age of 14, Chuck logged more than 12,000 flight hours during his career, flying jets and at-
tack and reconnaissance helicopters.

He flew three combat tours in Viet-
am, when his aircraft were shot down seven times by enemy fire.

On January 7, 1973, Chuck was com-
manding officer of the Marine Air Re-
serve Training Detachment in New Or-
leans when he saw a sniper firing at ci-
vilians from a hotel on the news. With-
out approval from his supervisors and at the risk of his career with the Ma-
rines, he and his crew flew a Marine helicopter loaded with police officers
to the hotel and helped to end the car-

Chuck spent much of the rest of his life in Florida’s Pensacola Beach. He volunteered his time with organiza-
tions including the Marine Corps League of Pensacola and participated in numerous veteran’s events through-
out the city, becoming a fixture in the community.

I express my sincere condolences to his wife, two sons, and two daughters on the loss of an American hero and patri-

t. May God bless his family during this time of sorrow.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Of-

ficer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate pro-
ceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:24 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 473. An act to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Co-

H.R. 560. An act to amend section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint Resolu-
tion to approve the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
lands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other pur-
poses”: H.R. 561. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of con-
tracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and
controlled by veterans, and for other purposes.
H.R. 1492. An act to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Yucca House National Monument.

H.R. 2227. An act to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to clarify the authority of servicemembers who incur a catastrophic injury or illness while in military service to terminate leases of premises and motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

H.R. 2427. An act to amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2490. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3399. An act to amend the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 to include California in the program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3749. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to entities that provide legal services for homeless veterans and veterans at risk for homelessness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

H.R. 4613. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a website of the Department that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of certain legislatively requested reports of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4652. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make available to veterans certain additional information about post-secondary educational institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:
H.R. 473. An act to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative works in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
H.R. 59. An act to amend section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution to approve the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes”; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
H.R. 561. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.
H.R. 2227. An act to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to clarify the authority of servicemembers who incur a catastrophic injury or illness while in military service to terminate leases of premises and motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC–4037. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration’s proposed fiscal year 2021 budget and performance plan; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4038. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller and Resources Management) regarding fiscal year 2021 legislative proposals relative to the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4039. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict) transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress on Procedures for Status Review of Detainees outside the United States” to the Committee on Armed Services; and the Judiciary.

EC–4040. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs) transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of additional time required to complete a report relative to the Department of Energy’s Nuclear Materials Control and Accountability (NMC&A) budget meeting the nuclear stockpile and stockpile stewardship requirements; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4041. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Venezuela dated March 13, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4042. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Addition of Entities to the Entity List, and Revision of Entry on the Entity List” (Docket No. BIS–2020–0002) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4043. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the Republic of Cuba declared in Executive Order 13566; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4044. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12959 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4045. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People’s Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4046. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Cyber Security - Communications between Control Centers Reliability Standard” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 14, 2020; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4047. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the progress made in licenses of the proposed Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
EC–4048. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Quality Implementation Plan: Saguaro National Park, California” (FRL No. 10005–31–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4049. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Adjustments to policy or procedure resulting from the 2020 Annual Kinetic Energy Transport (KET) Review” (FRL No. 10004–14–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4050. 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; Massachusetts; Infrascore Impacts and Emergency and Supplemental Requirements for the 2015 Ozone Standard” (FRL No. 10005–36–Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4051. 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 Conditional Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County” (FRL No. 10005–65–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4052. 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 Conditional Approval; Arizona; Pima County” (FRL No. 10005–65–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4053. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Ventura County; 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Requirements” (FRL No. 10005–67–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4054. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Clean Air Plans; 2008-8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Requirements; Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date; Imperial County, California” (FRL No. 10005–51–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4055. 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 Ruling: 2019–13; Revenue Ruling: 2020–6” (FRL No. Rul. 2020–05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 14, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4056. 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 “Determination of the Maximum Value of a Vehicle for Use in Certain Coast Guard Service Activity” (FRL No. RIN1545–BP14 (TD 9893)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 14, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4057. A communication from the Director of the Office of the Secretary, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Advance Designation of Representatives as Beneficiaries” (RIN9060–A133) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4058. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pipeline Safety: Safety Underground Natural Gas Pipe Lines; Exemption of Certain Local Distributions” (FRL No. USCG–2019–0830) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 12, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4059. A communication from the Administrator of OSHA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone, Delaware River, Philadelphia, PA” (RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0879) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4060. A communication from the Administrator of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Analysis of Entity’s Systems, Controls, and Legal Compliance” (FRL No. USCG–2020–0840) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4061. A communication from the Acting Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Analysis of Entity’s Systems, Controls, and Legal Compliance” (FRL No. USCG–2020–0840) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4062. A communication from the Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Advance Designation of Representatives as Beneficiaries” (RIN9060–A133) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4063. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, a report relative to the matter of Senate Res. 79 and S.J. Res. 6, the “Removing the Deadline for the Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment”; to the Committee on JudICIary.

EC–4064. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990; 32 USC 2001a note” (RIN2900–AQ85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 14, 2020; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC–4066. A communication from the Attorney General, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Risk Reduction Program” (RIN2130–AC11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4079. A communication from the Administrator of OSHA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Underground Natural Gas Pipe Lines; Exemption of Certain Local Distributions” (FRL No. USCG–2019–0879) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 12, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4098. A communication from the Administrator of OSHA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pipeline Safety: Safety Underground Natural Gas Pipe Lines; Exemption of Certain Local Distributions” (FRL No. USCG–2019–0879) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 12, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4070. A communication from the Attorney General, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pipeline Safety: Safety Underground Natural Gas Pipe Lines; Exemption of Certain Local Distributions” (FRL No. USCG–2019–0879) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 12, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4071. A communication from the Administrator of OSHA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone, Delaware River, Philadelphia, PA” (RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0879) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4072. A communication from the Attorney General, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone, Delaware River, Philadelphia, PA” (RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0879) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4073. A communication from the Administrator of OSHA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone, Delaware River, Hamilton Township, NJ” (RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2020–0072) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4074. A communication from the Administrator of OSHA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Coast Guard Sector Virginia; Technical...
The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

**POM–182.** A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, between 1969 and 2010, black women in Michigan experienced a pregnancy-related mortality rate of 50.8 deaths per 100,000 live births compared to 15.7 and 14.4 deaths per 100,000 live births among white women and women of other races, respectively; and

Whereas, Michigan ranks 27th in the nation for its maternal mortality rate, and Michigan’s pregnancy-related mortality rates are particularly concerning for black women; and

Whereas, despite guidance from the United States Department of the Treasury, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to clarify federal Bank Secrecy Act expectations, federal banking regulators lack the legal authority to provide banks a safe harbor from federal law; and

Whereas, the installation of such technology would help prevent heatstroke-related deaths due to children being left alone in a vehicle; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and each member of the Kentucky Congressional Delegation.

**POM–183.** A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine urging the United States Congress to provide access to banking and insurance services to legal cannabis and cannabis-related businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 123**

Whereas, the high death rate of minority mothers is one of the widest of all racial disparities in women’s health. Black women are 22 percent more likely to die from heart disease than white women and 71 percent more likely to die from cervical cancer, but they are 234 percent more likely to die from pregnancy- or childbirth-related causes. Black women are also more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related conditions, such as preeclampsia, eclampsia, abruptio placenta, placenta previa, and postpartum hemorrhage. These alarming statistics for black maternal health cut across socio-economic status, maternal age, and education levels; and

Whereas, despite the nationwide need for improvements in maternal health, more than 100 diseases and conditions receive more funding than maternal health; and

Whereas, it is important to recognize the necessity of ending maternal mortality nationally and globally and intensifying initiatives to improve maternal health and rights.

It is vital to bring attention to the state of minority and black maternal health, study and understand the root causes of poor maternal health outcomes, and support community-driven programs and care solutions. We acknowledge the crucial importance of promoting overall maternal health care, breastfeeding rates, and nutrition. To properly address maternal health disparities, it is critical to amplify the voices of black mothers, women, families, and stakeholders, as well as people from all racial and ethnic minorities who are burdened by persistent health disparities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the Congress of the United States to establish and fund programs that support positive health practices for minority mothers; and be it further Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

Whereas, veicular heatstroke is a term used by safety experts to describe the death of a person who is left unattended in a vehicle, where even on mild days temperatures can reach greater than 100 degrees; and

Whereas, in 2018, a record number of 53 children died, and in the first half of 2019 at least 29 children have died, due to vehicular heatstroke; and

Whereas, more than half of vehicular heatstroke cases from 1998 to 2018 were because an adult accidentally left a child in the vehicle; and

Whereas, a bipartisan group of 38 attorneys general has identified cash associated with the cannabis industry as a public safety concern; and

Whereas, despite being illegal at the federal level, cannabis is now legal in 33 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and the United States Virgin Islands, which account for 68% of the population of the United States; and

Whereas, due to the conflict between state and federal law, the vast majority of financial institutions and insurers are unwilling to provide services to legal cannabis businesses, and those that do could be subject to severe criminal and civil penalties; and

Whereas, in addition to legal cannabis businesses being denied access to banking services, businesses that serve the cannabis industry—such as materials suppliers, technology providers, and restaurants—may be denied banking services simply because they are being paid with money derived from cannabis sales; and

Whereas, lacking access to insurance, many legal cannabis businesses are unable to obtain sufficient coverage for business risks, leaving consumers, employees, vendors and owners without adequate financial protection; and

Whereas, a bipartisan group of 38 attorneys general has identified cash associated with the cannabis industry as a public safety concern; and

Whereas, despite guidance from the United States Department of the Treasury, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to clarify federal Bank Secrecy Act expectations, federal banking regulators lack the legal authority to provide banks a safe harbor from federal law; and

Whereas, the installation of such technology would help prevent heatstroke-related deaths due to children being left alone in a vehicle; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 11**

Whereas, vehicular heatstroke is a term used by safety experts to describe the death of a person who is left unattended in a vehicle, where even on mild days temperatures can reach greater than 100 degrees; and

Whereas, in 2018, a record number of 53 children died, and in the first half of 2019 at least 29 children have died, due to vehicular heatstroke; and

Whereas, more than half of vehicular heatstroke cases from 1998 to 2018 were because an adult accidentally left a child in the vehicle; and

Whereas, a child’s vehicular heatstroke death is a matter of circumstance that could happen to any parent and has happened to people in all walks of life; and

Whereas, vehicular heatstroke is one of the leading causes of non-crash-related fatalities among children; and

Whereas, technology currently exists, such as seat belt clasp monitors, rear door opening sensors, and seat weight sensors, that could equip motor vehicles with a system to detect the presence of a child in the rear seat of a vehicle after the vehicle is turned off and the driver exits the vehicle; and

Whereas, if sensors detect a child is left in the backseat, the system would issue an audible warning; and

Whereas, the installation of such technology would help prevent heatstroke-related deaths due to children being left alone in a vehicle; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. The Kentucky House of Representatives respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to require automobile manufacturers to install safety features that would give an audible alert when a child is left in the backseat to prevent the deaths of children from being left alone in a hot car. Technology used could include, but not be limited to, seat belt monitors, rear door opening sensors, and seat weight sensors. These sensors should give an audible alert through the car’s horn if the child is not removed within a minimum amount of time after the driver exits the vehicle.

Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send a copy of this Resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and each member of the Kentucky Congressional Delegation.

**POM–185.** A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to drug pricing negotiate for Medicare and Medicaid recipients; to the Committee on Finance.

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. BENNET (for himself and Mr. KING):
S. 3340. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and to ensure that certain State and local governments making a transition to ranked choice voting; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. YAVAHOLLEN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):
S. 3341. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restrict the tax benefits of executive deferred compensation and increase disclosure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. LOEFPFLER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):
S. 3342. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to prohibit the deceptive sale of fentanyl, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:
S. 3343. All to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide enhanced security for the medical supply chain; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MANCHIN:
S. 3344. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to develop and disseminate an evidence-based curriculum for kindergarten through grade 12 on substance use disorders; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):
S. 3345. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the use of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, other personnel, and canines against potential synthetic opioid exposure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):
S. 3346. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the use of Homeland Security Grant Program funds for anti-terror and anti-hoax purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY:
S. 3348. A bill to amend section 923 of title 47, United States Code, to modify the distribution of broadcast spectrum in specified areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. TESTER):
S. 3350. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deem certain State veterans homes meeting certain health and safety standards as meeting conditions and requirements for classification under the Medicare and Medicaid programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):
S. 3351. A bill to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research and development on research on critical materials; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. YAVAHOLLEN (for himself, Mr. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KING, and Mr. MURKOWSKI):
S. 3352. A bill to require that Federal agencies only procure cut flowers and cut green grown in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. YOUNG):
S. 3353. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN:
S. 3354. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to establish an emergency food assistance partnership grant program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. Tester, Mr. Moran, Mr. Peters, and Mr. WICKER):
S. 3355. A bill to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KING:
S. 3356. A bill to support the reuse and recycling of batteries and critical minerals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN:
S. 3357. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to enhance State efforts to cross-enroll participants to improve nutritional outcomes for pregnant women, postpartum women, and young children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. Warren and Mr. HARRIS):
S. 3358. A bill to extend protections to part-time workers in the areas of family and medical leave and pension plans, and to ensure equitable treatment in the workplace; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):
S. 3359. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to modify the distribution of funds under the tribal transportation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):
S. 3360. A bill to establish the National Center for the Advancement of Aviation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER:
S. 3361. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require issuers to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission information regarding human capital management policies, practices, and performance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:
S. 3362. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to use a portion of the proceeds from the auction of the C-band to fund measures to provide students with access to the internet at home, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Mr. JONES):
S. 3363. A bill to establish the Alabama Blackbelt National Heritage Area and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER:
S. 3364. A bill to improve the health and academic achievement of students in highly polluted environments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):
S. 3365. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Crosby Street in Mansfield, Louisiana, as the "Dr. C.O. Simpkins, Sr., Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER):
S. 3366. A bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at no cost to members of Gold Star Families; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):
S. Res. 506. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should initiate negotiations to enter into a free trade agreement with the Republic of Tunisia; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCAR, Ms. ERNST, Mr. WARREN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. COTTON):
S. Res. 507. A resolution supporting Minor League Baseball; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASHEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTIZA MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAVER, Mr. CHAPU, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DWUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HENRICH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAIN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. LOEFPFLER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURAN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. Sasse, Ms. SULLIVAN, Mr. WARREN, Mr. WEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. BENNETT):
S. Res. 508. A resolution commemorating the 150th anniversary of the historic seating of Hiram Rhodes Revels as the first African American United States Senator; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TOOMEEY (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 509. A resolution calling upon the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution on Iran that extends the dates by which Annex B restrictions under Resolution 2231 are currently set to expire; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 510. A resolution commending the people of Taiwan on holding free and fair democratic presidential and legislative elections, and congratulating Madame Tsai Ing-wen on her re-election to the presidency of Taiwan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KAIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 511. A resolution supporting the role of the United States in helping save the lives of children in developing countries with vaccines and provide for the use of amounts in a Vaccine Alliance; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WICKER, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CAPITO, Ms. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 512. A resolution designating March 2, 2020, as "Read Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. Res. 514. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Donald Stratton be remembered for a lifetime of heroism and service to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KAIN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. ERSTEIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MC SALLY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SHAHEEN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 513. A resolution designating February 2020 as "American Heart Month" and February 7, 2020, as "National Wear Red Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. Res. 516. A resolution designating the week of February 24 through February 28, 2020, as "Public Schools Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. U DALL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. BALDWIN) (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PETRUS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. REED, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. CARPER):

S. Res. 517. A resolution recognizing the 193rd anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CARPER):

S. Con. Res. 37. A concurrent resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of the 1919-1920 Bolshevik Revolution and expressing concern for the dignity, freedom, and safety of the people of Ukraine.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 173

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 173, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and for other purposes.

S. 206

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 500, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 524, a bill to establish the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Tribal Indian Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 698

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 698, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide equitable treatment for residents of Puerto Rico with respect to the refundable portion of the child tax credit and to provide the same treatment to families in Puerto Rico with one child or two children that is currently provided to island families with three or more children.

S. 729

At the request of Mr. U DALL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CARPINELLO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 729, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide equitable treatment for residents of Puerto Rico with respect to the refundable portion of the child tax credit and to provide the same treatment to families in Puerto Rico with one child or two children that is currently provided to island families with three or more children.
At the request of Mr. Boozman, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Cramer) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 845, 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.

At the request of Mr. Manchin, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Rubio) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 892, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition, and other materials to win the war, that were referred to as “Rosie the Riveter”, in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations.

At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1105, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Tillis, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. Cornyn) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1564, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a registry for certain individuals who may have been exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances due to the environmental release of aqueous film-forming foam on military installations.

At the request of Mr. Casey, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. Baldwin), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Braun) were added as cosponsors of S. 1902, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety rule for free-standing clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over related death or injury, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Rosen, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Murphy) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2065, 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.

At the request of Ms. Rosen, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Scott) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2154, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program to enhance the preparation of students in the Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps for careers in computer science and cybersecurity, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Murphy, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Smith) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2168, a bill to establish a student loan forgiveness plan for certain borrowers who are employed at a qualified farm or ranch.

At the request of Mr. Peters, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Reed) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) were added as cosponsors of S. 2363, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Peters, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Jones) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2433, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to take certain actions to increase diversity of ownership in the broadcasting industry, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Smith) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey) were added as cosponsors of S. 2436, a bill to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally.

At the request of Mr. Hoeven, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2479, a bill to provide clarification regarding the common or usual name for bison and compliance with section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Gardner, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2492, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy.

At the request of Mr. Merkley, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Murphy) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2499, a bill to effectively staff the public elementary schools and secondary schools of the United States with school-based mental health services providers.

At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Merkley) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2567, a bill to provide rental assistance to low-income tenants of certain multifamily rental assistance projects, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Braun, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. Loeffler) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Barrasso) 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.

At the request of Ms. Smith, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Heinrich) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2680, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an integrated energy systems research, development, and demonstration program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2688, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Rosen) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2688, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish an Office of Technology Transitions, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Risch, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. Sinema) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2702, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an integrated energy systems research, development, and demonstration program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Blunt, the names of the Senator from Connecticut...
At the request of Mr. Sullivan, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Chafee), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen), the Senator from Texas (Mr. Cornyn) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) were added as cosponsors of S. 2950, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to concede exposure to airborne hazards and toxins from burn pits under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Daines, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Hoeven) and the Senator from the States Postal Service prepay future retirement benefits, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Baldwin, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. Schumer) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Sullivan) were added as cosponsors of S. 2970, a bill to improve the fielding of newest generations of personal protective equipment to the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Ernst, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Cotton) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Sullivan) were added as cosponsors of S. 2970, a bill to improve the fielding of newest generations of personal protective equipment to the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Casey, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Murphy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3015, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to limit the number of local wage areas allowable within a General Schedule pay locality.

At the request of Ms. Baldwin, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. Schumer) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3029, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with States or to award grants to States to promote health and wellness, prevent suicide, and improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Booker, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Menendez) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) were added as cosponsors of S. 3167, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of an individual’s texture or style of hair.

At the request of Mr. Whitehouse, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) were added as cosponsors of S. 3171, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) was added as a cosponsor 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 further improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Stabenow, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Reno) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3217, a bill to standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Lee, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3250, a bill to restrict the availability of Federal funds to organizations associated with the abortion industry.

At the request of Mrs. Blackburn, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3266, a bill to restrict certain Federal grants for States that grant driver licenses to illegal immigrants and fail to share information about criminal aliens with the Federal Government.

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. Cornyn) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 274, a resolution expressing solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners who have lost lives, freedoms, and other rights for adhering to their beliefs and practices, and condemning the practice of organ harvesting, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Jones, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Shelby) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 315, a resolution memorializing the discovery of the Clotilda.

At the request of Mr. Lankford, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 458, a resolution calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws.

At the request of Mr. Cotton, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Barrasso) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) were added as cosponsors of 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.

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) was added as a cosponsor 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 further improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 3266

At the request of Ms. Stabenow, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Reno) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3217, a bill to standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas, and for other purposes.

S. 3250

At the request of Mr. Lee, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3250, a bill to restrict the availability of Federal funds to organizations associated with the abortion industry.

S. Res. 274

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. Cornyn) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 274, a resolution expressing solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners who have lost lives, freedoms, and other rights for adhering to their beliefs and practices, and condemning the practice of organ harvesting, and for other purposes.

S. Res. 315

At the request of Mr. Jones, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Shelby) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 315, a resolution memorializing the discovery of the Clotilda.

S. Res. 458

At the request of Mr. Lankford, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 458, a resolution calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws.

S. Res. 497

At the request of Mr. Cotton, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Barrasso) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) were added as cosponsors of 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.

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 "Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) 5G.—The term "5G", with respect to wireless infrastructure and wireless technology means fifth-generation wireless infrastructure and wireless technology.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

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

(C) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives.

(3) BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term "broadband infrastructure" means any buried, underground, or aerial facility, and any wireless or wireline connection, that enables users to send and receive voice, video, data, graphics, or any combination thereof.

(4) COMMITTEE.—The term "Committee" means the Federal Communications Commission.

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

(6) RURAL AREA.—The term "rural area" means any area other than—

(A) a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of more than 20,000 inhabitants; or

(B) an urbanized area adjacent to a city or town that has a population of more than 50,000 inhabitants.

(7) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise provided, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Labor.

(8) STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD.—The term "State workforce development board" means a State workforce development board established under section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 311).

SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP EVALUATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Chair of the Commission, shall convene an interagency working group to develop recommendations to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry.

(b) DUTIES.—In developing recommendations under subsection (a), the interagency working group shall—

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S. Res. 274

S. Res. 315
(1) determine whether, and if so how, any Federal laws (including regulations), policies, or practices, or any budgetary constraints, inhibit institutions of higher education, postsecondary institutions, technical colleges, and small businesses from establishing, adopting, or expanding programs intended to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry, including the workforce to build and maintain the 5G wireless infrastructure necessary to support 5G wireless technology;
(2) identify potential policies and programs that could increase and improve cooperation among Federal agencies, between Federal agencies and States, and among States, to address the telecommunications industry workforce needs;
(3) identify ways in which existing Federal programs, including programs that help facilitate the employment of veterans and military personnel transitioning into civilian life, could be leveraged to help address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry;
(4) identify ways to encourage individuals and for-profit businesses to participate in qualified industry-led workforce development programs, including the Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program and other industry-recognized apprenticeship programs;
(5) identify ways to improve recruitment in qualified industry-led workforce development programs, including the Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program and other industry-recognized apprenticeship programs;
(6) identify Federal incentives that could be provided to institutions of higher education, for-profit businesses, State workforce development boards, or other relevant stakeholders to establish or adopt programs, or expand current programs, to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry, including such needs in rural areas.
(c) MEMBERS.—The interagency working group convened under subsection (a) shall be composed of representatives of such Federal agencies and relevant non-Federal industry stakeholder organizations as the Secretary considers appropriate, including—
(1) a representative of the Department of Education, appointed by the Secretary of Education;
(2) a representative of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, appointed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information;
(3) a representative of the Department of Commerce, appointed by the Secretary of Commerce;
(4) a representative of the Commission, appointed by the Chairman of the Commission;
(5) a representative of the Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program, appointed by the Secretary;
(6) a representative of the Telecommunications Industry association, appointed by the Chairman of the Commission;
(7) a representative of an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, appointed by the Secretary;
(8) a representative of a rural telecommunications carrier, appointed by the Secretary; and
(9) a representative from a labor organization, appointed by the Secretary.
(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the interagency working group is convened under subsection (a), the interagency working group shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing recommendations to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry.
(e) HEARINGS.—The interagency working group convened under subsection (a) may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the interagency working group considers advisable to carry out the objectives of this section.
(f) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The interagency working group convened under subsection (a) may secure directly from any Federal agency such information as the interagency working group considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. Upon request of the interagency working group, the head of such agency shall furnish such information to the interagency working group.
(3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The interagency working group convened under subsection (a) may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other Federal agencies.
(f) PERSONNEL.—
(1) TRAVEL.—The members of the interagency working group convened under subsection (a) shall not receive compensation for the performance of services for the interagency working group, but shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies of the United States set forth in section 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in connection with the interagency working group. Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the interagency working group may accept the voluntary and uncompensated services of members of the interagency working group.
(2) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any employee of the Federal Government may be detailed to the interagency working group convened under subsection (a) without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or pay.
(3) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the interagency working group convened under subsection (a).
(h) SUNSET.—The interagency working group convened under subsection (a) shall terminate on the day after the date on which the interagency working group submits the report to Congress under subsection (d).
SEC. 4. TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKFORCE GUIDANCE
SEC. 4. TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKFORCE GUIDANCE
SEC. 5. GAO ASSESSMENT OF WORKFORCE NEEDS OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY
SEC. 5. GAO ASSESSMENT OF WORKFORCE NEEDS OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that estimates the number of skilled telecommunications workers that will be required to build and maintain—
(1) broadband infrastructure in rural areas; and
(2) the 5G wireless infrastructure needed to support 5G wireless technology.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. Sinema):
S. 3359. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to modify the distribution of funds under the tribal transportation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD. There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3359

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Tribal Transportation Equity and Transparency Improvement Act of 2020.”

SEC. 2. TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—
(1) in subsection (a)(9)(A), by striking “construction and improvement” and inserting “construction, improvement, and highway safety”;
(2) in subsection (b)—
(A) in paragraph (1)—
(1) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:
(‘‘(D) ADDITIONAL FACILITIES.—‘‘
(2) the 5G wireless infrastructure needed to support 5G wireless technology.

SEC. 3. TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—
(1) in subsection (a)(9)(A), by striking “construction and improvement” and inserting “construction, improvement, and highway safety”;
(2) in subsection (b)—
(A) in paragraph (1)—
(1) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:
(‘‘(D) ADDITIONAL FACILITIES.—‘‘
(2) the 5G wireless infrastructure needed to support 5G wireless technology.

SEC. 4. GAO ASSESSMENT OF WORKFORCE NEEDS OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that estimates the number of skilled telecommunications workers that will be required to build and maintain—
(1) broadband infrastructure in rural areas; and
(2) the 5G wireless infrastructure needed to support 5G wireless technology.
in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "shall be—" and all that follows through "selected by" in subparagraph (A), and inserting "shall be selected by"; and (B) by adding at the end the following: "(4) Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects Program.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Secretary of the Interior may use funds available to the Federal Lands and Tribal Projects Program under section 1123 of the FAST Act (23 U.S.C. 201 note; Public Law 114–94); and (4) in subsection (c)(2), by striking "as appropriate" and inserting "subject to subsection (a)(3)."

(b) Inspector General Review.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation and the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior shall jointly begin an audit of the tribal transportation program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code (referred to in this section as the "program").

(2) Review.—The audit under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a review of the data collection and management processes used by the Secretary of the Interior in maintaining the national inventory of tribal transportation facilities under section 202(b)(1) of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) a review of the administration of the program, including whether—

(i) funding under the program is distributed in a timely manner that is consistent with statutory and regulatory requirements; and

(ii) the current procedures and practices used by the Secretary of the Interior to allocate funding for tribal transportation facilities (as defined in section 101(a) of title 23, United States Code) under the program are transparent and consistently applied.

(3) Report.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation and the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior shall jointly submit a report describing the results of the audit under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(4) Obligation Limitations.—Notwithstanding section 1123(b)(4) of the FAST Act (23 U.S.C. 201 note; Public Law 114–94) or any other provision of law providing a limitation on obligations for Federal-aid highway and highway safety programs for a fiscal year, amounts made available to carry out the tribal transportation program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code, for fiscal year 2018 shall not be subject to the obligation limitation for that fiscal year.

SEC. 3. Transportation Facility Eligibility.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Inventory.—The term "inventory" means the national inventory of tribal transportation facilities under section 202(b) of title 23, United States Code.

(2) Proposed Road.—The term "proposed road" means a proposed road or facility (as defined in section 170.5 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act)) that is a road, including a primary access route (as defined in that section).

(b) Committee.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) Deadline.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary and the Secretary of Transportation shall require each Indian tribe that intends to include a proposed road in the inventory to complete and submit for review, in the manner prescribed in this section, a proposed roads approval application.

(2) Requirements.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include an examination of—

(A) the funding formula of the program under section 202(b)(3) of title 23, United States Code, including key decisions made over time that have affected the methods used to determine tribal shares of program funds;

(B) whether, for purposes of allocating funding under section 202 of title 23, United States Code, the allocation methodology under section 10001 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), provides an accurate and reliable estimate of tribal population;

(C) potential alternatives to the methodology described in subparagraph (B) for purposes of allocating funding under section 202 of title 23, United States Code;

(D) how the Secretary of the Interior ensures that—

(i) the program is consistently administered; and

(ii) program decisions are transparent and consistently made; and

(E) each tribe is having the program administered solely by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Transportation.

(3) Report.—Not later than 540 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report describing the results of the audit under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(4) Obligation Limitations.—Notwithstanding section 1123(e)(2), by striking "as applicable" and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) Cooperating.—In accordance with section 202(a)(9)(A), an Indian tribe may use the grant amount described in this paragraph in cooperation with States, counties, and other local subdivisions for highway safety purposes.

SEC. 4. Tribal Highway Safety Program.

Section 202 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(4)(B), by striking "by" and inserting "by, or on behalf of,''; and

(2) in subsection (h)(2)—

(A) by striking "Notwithstanding" and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) Cooperating.—In accordance with section 202(a)(9)(A), an Indian tribe may use the grant amount described in this paragraph in cooperation with States, counties, and other local subdivisions for highway safety purposes.

SEC. 5. Nationally Significant Tribal Lands and Tribal Projects Program.

Section 1123 of the FAST Act (23 U.S.C. 201 note; Public Law 114–94) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3), by inserting "for a project that is to be carried out by an eligible entity that is not an Indian tribe,' before "having an"; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1)—

(A) by striking "shall be up to" and inserting the following:

"(A) for a project carried out by an Indian tribe, up to 100 percent; and

(B) for a project not described in subparagraph (A), up to 75 percent.

SEC. 6. Tribal Transportation Advisory Committee.

(a) Establishment.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior referred to in this section as the "Secretary") shall establish within the Bureau of Indian Affairs a committee, to be known as the Tribal Transportation Advisory Committee (referred to in this section as the "Committee"), which shall replace the Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee established under sections 170.133 through 170.137 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(b) Membership.—

(1) In general.—The Committee shall be composed of—

(A) the Secretary (or a designee);

(B) representatives of a diverse group of Indian tribes, including—

(i) not fewer than 1 tribal representative from each region of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

(ii) not more than 3 tribal representatives from any 1 region of the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

(C) the State and local representatives;

(D) not fewer than 1 representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

(E) not fewer than 1 representative of the Department of Transportation; and

(F) other members, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary in consultation with the Committee.

(2) Appointment.—The Secretary shall appoint each member of the Committee.

(3) Chairperson.—The Secretary (or a designee) shall serve as chairperson of the Committee.

(c) Terms.—Except for the Secretary, each member of the Committee shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(d) Vacancies.—Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Committee—

(1) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made; and

(2) shall not affect the power of the remaining members to carry out the duties of the Committee.
Whereas the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (TPA) (title I of Indian Affairs) includes provisions to require that a trading partner adopt, implement, and enforce its own labor statutes, and that those statutes include internationally recognized core labor standards; and

Whereas, pursuant to the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (TPA), Congress has mandated that the President provide a 90-day notification of intent to begin trade negotiations and established principal negotiating objectives, which include implementing the provisions of the agreement combat corruption, trade in traditional goods, as determined in the event of a natural disaster; and

(b)(1) of that section;

(1) the Women in Baseball Leadership initiative;

(2) BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Committee may, on a periodic basis, develop and present to the Secretary best practices and recommendations regarding the issues described in clauses (i) through (vi) of paragraph (1)(A).

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall—

(iii) grants awarded to Indian tribes for public transportation using amounts made available under section 5311(c)(1) of title 49, United States Code;

(iv) transportation safety within tribal reservations, including—

(1) traffic safety; and

(vi) public transportation safety within tribal reservations, including—

(iii) the funding formula used to determine tribal transportation and its impact on Indian reservations, including—

(1) tribal transportation program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code, including—

(i) the tribal transportation program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code, including—

(2) United States tribal transportation facility inventory established under subsection (b)(1) of that section; and

(ii) the road maintenance program managed by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior or, in concert with the Department of Transportation, to assist the Committee in
developing subcommittees of the Committee, shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Whereas, pursuant to the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (TPA), Congress has mandated that the President provide a 90-day notification of intent to begin trade negotiations and established principal negotiating objectives, which include implementing the provisions of the agreement combat corruption, trade in traditional goods, as determined in the event of a natural disaster; and

(iii) the funding formula used to determine tribal transportation and its impact on Indian reservations, including—

(1) tribal transportation program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code, including—

(i) the tribal transportation program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code, including—

(j) TERMINATION.—The Committee, including subcommittees of the Committee, shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.
WHEREAS Minor League Baseball is the first
touchpoint with the “national pastime” for
millions of youth, and the only touchpoint
for youth located in communities far from
cities in which Major League Baseball clubs are
located;
WHEREAS Congress has enacted numerous
statutory exemptions and immunities to pre-
serve and sustain:
(1) a system for Minor League Baseball; and
(2) the relationship between Minor League
Baseball and Major League Baseball;
WHEREAS the proposed abandonment of 42
Minor League Baseball clubs by Major
League Baseball would devastate commu-
nities across the United States, including in
those communities that rely on the economic stimulus
that those Minor League Baseball clubs pro-
vide;
WHEREAS Minor League Baseball facilities
not only house the affiliated team, but also
serve as venues for community events and
other sporting competitions;
WHEREAS Minor League Baseball clubs en-
rich the lives of millions of people in the
United States each year through economic,
social, cultural, and charitable contribu-
tions;
WHEREAS the preservation of Minor League
Baseball clubs in 160 communities across the
United States is in the public interest, as those
communities provide affordable, family-friendly entertainment to those communities;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
RESOLVED, That the Senate—
(1) supports the preservation of Minor
League Baseball clubs in 160 communities
across the United States;
(2) recognizes the unique social, economic,
and historical contributions that Minor
League Baseball has made to the lives and
culture of the people of the United States; and
(3) encourages the continuation in 160 com-
munities across the United States of the 117-year
foundation of Minor League Baseball through the continued affiliation of the Minor
League Baseball clubs in those commu-
nities with Major League Baseball.

SENATE RESOLUTION 508—COM-
MEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIV-
ERSARY OF THE HISTORIC
SEATING OF HIRAM RHODES
REVELS AS THE FIRST AFRICAN
AMERICAN UNITED STATES SEN-
ATOR
Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. ALEX-
ANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN,
Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZ-
MAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR,
Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN,
Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS,
Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ-
MASTO, Ms. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER,
Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES,
Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN,
Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCH-
ER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY,
Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HENRICH, Mrs. HIRONO,
Mr. ISHOO, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. JONES,
Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD,
Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. LoefflEr, Mr. MANCHIN,
Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MORAN,
Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS,
Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROMNEY,
Ms. SANDERS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS,
Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT OF
Florida, Mr. SCOTT OF South Carolina,
Ms. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER,
Mr. TILLIS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOL-
LIN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE,
Mr. WYDEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. ROUNDS, and
Mr. BENNET) submitted the following
resolution; which was considered and agreed
to;
S. RES. 508
WHEREAS Hiram Rhodes Revels (referred to
in this preamble as “Hiram Revels”) was
born a free African American on September
27, 1827, in Fayetteville, Cumberland County,
North Carolina;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels understood the im-
portance of education from an early age in
North Carolina, where he received a sec-
condary education at a school run by a
free black woman;
WHEREAS, after being denied the ability to
advance his education in North Carolina,
Hiram Revels attended postsecondary
schools where he cultivated his faith, includ-
ing Beech Grove Quaker Seminary in Union
County, Indiana, Darke County Seminary in
Ohio, and, later, Knox College in Galesburg,
Illinois;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels served as an or-
dained minister to African Methodist Epis-
copalians across the United States, including in
Maryland and Missouri, which were both slave States
at the time of his service;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels, a talented orator
and preacher, practiced and promoted his
faith, which informed and encouraged his ef-
forts to advance education for free African
Americans;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels—
(1) was dedicated to the fight for freedom;
(2) served in the military;
(3) aided in the recruitment of members for
regiments of the United States Colored
Troops, including 2 regiments established in
Maryland and 1 regiment established in
Missouri; and
(4) served as the chaplain for members of
the United States Colored Troops in Vicks-
burg, Mississippi, in 1864;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels courageously
stepped forward to engage in civic life in the
aftermath of the Civil War by serving as—
(1) an alderman for Natchez, Mississippi, in
1868;
(2) a Mississippi State senator in 1870; and
(3) the Secretary of State of the Mississippi
legislature of Mississippi in 1873;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels represented
Mississippi in the United States Senate for a pe-
riod of 1 year remaining on the term of the
seat;
WHEREAS, following his engagement in civic
life, Hiram Revels—
(1) served as the first president of Alcorn
Agricultural and Mechanical College in Clai-
borne County, Mississippi, which was the
first African American land grant college in
the United States; and
(2) later taught theology and served as a
member of the Board of Trustees at Rust
College, formerly known as Shaw College, in
Holly Springs, Mississippi;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels died on January 16,
1901, in Aberdeen, Mississippi and was laid to
rest in Hill Crest Cemetery in Holly Springs,
Mississippi; and
WHEREAS Hiram Revels, a talented orator
and preacher, practiced and promoted his
faith, which informed and encouraged his ef-
forts to advance education for free African
Americans;
WHEREAS the life and service of Hiram
Rhodes Revels left to guide and inspire fu-
ture generations;
WHEREAS the State legislature of Mis-
sissippi elected Hiram Revels to fill a va-
da of the United States Senate on February 25, 1870, becoming the first African American
United States Senator in 1873;
WHEREAS, after being denied the ability to
advance his education in North Carolina,
Hiram Revels attended postsecondary
schools where he cultivated his faith, includ-
ing Beech Grove Quaker Seminary in Union
County, Indiana, Darke County Seminary in
Ohio, and, later, Knox College in Galesburg,
Illinois;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels served as an or-
dained minister to African Methodist Epis-
copalians across the United States, including in
Maryland and Missouri, which were both slave States
at the time of his service;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels, a talented orator
and preacher, practiced and promoted his
faith, which informed and encouraged his ef-
forts to advance education for free African
Americans;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels—
(1) was dedicated to the fight for freedom;
(2) served in the military;
(3) aided in the recruitment of members for
regiments of the United States Colored
Troops, including 2 regiments established in
Maryland and 1 regiment established in
Missouri; and
(4) served as the chaplain for members of
the United States Colored Troops in Vicks-
burg, Mississippi, in 1864;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels courageously
stepped forward to engage in civic life in the
aftermath of the Civil War by serving as—
(1) an alderman for Natchez, Mississippi, in
1868;
(2) a Mississippi State senator in 1870; and
(3) the Secretary of State of the Mississippi
legislature of Mississippi in 1873;
WHEREAS the State legislature of Mis-
sissippi elected Hiram Revels to fill a va-
da of the United States Senate on February 25, 1870, becoming the first African American
United States Senator in 1873;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels represented
Mississippi in the United States Senate for a pe-
riod of 1 year remaining on the term of the
seat;
WHEREAS, following his engagement in civic
life, Hiram Revels—
(1) served as the first president of Alcorn
Agricultural and Mechanical College in Clai-
borne County, Mississippi, which was the
first African American land grant college in
the United States; and
(2) later taught theology and served as a
member of the Board of Trustees at Rust
College, formerly known as Shaw College, in
Holly Springs, Mississippi;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels died on January 16,
1901, in Aberdeen, Mississippi and was laid to
rest in Hill Crest Cemetery in Holly Springs,
Mississippi; and
WHEREAS the life and service of Hiram
Rhodes Revels left to guide and inspire fu-
ture generations;
WHEREAS the State legislature of Mis-
sissippi elected Hiram Revels to fill a va-
da of the United States Senate on February 25, 1870, becoming the first African American
United States Senator in 1873;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels represented
Mississippi in the United States Senate for a pe-
riod of 1 year remaining on the term of the
seat;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels was the first of only
10 African American Senators to serve among
the nearly 2,000 men and women who
have served as Senators in the history of the
United States Senate as of the date of intro-
duction of this resolution;
WHEREAS Hiram Revels was a Reconstruc-
tion era Republican Senator who helped to
advance the United States, including in edu-
cation, military service, civic engagement,
and community service;
WHEREAS, following his engagement in civic
life, Hiram Revels—
(1) served as the first president of Alcorn
Agricultural and Mechanical College in Clai-
borne County, Mississippi, which was the
first African American land grant college in
the United States; and
(2) later taught theology and served as a
member of the Board of Trustees at Rust
College, formerly known as Shaw College, in
Holly Springs, Mississippi;
Whereas Annex B of Resolution 2231 prohibits Iran from exporting weapons and military equipment, including to foreign countries, its proxy militias throughout the region, and to organizations such as Hezbollah and Kata’ib Hezbollah; 
Whereas Hassan Nasrallah, the Secretary-General of Hezbollah, which is estimated to possess 150,000 rockets and missiles, has stated that the terrorist group receives all of its weapons and missiles from Iran; 
Whereas the arms export ban on Iran in Annex B of Resolution 2231 will expire on October 18, 2020; 
Whereas Annex B of Resolution 2231 banned travel and froze financial assets for Iranians and entities designated on a list established and maintained pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 (2006) for their involvement in certain illicit behavior. 
Whereas these travel bans and asset freezes will expire in October 2020 and October 2023, respectively; 
Whereas Annex B of Resolution 2231 banned United Nation member states from supplying Iran’s nuclear-capable ballistic missile program; and 
Whereas this restriction in Annex B of Resolution 2231 will expire in October 2023: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) affirms that the expiration of the aforementioned restrictions on Iran and on arms technology suppliers to Iran in Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) will enhance the ability of Iran to continue its destabilizing actions in the Middle East that threaten the security of the United States and of our allies; 
(2) urges the international community to fully enforce the aforementioned restrictions on Iran and on arms technology suppliers to Iran in Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231; and 
(3) calls upon the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution on Iran that extends the dates by which the aforementioned restrictions on Iran and on arms technology suppliers to Iran in Annex B are currently set to expire.

SENATE RESOLUTION 510—COMMENDING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN ON HOLDING FREE AND FAIR DEMOCRATIC GENERAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, AND CONGRATULATING MADAME TSAI ING-WEN ON HER RE-ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF TAIWAN

Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. MARKET, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:—

S. Res. 510

Whereas the people of the United States and Taiwan enjoy extensive, close, and friendly relations, and the United States and China are matters of international concern; 
Whereas Taiwan is a free, democratic, and prosperous nation of more than 23,000,000 people and an important contributor to peace and stability around the world, its democratic aspirations, and the stable, robust democracy and a strong free market economy with a vibrant civil society offers a model for others in the Indo-Pacific; 
Whereas Taiwan is a major player in Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8; 22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.), signed into law on April 10, 1979, codified the basis for continued commercial, cultural, security, and other relations between the people of the United States and Taiwan, are matters of international concern; 
Whereas Taiwan is an integral part of China, and the United States supports a peaceful resolution of differences through dialogue, to help meet the existing and likely future threats from the People’s Republic of China, including supporting the efforts of Taiwan to develop and improve its asymmetric capabilities, as appropriate, including mobile, survivable, and cost-effective capabilities, into its military forces; and 
(2) encourages the participation of high-level United States officials to Taiwan, in accordance with the Taiwan Travel Act; 
Whereas, in presidential elections held on January 11, 2020, the incumbent President of Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen, won a second four-year term with the most votes for a presidential candidate since Taiwan began direct elections, winning 57.1 percent of the presidential vote; and 
Whereas President Tsai stated in her acceptance speech: "This election has shown that the Taiwanese people hope the international community will witness our commitment to democratic values and will respect our national identity. We also hope that Taiwan will be given a fair opportunity to participate in international affairs." Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) commends the people of Taiwan on holding free and fair democratic elections on January 11, 2020; 
(2) congratulates Madame Tsai Ing-wen on her re-election to the presidency of Taiwan, wishes her well on her inauguration on May 20, 2023, and pledges to deepen the relationship between the United States and Taiwan in her second term; 
(3) encourages the President to send a high-level official delegation for President Tsai’s second inauguration, consistent with United States law; 
(4) calls upon the United States Government to advocate for Taiwan’s active participation in international organizations, including the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the International Criminal Police Organization; and 
(5) encourages United States financial support to enhance Taiwan’s international participation through the Global Cooperation and Development Framework in recognition of our shared commitment to an open, free, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

SENATE RESOLUTION 511—SUPPORTING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN HELPING SAVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATION THROUGH GAVI, THE VACCINE ALLIANCE

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KAIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mrs. SHAHEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:—

S. Res. 511

Whereas access to vaccines and routine immunizations can protect children from deadly but preventable diseases, reduce poverty, and contribute to economic growth, enabling people to live longer, healthier, and more productive lives; 
Whereas investments in the development and improvement of vaccines and immunizations can also help enhance global health security by reducing the incidence of deadly
and debilitating diseases and containing the spread of infectious diseases before they become pandemic health threats; and

Whereas, prior to 2000, resources for and access to vaccines for children in the developing world were declining, immunization rates were stagnant or decreasing, and nearly 10,000,000 children were dying each year before their fifth birthday;

Whereas, prior to 2000, it was common for new life-saving vaccines to take up to 15 years to be introduced in the world’s least developed countries;

Whereas, in 2000, the United States Government joined forces with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization, the World Bank, other donor governments, and representatives of developed faith-based organizations, civil society, and the private sector, including the vaccine industry, to create the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (now known as GAVI or GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance), a public-private partnership to expand access to new and underused vaccines, reduce the incidence of deadly and debilitating diseases, prevent epidemics, and save lives;

Whereas GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance has since supported country-led vaccine initiatives to provide expanded immunization coverage for more than 760,000,000 of the world’s most vulnerable children, helped avert an estimated 15,000,000 deaths, and contributed to a 70 percent reduction in the number of deaths due to vaccine-preventable diseases;

Whereas country ownership and sustainability are at the core of the GAVI model, which requires each eligible country to commit their own domestic resources to vaccination and immunization programs;

Whereas Global Polio Eradication Initiative and World Health Organization have transitioned from GAVI support and are now self-financing their own vaccination and immunization programs, three more are expected to transition by the end of 2020, and an additional 10 countries are expected to transition by 2025 (in total, 40 percent of the original set of GAVI-eligible countries);

Whereas GAVI has transformed the market for vaccines by pooling demand from developing countries, securing predictable financing, expanding the global supplier base, enhancing health systems, and improving the efficiency of vaccine supply chains, and creating efficiencies that are expected to generate an estimated $900,000,000 savings between 2023–2025;

Whereas, in addition to its current portfolio of vaccines, GAVI is working to support the roll-out and scale-up of newly approved vaccines, such as diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP) boosters, hepatitis B birth dose, multivalent meningococcal, respiratory syncytia (RSV), routine oral cholera, and rabies;

Whereas GAVI also collaborates with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to bring polio vaccines into routine immunization programs, health systems, and implement additional polio protections;

Whereas GAVI has made significant progress in supporting the development and stockpiling of an effective vaccine to combat Ebola;

Whereas GAVI is participating in efforts to expand access to new and underused vaccines for vulnerable men, women, and children in developing countries;

The United States Government for the goal of securing a minimum of $7,400,000,000 in donor commitments for GAVI’s third replenishment, to be held in June 2020 in the United Kingdom;

(4) urges donor countries and private sector partners to step up the fight and increase their pledges for the third replenishment;

(5) urges GAVI countries to continue to make and meet ambitious co-financing commitments to sustain progress in ending vaccine-preventable deaths; and

(6) encourages the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in cooperation with GAVI, to continue their work to strengthen public health capacity to introduce and sustain the use of new and underused vaccines in routine immunization programs.

Whereas the United States has been a leader in supporting the development and stockpiling of an effective vaccine to combat Ebola;

Whereas the United States has been a leading supporter of GAVI since its inception, and its continued commitment will be essential to the achievement of the alliance’s goal of ending preventable deaths from pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria, and undernutrition by 2030; and

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the work of GAVI and its partners for their efforts to expand access to new and underused vaccines for vulnerable men, women, and children in developing countries;

(2) affirms the continued support of the United States Government for GAVI as an efficient and effective mechanism to advance global health security and save lives by—

(A) reducing the incidence of deadly and debilitating diseases;

(B) leveraging donor, partner country, and private sector investments in health systems capable of sustainably delivering vaccines and immunizations; and

(C) reducing the cost of vaccines while promoting supply chain security and sustainability;

(3) affirms the support of the United States Government for the goal of securing a minimum of $7,400,000,000 in donor commitments for GAVI’s third replenishment, to be held in June 2020 in the United Kingdom;

(4) urges donor countries and private sector partners to step up the fight and increase their pledges for the third replenishment;

(5) urges GAVI countries to continue to make and meet ambitious co-financing commitments to sustain progress in ending vaccine-preventable deaths; and

(6) encourages the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in cooperation with GAVI, to continue their work to strengthen public health capacity to introduce and sustain the use of new and underused vaccines in routine immunization programs.

The United States has been a leader in supporting the development and stockpiling of an effective vaccine to combat Ebola;

Whereas the United States has been a leading supporter of GAVI since its inception, and its continued commitment will be essential to the achievement of the alliance’s goal of ending preventable deaths from pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria, and undernutrition by 2030; and

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the work of GAVI and its partners for their efforts to expand access to new and underused vaccines for vulnerable men, women, and children in developing countries;

(2) affirms the continued support of the United States Government for GAVI as an efficient and effective mechanism to advance global health security and save lives by—

(A) reducing the incidence of deadly and debilitating diseases;

(B) leveraging donor, partner country, and private sector investments in health systems capable of sustainably delivering vaccines and immunizations; and

(C) reducing the cost of vaccines while promoting supply chain security and sustainability;

(3) affirms the support of the United States Government for the goal of securing a minimum of $7,400,000,000 in donor commitments for GAVI’s third replenishment, to be held in June 2020 in the United Kingdom;

(4) urges donor countries and private sector partners to step up the fight and increase their pledges for the third replenishment;

(5) urges GAVI countries to continue to make and meet ambitious co-financing commitments to sustain progress in ending vaccine-preventable deaths; and

(6) encourages the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in cooperation with GAVI, to continue their work to strengthen public health capacity to introduce and sustain the use of new and underused vaccines in routine immunization programs.

Whereas cardiovascular disease affects men, women, and children of every age and race in the United States;

Whereas, between 2003 and 2013, the death rate from cardiovascular disease fell nearly 30 percent, but cardiovascular disease continues to be the leading cause of death in the United States, taking the lives of approximately 800,000 individuals in the United States each year and accounting for 1 in 3 deaths across the country;

Whereas congenital heart defects are the—

(1) most common birth defect in the United States; and

(2) leading killer of infants with birth defects;

Whereas, each year, an estimated 800,000 individuals in the United States have a heart attack, of whom an estimated 115,000 die;

Whereas, in 2015, cardiovascular disease accounted for approximately $555,000,000,000 in health care expenditures and lost productivity;

Whereas it is estimated that cardiovascular disease will account for approximately $1,095,900,000,000 in health care expenditures and lost productivity annually by 2035.

Whereas individuals in the United States have made great progress in reducing the death rate for cardiovascular disease, but this progress has been more modest with respect to the death rate for cardiovascular disease in women and minorities;

Whereas many people do not recognize that cardiovascular disease is the leading killer of women in the United States, taking the lives of over 400,000 women in 2017;

Whereas over ½ of all African-American adults have some form of cardiovascular disease, including 57.1 percent of African-American women and 60.1 percent of African-American men;

Whereas Alaska Natives and American Indians are more likely to die from cardiovascular disease than individuals from other ethnic groups;

Whereas Native Hawaiians have higher mortality rates and die at a younger average age from cardiovascular disease than other ethnic groups in Hawaii;
Whereas many minority women, including African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American, and Native American women and women from indigenous populations, have a greater prevalence of risk factors or are at a higher risk of death from heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases, but are less likely to know of the risk;

Whereas women constitute about 20 percent of enrolled patients in cardiovascular disease clinical trials;

Whereas, due to the differences in cardiovascular disease between men and women, more research and data on the effects of cardiovascular disease treatments for women is vital;

Whereas veterans have higher rates of cardiovascular disease than nonveterans;

Whereas female veterans are less likely than male veterans to be included in studies on the effects of cardiovascular disease on veterans;

Whereas female veterans are less likely than male veterans to receive adequate treatment for cardiovascular disease;

Whereas extensive clinical and statistical studies have identified major and contributing factors that increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, including—

(1) high blood pressure;
(2) high blood cholesterol;
(3) using tobacco products;
(4) exposure to tobacco smoke;
(5) physical inactivity;
(6) obesity; and
(7) diabetes mellitus;

Whereas an individual can greatly reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease through lifestyle modification coupled with medical treatment when necessary;

Whereas greater awareness and early detection of risk factors for cardiovascular disease can improve and save the lives of many individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas, under section 101(1) of title 36, United States Code, the President is requested to issue an annual proclamation designating February as American Heart Month;

Whereas the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, and many other organizations celebrate National Wear Red Day during February by “going red” to increase awareness about cardiovascular disease as the leading killer of women and men;

Whereas, every year since 1964, the President has issued a proclamation designating the month of February as American Heart Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates—
(A) February 2020 as “American Heart Month”;
and
(B) February 7, 2020, as “National Wear Red Day”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day;

(3) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to—
(A) promoting awareness about the causes, risks, and prevention of cardiovascular disease;
(B) supporting research on cardiovascular disease; and
(C) expanding access to medical treatment for cardiovascular disease;

(4) commends the efforts of States, territories, and possessions of the United States, localities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities, and the people of the United States who support American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day; and

(5) encourages every individual in the United States to learn about his or her risk for cardiovascular disease.

SENATE RESOLUTION 514—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT DONALD STRATTON BE REMEMBERED FOR A LIFETIME OF HEROISM AND SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution: which was considered and agreed to—

S. Res. 514

Whereas, on February 15, 2020, Donald Stratton, a veteran of World War II and one of the last remaining survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor, was laid away peacefully surrounded by his loving family in Colorado Springs, Colorado;

Whereas, on December 7, 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor lasted for approximately 5 hours, during which 2,403 members of the United States Armed Forces were killed or mortally wounded, 1,297 members of the United States Armed Forces were wounded, and 97 civilians lost their lives;

Whereas, during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Seaman First Class Donald Stratton was one of 335 sailors trapped in the control tower of the U.S.S. Arizona;

Whereas Boatwatchman’s Mate Second Class Joseph Bond, Seaman Third Class Robert Firth, Seaman Third Class Eulalio B. Dvorak, and Fire Controlman Third Class Lauren Bruner;

Whereas, despite suffering severe burns on more than 70 percent of his body and being medically discharged, Donald Stratton later reenlisted in the United States Navy to continue serving during World War II;

Whereas, after serving in the United States Armed Forces, Donald Stratton committed his life to pursuing the posthumous recognition of Joseph George with the award of a Bronze Star;

Whereas Donald Stratton exemplified the heroism and selfless service of the members of the United States Armed Forces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors Donald Stratton for his lifelong commitment to service to the United States and the example he set for future generations; and

(2) remembers the men and women of the Greatest Generation of the United States, including the few remaining survivors of that generation.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I come to the floor with somber news for Arizona—Donald Stratton, a veteran of World War II, who was on the U.S.S. Arizona on December 7, 1941. Our country has suffered a great loss this past week with Mr. Stratton’s passing.

A gallant man, Donald Stratton served his country, his family, and our Great State with honor, pride, and courage. He was the type of person who only comes around once in a generation and was someone whom I was lucky to have known to and certainly proud to have worked with. It is with great emotion that I come to the floor to share his story once again. I am sure it will not be the last time, but it is certainly the most personal time that I have ever shared this story.

Donald Stratton was born in a tiny town in Nebraska—Red Cloud—in 1922. Its population today is of 900 or so people. I didn’t have a chance to look up how big it was when he was born in there, but I imagine it was a little bit bigger. It has certainly faced the fate that many rural communities in America have. It has seen times of growth and times of loss. Certainly, the people of Red Cloud know they have lost a great hero as well.

Donald Stratton wrote in his memories on December 6, 1941, as a young Nebraska sailor, that he felt like the luckiest boy from Red Cloud because he was in an incredibly beautiful part of the world. In fact, he wrote in his memoir that he was in the Navy, seeing the world, and was stationed in one of the most beautiful parts of the world. He was 19, and his entire life stretched before him. That next morning, December 7, 1941, would change forever Donald Stratton and his country.

In his book, he talked about that day, December 7, 1941. A little after 5 a.m., he had awoken, on his cot, about an hour and a half before sunrise. He writes:

I stretched, rubbed the sleep from my eyes, and folded up my cot. I stored it in the incinerator room, then went below to shower. After, I dressed for the day in the typical casual clothes that sailors wore on Sundays—a clean pair of pressed, white shorts and a white T-shirt, along with my sailor’s hat.

A few minutes later, a 5:30 reveille sounded over the ship, and the ship stirred to life, he talked about. Below decks, men tumbled out of their hammocks and headed to the showers. A few hours later, at 7:55 that morning, after a Sunday morning breakfast, he heard airplanes and bombshells, the dis-
On that morning, as they were trying to fight back, they had been trapped in their tower. Donald Stratton and five of his other shipmates were burning—trapped on that tower—as the ship was going down. Joe George, a sailor aboard the USS Arizona, was with them and saw what was happening. He tried many times to throw a rope over to the USS Arizona to provide help. Finally, he succeeded. Out of the smoke and out of the flames, a lifeline from Joe George to that tower was seen, and they were able to escape. Simultaneously, Donald Stratton and these other sailors were able to shimmy across the rope, over the burning water, to safety on the Vestal. Despite their terrible wounds, they made it to the Vestal. This story led to an incredible fight again by Donald Stratton. After he spent a year recovering from the burns that were over almost all of his body, he told his parents that he couldn’t just stop fighting. That he couldn’t abandon his country, that he had to go back to duty. With that, he went back into service for his country. But the fight Donald Stratton gave for this country and for his fellow sailors didn’t stop there. After he served in the Navy, after he left it, he knew he had to spend the rest of his life fighting for the man who saved his life and his fellow shipmates. It wasn’t like people left the ship at the end of the day on December 7 to go back to the office and fill out reports and say: Well, it was a busy day at the office. These things happen. America was at war. Thousands of lives had been lost. In the fire, in the smoke, and in the fight, what Joe George had done for Donald Stratton and those other brave sailors was lost for that time. Donald Stratton went back into service. He went back into the fight. He spent the rest of his life trying to find the man who saved his life. He spent a decade-plus looking for Joe George. Donald Stratton, I am pretty sure I never could have done what you did. In his kind of “ah, shucks” demeanor from Red Cloud, NE, he said: “Well, Cory, everyone has to be somewhere.” It was not the response I thought I was going to get, but everybody does have to be somewhere. Thank God Donald Stratton was on that boat on December 7, 1941. Thank God Joe George was on that boat. Thank God that rope was thrown over to the tower to save his life. Thank God Donald Stratton learned to the flight to stand up for this country, to continue his fight for Joe George, and to have an incredible family who continue to share in his legacy today. Thank God for all of them. Thank God for all of the men and women who were there that day and what they have been able to do to fight for this country, to stand for this country, to pay back the blessings of this country as we must fight each and every day to pay back the blessings we received. They generously bestowed upon this Nation when they stood up, because they were there. We know that Donald Stratton has joined his fellow shipmates. That revered life at the Pearly Gates must be quite spectacular. He passed away at his home in Colorado Springs on February 15, at the age of 97, next to his beloved wife. He joins Lauren Brunner, another survivor of that morning on the USS Arizona, who came to Donald to fight with him for Joe George—Brunner, a shipmate who passed away on September 10 of last year and who was interred in the USS Arizona this past December 7 on the 78th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack. I pray that they are at rest in peace as they join their family in arms. This Saturday, the community of Colorado Springs and our State will hold a memorial service for Donald Stratton and those other brave sailors. I am going to miss him. To every brave man and woman who serves our country, we are eternally grateful. I am going to miss him.

SENATE RESOLUTION S 515—Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Career and Technical Education Month

Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. Portman, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Young, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Braun, Mr. Brown, Ms. Cantwell, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Carper, Ms. Casey, Mr. Coons, Mr. Cooney, Mr. Daines, Mr. Duckworth, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Enzi, Ms. Ernst, Mrs. Feinstein, Ms. Harris, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Hiroto, Mr. Hoeven, Mrs. Hyde-Smith, Mr. Jones, Mr. King, Ms. Klobuchar, Mrs. Loeffler, Mr. McCaskill, Ms. McCaskill, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Peters, Mr. Reed, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Romney, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Scott of South Carolina, Mrs. Shaheen, Ms. Smith, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Warner, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Wyden, and Mrs. Fischer) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 515

Whereas a competitive global economy requires workers who are prepared for skilled professions; Whereas, in the next several years, an estimated 5,000,000 new jobs will be needed in infrastructure positions in the United States, including in positions for designing, building, and operating transportation, housing, utilities, and telecommunications facilities; Whereas career and technical education (referred to in this preamble as “CTE”) ensures that competitive and skilled workers are ready, willing, and capable of holding jobs in high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand career fields such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, allied health, construction, information technology, energy sustainability, and many
other career fields that are vital in keeping the United States competitive in the global economy; 

Whereas CTE helps the United States meet the very real and immediate challenges of the economy; 

Whereas the United States has 30,000,000 jobs where the income of $55,000 per year that do not require a bachelor’s degree yet increasingly require some level of post-secondary education; 

Whereas 1,000,000,000 students are enrolled in CTE across the country at secondary and postsecondary institutions, with CTE programs in thousands of CTE centers, comprehensive high schools, career academies, and CTE high schools, and nearly 1,000 2-year colleges; 

Whereas CTE matches employability skills with workforce demand and provides relevant academic and technical coursework leading to industry-recognized credentials for secondary, postsecondary, and adult learners; 

Whereas CTE affords students the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills, and credentials needed to secure careers in growing, high-skill fields; 

Whereas secondary CTE is associated with a lower probability of dropping out of high school and a higher likelihood of graduating on-time; 

Whereas CTE students were significantly more likely than non-CTE students to report having developed problem-solving, project completion, research, math, college application, work-related, communication, time management, and critical thinking skills during high school; 

Whereas, according to an American Federation of Teachers poll, 94 percent of parents approve of expanding access to CTE and other programs that prepare students for jobs; 

Whereas students at schools with highly integrated rigorous academic and CTE programs are significantly more likely to meet college and career readiness benchmarks than students at schools with less integrated programs; 

Whereas in 2018, Congress affirmed the importance of CTE by passing the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Public Law 115–224), which supports program improvement in secondary and postsecondary CTE programs in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and outlying areas; 

Whereas 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of State CTE leadership by Advance CTE (formerly known as the “National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium” or “NASDCTEc”); and 

Whereas February 23, 2020, marks the 103rd anniversary of the signing of the Act of February 23, 1917 (commonly known as the “Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act of 1917”) (39 Stat. 929, chapter 114), which was the first legislation establishing secondary and postsecondary CTE and laid the foundation for the bipartisan, bicameral support for CTE that continues as of February 2020: Now, therefore, be it 

Resolved, That the Senate— 

(1) designates February 2020 as “Career and Technical Education Month” to celebrate career and technical education across the United States; and 

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month; 

(3) recognizes the importance of career and technical education in preparing a well-educated and skilled workforce in the United States; and 

(4) encourages educators, guidance and career development professionals, administrators, and parents to promote career and technical education as a respected option for students.

SENATE RESOLUTION 516—CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SMULLIN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. Kaine, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WICKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SMULTHENTHAL, Mr. BURR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CRAZER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. RISC, Mr. COONS, Ms. ERNST, Ms. KLOBUCAR, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ROY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. VAN HOLLLEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. REED, Mr. SHELY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. STEINFEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. MCSALLY, Mrs. SHAYEHN, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. JONES, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KING, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MURKEL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HINICH, Mr. LONYER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HAWLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to. 

Whereas, in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”; 

Whereas Africans were first brought involuntarily to the United States as slaves by ship; 

Whereas African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynching, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship; 

Whereas, in 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week to enhance knowledge of Black history; 

Whereas, on February 22, 2012, people celebrated the birthday of Barack Obama; 

Whereas African Americans continue to serve the United States at the highest levels of government, business, and the military; 

Whereas, since its founding, the United States has distinguished itself with a record often lauded by many, including President John F. Kennedy and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month; 

Whereas Negro History Week represented the culmination of the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the “Father of Black History”, to enhance knowledge of Black history through the work of the Journal of Negro History, published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and John E. Leonard; 

Whereas Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, originated in 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of Black people in the United States; 

Whereas Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated, “We have a wonderful history behind us. . . . If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, ‘You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy or anything else.’”; 

Whereas, since its founding, the United States has imperfectly progressed toward noble goals; 

Whereas the history of the United States is the story of people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach those ideals but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure, before committing to try again; 

Whereas, on November 4, 2008, the people of the United States elected Barack Obama, an African American man, as President of the United States; and 

Whereas, on February 22, 2012, people across the United States celebrated the three-year anniversary of the founding of African American History and Culture, which opened to the public on September 24, 2016, on the National Mall in Washington, District of Columbia, therefore, be it 

Resolved, That the Senate— 

(1) acknowledges that all people of the United States are the recipients of the wealth of history provided by Black culture; 

(2) recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the complex history of the United States, while remaining hopeful and confident about the future; and 

(3) acknowledges the significance of Black History Month as an important opportunity
to commemorate the tremendous contributions of African Americans to the history of the United States;

(4) encourages the celebration of Black History Month provided in this section by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the International Freedom Conductor Award from the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit from the Washington Bar Association, and the Pillar of Justice Award from the Federal Bar Association;

(5) agrees that, while the United States began as a divided country, the United States must:

(A) honor the contribution of all pioneers in the United States who have helped to ensure the legacy of the great United States;

and

(B) move forward with purpose, united tirelessly as a nation "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 517—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE NATHANIEL R. JONES

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 517

Whereas Judge Nathaniel Jones was born on May 13, 1926, in Youngstown, Ohio, and died on January 26, 2020, at his home in Cincinnati, Ohio, surrounded by family and loved ones;

Whereas Judge Nathaniel Jones served honorably in the United States Army Corps during World War II;

Whereas Judge Nathaniel Jones attended Youngstown State University, where he earned an undergraduate degree in 1951 and a law degree in 1955;

Whereas, in 1957, Judge Nathaniel Jones was admitted to the Ohio Bar;

Whereas, from 1950 to 1959, Judge Nathaniel Jones served as the Executive Director for the Fair Employment Practices Commission, where he led efforts to ensure equal access to employment opportunities for African Americans;

Whereas, in 1962, Judge Nathaniel Jones became the first African American to be appointed as United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio;

Whereas, in 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Judge Nathaniel Jones to serve on the General Counsel for the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, also known as the Kerner Commission, which found racism as the root cause of the urban riots that were occurring in the cities of the United States during the 1960s and determined that the United States was "moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal'';

Whereas Judge Nathaniel Jones served as the General Counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from 1970 to 1979, directing efforts to desegregate public schools in Northern cities, defended affirmative action, and fought against discrimination against African American soldiers in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas, in 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated and the Senate confirmed Judge Nathaniel Jones as a judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, making him the 11th African American to serve as a federal circuit court judge;

Whereas Judge Nathaniel Jones served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit until his retirement in 2002;

Whereas Judge Nathaniel Jones was known as the "great dissenter" because he was often in the minority, siding with plaintiffs seeking redress in the courts for violations of housing and employment law and civil rights protections;

Whereas Judge Nathaniel Jones assisted the Republic of South Africa in drafting a new constitution following the end of apartheid and served as an official election monitor for the country's first free and fair election, which ushered in the presidency of Nelson Mandela;

Whereas Judge Nathaniel Jones received 19 honorary degrees and numerous awards of distinction, such as the Spingarn Medal, the highest honor given by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the International Freedom Conductor Award from the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit from the Washington Bar Association, and the Pillar of Justice Award from the Federal Bar Association;

Whereas Judge Nathaniel Jones was inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame and the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame, and, in 2014, the Nathaniel R. Jones American Inn of Court was chartered in Youngstown, Ohio;

Whereas Judge Nathaniel Jones was an initiate of the Beta Pi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and was the 65th Laurel Wreath Laureate of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity;

Whereas, in 2003, Congress passed legislation to name the newly constructed Federal building in Youngstown, Ohio, the "Nathaniel R. Jones Federal Building and United States Courthouse'';

Whereas, in 2019, the University of Cincinnati College of Law renamed its Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice after Judge Nathaniel Jones to "justify its 'commitment to and alignment with the principles of Judge Jones' impressive career as a champion for justice'';

Whereas Judge Nathaniel Jones devoted his life to answering "the Call" for racial justice, first sounded by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1909, stating in his memoir, "[A]nswering calls for racial justice has not been confined to a specific time in the past or the history of a particular organization, but has been defined by the imperatives that guided my life. As I enter the twilight of my life, I offer this chronicle of the steps I have taken in effort to move the baton of justice handed to me by forebears who were much more surefooted and fearless than me in answering the Call'';

Whereas Judge Nathaniel Jones inspired generations of judges who served as his law clerks, as well as the countless leaders who sought his wise counsel as they worked to address inequality in their communities; and

Whereas Judge Nathaniel Jones will be remembered for his dedication to upholding the Constitution of the United States and as a tireless advocate for justice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the life and legacy of Judge Nathaniel R. Jones and his unwavering commitment to upholding justice and civil rights.

SENATE RESOLUTION 518—HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 518

Whereas Disabled American Veterans was founded on September 25, 1920, and chartered by Congress on June 17, 1932, in recognition of the role of Disabled American Veterans as the official voice of the wartime-disabled veterans of the United States;

Whereas Disabled American Veterans celebrates 100 years of serving veterans of the Armed Forces, their families, survivors, and communities;

Whereas Disabled American Veterans is the largest wartime veterans service organization in the United States comprised exclusively of men and women who became disabled while defending the United States, with approximately 1,000,000 service-disabled veterans in its membership;

Whereas the National Headquarters of Disabled American Veterans is located in Washington, D.C., and Disabled American Veterans has 52 departments and 134 chapters located throughout the United States;

Whereas, since its founding, Disabled American Veterans has served veterans of the United States who have become wounded, injured, or ill due to service in the Armed Forces by advocating for the establishment of the Department of Veterans Affairs and urging Congress to pass legislation to provide benefits and services for service-disabled veterans;

Whereas, in 1920, Disabled American Veterans began representing the interests of veterans and subsequently developed a program for the National Guard, which has made Disabled American Veterans the preeminent provider of claims assistance to injured and ill veterans of the United States, their families, and survivors;

Whereas Disabled American Veterans continues to provide direct onsite assistance to injured and ill members of the Armed Forces on active duty through 30 Transition Service Officers, who provide benefits counseling and assistance to separating members of the Armed Forces seeking to file initial claims for benefits administered through the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas Disabled American Veterans co-presents the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic and the National Disabled Veterans Training Exposure Experience Tournament, has organized a nation-wide transportation program, providing free transportation to medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs for injured and ill veterans; and

Whereas Disabled American Veterans is the preeminent provider of claims assistance to injured and ill veterans of the United States, their families, and survivors;

Whereas Disabled American Veterans began representing the interests of veterans and subsequently developed a program for the National Guard, which has made Disabled American Veterans the preeminent provider of claims assistance to injured and ill veterans of the United States, their families, and survivors;

(S) the elimination of the offset between veterans' compensation and benefits; and

Whereas Disabled American Veterans has championed important initiatives for improving the lives of all veterans, such as—

(A) a cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs;

(B) the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims;

(C) a modernized appeals process for disability claims;

(D) an advance appropriation to ensure adequate and timely funding for health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(E) benefits for family caregivers; and

(F) the model for present-day Vet Centers; and

Whereas Disabled American Veterans continues to advocate and create awareness for
many issues affecting veterans of the United States, such as equitable benefits and services for women veterans, appropriate resources for mental health and suicide prevention benefits for all veterans exposed to toxic substances; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that, throughout 100 years of service, Disabled American Veterans has made significant contributions to veterans, both with and without disabilities, and the communities of veterans, “fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served”;

(2) honors the vital and ongoing role Disabled American Veterans plays in supporting the needs of veterans and their families in the United States; and

(3) commemorates the legacy of Disabled American Veterans in the provision of services and advocacy for veterans throughout 100 years of history of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 519—HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF KATHERINE COLEMAN GOBLE JOHNSON

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. KAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 519

Whereas Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson, an African-American physicist and mathematician, was born on August 26, 1918, in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia;

 Whereas, in 1957, Katherine Johnson graduated from West Virginia State College, doing so with highest honors at age 18;

 Whereas Katherine Johnson and 2 other students were the first African Americans to be admitted to graduate school at West Virginia University;

 Whereas, in 1953, Katherine Johnson began her career in aeronautics as a computer in the segregated West Area Computing unit at the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA);

 Whereas West Area Computing was part of the Flight Research Division at NACA, Katherine Johnson analyzed data from flight tests;

 Whereas NACA was incorporated into the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Katherine Johnson—

 (1) calculated the trajectory for the Freedom 7 mission crewed by Alan Shepard in 1961, which was the first human spaceflight by an individual from the United States; and

 (2) co-authored a report that provided the equations for describing orbital spacecraft with a specified landing point, which made her the first woman to be recognized as an author of a report from the Flight Research Division;

 (3) was asked to verify the calculations of the electronic computers at NASA that were made by Alan Shephard during the flight of the Freedom 7 mission;

 (4) provided calculations for NASA throughout her career, including for the Apollo missions; and

 Whereas Katherine Johnson broke the barriers of race and gender by completing ground-breaking work at NASA;

 Whereas, in 1986, Katherine Johnson retired from NASA;

 Whereas, in 2015, Katherine Johnson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama at age 97;

 Whereas, in 2017, NASA dedicated a building in honor of Katherine Johnson at Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory, which was named in her honor, the Katherine Johnson Independent Verification and Validation Facility in Fairmont, West Virginia, after a bipartisan bill authored by Senator Shelley Moore Capito and Senator Joe Manchin to redesignate the facility was signed into law in 2018; and

 Whereas, on February 24, 2020, Katherine Johnson passed away at 101 years of age: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life of Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson and her achievements as a mathematician, physicist, mathematician, and cultural icon;

 (2) extends its heartfelt sympathy to the family of Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson; and

 (3) commemorates the 100 years of history of the United States, expresses deep appreciation for the outstanding and important service of Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson to the United States; and

 (4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmission, critical copy of this resolution to the family of Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson.

SENATE RESOLUTION 520—DESIGNATING MARCH 6, 2020, AS “NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE EDUCATION DAY”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, Ms. ERNST, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CARMASSEL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. MURKING, Ms. WARNER, and Mr. COTTON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 520

Whereas it is essential for youth to learn and practice the art of communicating with and without technology;

 Whereas speech and debate education offers students myriad forms of public speaking through which students may develop talent and exercise unique voice and character; and

 Whereas speech and debate education gives students the 21st-century skills of communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration;

 Whereas critical analysis and effective communication allow important ideas, texts, and philosophies the opportunity to flourish;

 Whereas personal, professional, and civic interactions are enhanced by the ability of the participants in those interactions to listen, concur, disagree, and dissent with reason and compassion;

 Whereas students who participate in speech and debate have chosen a challenging activity that requires regular practice, dedication, and hard work;

 Whereas teachers and coaches of speech and debate devote in-school, after-school, and weekend hours to equip students with life-changing skills and opportunities;

 Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the lifelong impact of providing students with the confidence and preparation to both discern and share views;

 Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day acknowledges that most achievements, celebrations, commemorations, and pivotal moments in modern history begin, end, or are crystallized with public address; and

 Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day recognizes that learning to research, construct, and present an argument is integral to personal advocacy, social movements, and the making of public policy;

 Whereas the National Speech & Debate Association, in conjunction with national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of speech and debate across grade levels and disciplines: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 6, 2020, as “National Speech and Debate Education Day’’; and

 (2) strongly affirms the purposes of National Speech and Debate Education Day; and

 (3) encourages educational institutions, businesses, community and civic associations, and all people of the United States to celebrate and promote National Speech and Debate Education Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 521—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2020, AS “PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. REED, Mr. KING, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ERNST, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARNEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CARDIN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BENNET, Ms. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HRONO, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURRAY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MARKED, Mr. WARNER, Ms. HARRIS, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 521

Whereas public education is a significant institution in a 21st-century democracy;

 Whereas public schools in the United States are where students come to be educated about the values and beliefs that hold the individuals of the United States together as a nation;

 Whereas public schools prepare young individuals of the United States to contribute to the society, economy, and citizenry of the country;

 Whereas 90 percent of children in the United States attend public schools;

 Whereas Federal, State, and local lawmakers should—

 (1) prioritize support for strengthening the public schools of the United States;

 (2) empower superintendents, principals, and other school leaders to implement, manage, and lead school districts and schools in partnership with educators, parents, and other local education stakeholders; and

 (3) support policies and programs that are critical to helping students engage in learning, including counseling, extracurricular activities, and mental health supports;

 Whereas public schools should provide inclusive, safe, and high-quality environments in which children can learn to think critically, problem solve, and build relationships;

 Whereas public schools should provide environments in which all students have the opportunity to succeed beginning in their earliest years, regardless of who a student is or where a student lives;

 Whereas Congress should support—

 (1) efforts to advance equal opportunity and access to high-quality public education; and

 (2) efforts to implement evidence-based practices in public education; and
(3) continuous improvements to public education;

Whereas every child should—

(1) receive an education that helps the child reach the full potential of the child; and

(2) attend a school that offers a high-quality educational experience;

Whereas Federal funding, in addition to State and local funds, supports the access of students to inviting classrooms, well-prepared teachers, and services to support healthy students, including nutrition and afterschool programs;

Whereas teachers, paraprofessionals, and principals should provide students with a well-rounded education and strive to create joy in learning;

Whereas superintendents, principals, other school leaders, teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents make public schools vital components of communities and are working hard to improve educational outcomes for children across the country; and

Whereas the week of February 24 through February 28, 2020, is an appropriate period to designate as "Public Schools Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the week of February 24 through February 28, 2020, as "Public Schools Week".

SENATE RESOLUTION 522—ELECTING ROBERT M. DUNCAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AS SECRETARY FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE SENATE

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

S. Res. 522

Resolved, That Robert M. Duncan of the District of Columbia be, and he is hereby, elected Secretary for the Majority of the Senate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 523—RECOGNIZING THE 199TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE—ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. TOOMEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. CARIDN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PERDUE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. REED, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Res. 523

Whereas the people of ancient Greece developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the founding fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek language, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of the Greeks at the forefront of efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas Robert M. Duncan, chairman of the Greek Consular Corps of the United States, served as the Consul for the District of Columbia from 1990 to 2005, and during his term, Greece received worldwide praise for its extraordinary handling during the farewell to its independence 199 years ago.

Whereas the Governments and people of the United States in major international conflicts throughout its history as a modern state;

Whereas the United States and Greece reinforced their commitment to security cooperation by signing an updated Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement on October 5, 2019, that will expand defense ties between the two countries and promote stability in the region;

Whereas the Foreign Minister of Greece, Nikos Dendias, hosted Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and the United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue on October 7, 2019, which underscored Greece’s importance to the United States as a pillar of stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans and as an important NATO ally;

Whereas Greece is a strategic partner and ally of the United States in bringing political stability, and economic development, to the Balkan region, having invested billions of dollars in the countries of the region and having contributed more than $750,000,000 in development aid to the Balkans;

Whereas the Government and people of Greece actively participate in peacekeeping and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe;

Whereas Greece remains an integral part of the European Union;

Whereas the United States has demonstrated its support for the trilateral partnership between Cyprus and Greece by enacting into law the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 (title II of division J of Public Law 116–94) and through the participation of Secretary Pompeo in the "3+1" Summit with Greece, Israel, Cyprus, and the United States on March 20, 2019;

Whereas Greece received worldwide praise for its extraordinary handling during the 2004 Olympic Games of more than 14,000 athletes and more than 2,000,000 spectators and journalists, and the Government and people of Greece handled efficiently, securely, and with hospitality;

Whereas the Governments and people of Greece and the United States are at the forefront of efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas those efforts and similar ideals have forged a close bond between the peoples of Greece and the United States; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate March 25, 2020, Greek Independence Day, with the people of Greece and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which those two great countries were founded; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 199th anniversary of the independence of Greece;

(2) expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed;

(3) notes the important role that Greece has played in the wider European region and in the community of nations since gaining its independence 199 years ago.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 37—HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF LOUIS LORENZO REDDING, WHOSE LIFELONG DEDICATION TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND SERVICE STAND AS AN EXAMPLE OF LEADERSHIP FOR ALL PEOPLE

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. Con. Res. 37

Whereas Louis L. Redding (referred to herein as "Louis L. Redding") was born on October 25, 1901, in Alexandria, Virginia, the eldest of 5 children born to Lewis Alfred and Mary Ann Holmes Redding;

Whereas Louis L. Redding graduated from Howard High School in 1919, which, at that time, was the only public high school for African-American students in Delaware;

Whereas Louis L. Redding received a bachelor’s degree from Brown University in 1923; Whereas, while at Brown University, Louis L. Redding and 7 other men established a chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity in Providence, Rhode Island;

Whereas, in 1923, Louis L. Redding was the first African American awarded the prestigious William Gaston Prize for excellence in oratory and, as a result, delivered a commencement speech at Brown University;

Whereas Louis L. Redding became an English instructor and the vice principal of Fessenden Academy outside of Ocala, Florida, the oldest continuously operated school originally for African-American students in Florida;

Whereas Louis L. Redding left Fessenden Academy to teach English in the high school division of Morehouse College, a historically Black college in Atlanta, Georgia;

Whereas, after 2 years of teaching, Louis L. Redding enrolled in Harvard Law School in 1925;

Whereas, in 1926, as a law student at Harvard Law School, Louis L. Redding was ejected from the Wilmington, Delaware, municipal court while protesting segregation of the courtroom;

Whereas, a few years after graduation, Louis L. Redding opened a law office in Wilmington, Delaware, and represented African American in a class of about 200 students;
Whereas, in 1929, Louis L. Redding became the first African American to pass the Delaware bar;

Whereas Louis L. Redding remained the only African-American lawyer in Delaware for 26 years;

Whereas, in 1949, Louis L. Redding was admitted to the Delaware Bar Association, an organization from which Louis L. Redding had been excluded for 20 years after having passed the Delaware bar;

Whereas, in 1958, Louis L. Redding and Jack Greenberg filed (1) Belton v. Gebhart, a case that concerned the desegregation of high schools; and (2) Bulah v. Gebhart, a case that concerned the desegregation of elementary schools;

Whereas, in 1952, the Belton and Bulah cases were consolidated in the Delaware Court of Chancery, where, in Belton v. Gebhart, 91 A.2d 137 (Del. 1952), Chancellor Collins Seitz ordered the Delaware State Board of Education to open all schools in Delaware to African Americans;

Whereas the Delaware State Board of Education appealed the decision of Chancellor Collins Seitz to the Supreme Court of Delaware, which upheld the decision of the Chancellor in Gebhart v. Belton, 91 A.2d 137 (Del. 1952);

Whereas the case then came before the Supreme Court of the United States as a writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court of Delaware;

Whereas Louis L. Redding and Jack Greenberg argued the case alongside Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, as the last of a group of 5 school desegregation cases decided by the Supreme Court of the United States in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), and Bolling v. Sharpe, 347 U.S. 497 (1954);

Whereas, in 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States held in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), that separate educational facilities for racial minorities violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, thus holding that school segregation was unconstitutional;

Whereas, on February 21, 1961, Louis L. Redding argued to the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Burton v. Wilmington Parking Authority that a private company with a relationship to a government agency was in violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States if the private company refused to provide service to a customer on the basis of race;

Whereas, in April 1961, the Supreme Court of the United States established the principle of State action in Burton v. Wilmington Parking Authority, 365 U.S. 715 (1961), and ruled that a private entity may not discriminate on the basis of race if the State has approved, encouraged, or facilitated the relevant private conduct;

Whereas, in 1965, Louis L. Redding became a pulley for the State of Delaware and fought for the rights of poor clients for nearly 20 years thereafter;

Whereas, in 1984, Louis L. Redding retired after 55 years of practicing law;

Whereas Louis L. Redding was a member of many national organizations, including—

(1) the National Bar Association;
(2) the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People;
(3) the National Lawyers Guild; and
(4) the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee;

Whereas Louis L. Redding was awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Award by the National Education Association and an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Brown University;

Whereas Louisiana违s established the Louis L. Redding Chair for the Study of Law and Public Policy in the School of Education;

Whereas Pulitzer Prize winning author Richard Kluger described Louis L. Redding as a man who fought, largely alone, for the civil rights and liberties of Black Delawareans;

Whereas former Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr., stated that the giants of the civil rights movement were Houston Hastings, Louis L. Redding, and Thurgood Marshall;

Whereas, on September 29, 1998, Louis L. Redding died at the age of 96 in Lima, Pennsylvania;

Whereas Louis L. Redding broke down barriers and paved the way for countless African-American lawyers to follow in his footsteps, including—

(1) Theophillus Nix, Sr., the second African American to pass the Delaware bar exam;
(2) Joshua W. Martin III, the first African-American president of the Delaware Bar Association;
(3) Frank H. Hollis, the first African-American attorney to represent corporate clients in Delaware;
(4) Paulette Sullivan Moore, the first African-American woman to pass the Delaware bar exam;
(5) Leonard L. Williams, the second African-American judge in Delaware;
(6) Haile L. Alford, the first African-American female judge in Delaware;
(7) Arlene Coppadge, the first African-American female judge appointed to the Delaware Family Court;
(8) Paulette Sullivan Moore, the first African American to be appointed as the United States Attorney for the District of Delaware and the first African-American judge to serve on the United States District Court for the District of Delaware;
(9) Alex J. Small, the first African-American chief judge of the Delaware Court of Common Pleas, and
(10) Tamika Montgomery-Reeves, the first African-American vice chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery and the first African-American justice to serve on the Supreme Court of Delaware;

Whereas Louis L. Redding is remembered as an individual who figured prominently in the struggle for desegregation, and as a lawyer who never lost a desegregation case: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress honors the life and work of Louis Lorenzo Redding, a civil servant whose lifelong dedication to justice and equality stand as an outstanding example of leadership for all people.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Michael Roberts, a Coast Guard fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

MEMORIALIZING THE DISCOVERY OF THE "CLOTTILLA"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 315 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 315) memorializing the discovery of the Clotilda.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 315) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the Record of September 17, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 480, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 480) raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2020 as “National Stalking Awareness Month”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 480) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the Record of January 21, 2020 under “Submitted Resolutions.”)
RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 512, S. Res. 513, S. Res. 514, S. Res. 515, S. Res. 516, S. Res. 517, S. Res. 518, S. Res. 519, S. Res. 520, and S. Res. 521.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the resolutions. The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolutions en bloc.

The resolutions were agreed to en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preambles be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The preambles were agreed to en bloc.

The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's Record under "Submitted Resolutions."

SECURE AND TRUSTED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4998, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4998) to prohibit certain Federal subsidies from being used to purchase communications equipment or services posing national security risks, to provide for the establishment of a reimbursement program for the replacement of communications equipment or services posing such risks, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate and the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 4998) was passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

ELECTING ROBERT M. DUNCAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AS SECRETARY FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 522, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 522) electing Robert M. Duncan, of the District of Columbia, as Secretary for the Majority of the Senate.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 522) was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 522) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's Record under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, March 2, further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2657; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motion filed during today's session ripened at 5:30 p.m., Monday.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:49 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 2, 2020, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIANA PURCHGOTTE-ROTH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION; NEW POSITION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KATHERINE CAMILLE HENDRICKSON, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, AND TO HAVE THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE. VICE SEAN P. LAWLER, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WILLIAM E. TODD, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN.

THE JUDICIARY

JOHN PETER CHOUAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE WILLIAM R. FAULY II, RESIGNED.

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE FEBRUARY 27, 2020:

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

TRAVIS GREAVES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. JESSE B. HARRIS II
COL. GENT WELSH, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BILLY M. NABORS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

BRIG. GEN. KENNETH R. KAITZ
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM J. WEDBURG

TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BILLY M. NABORS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

BRIG. GEN. KENNETH R. KAITZ
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM J. WEDBURG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BILLY M. NABORS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

BRIG. GEN. KENNETH R. KAITZ
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM J. WEDBURG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BILLY M. NABORS
THE FOLLOWING NOMINATED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 12320 AND 12212:

To be major general
BRIG. GEN. TODD M. AUDIBET
BRIG. GEN. KIMBERLY A. RAUMANN
BRIG. GEN. FLOYD W. DUNSTAN
BRIG. GEN. RANDAL K. EFFERSON
BRIG. GEN. LAURIE M. FARRIS
BRIG. GEN. JAMES R. KRESSEL
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM P. ROBERTSON
BRIG. GEN. JAMES R. STEVENSON, JR.
BRIG. GEN. CHARLES M. WALKER
BRIG. GEN. DAVID A. WIESHAAR
BRIG. GEN. GREGORY T. WHITE

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS OR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 12320 AND 12212:

To be major general
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER E. FINDETT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 12320 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general
COL. RONALD P. TAYLOR

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 12320:

To be major general
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL S. MARTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINES CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 12320:

To be major general
COL. DOUGLAS K. CLARK

IN THE AIR FORCE


AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW G. ADKINS AND ENDING WITH CATHARINE M. WARE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 4, 2020.

HONORING CARLOS A. PENIN FOR HIS DEDICATION TO SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, in recognition of his long-standing contributions to the engineering profession and his dedication to bettering South Florida, I rise today to honor my good friend, Mr. Carlos A. Penin.

Born in Holguin, Cuba, Carlos was forced into exile by the Castro dictatorship with his mother and three sisters in 1962. They arrived in Miami, Florida where they rebuilt their lives in pursuit of the American Dream. Carlos knew that with hard work and perseverance, he could turn this dream into a reality. In 1977, he graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and Construction Management. He continued with his studies and received an M.S. in Environmental and Urban Systems from Florida International University in 1982.

After graduation, Carlos remained in South Florida and worked for several architectural and engineering firms. He played a key role in designing and managing major infrastructure projects, including the Joe Robbie Stadium, now known as the Hard Rock Stadium. Despite his success, Carlos always knew he wanted to start his own company and give back to the community that has given so much to him. In 1989, he took a chance and began C.A.P. Government, Inc. (CAP), and, in 2019, CAP celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. Under his leadership, CAP has provided unparalleled expertise for government clients who need assistance with building department services. Presently, they serve over sixty municipalities and six educational institutions across Florida.

While Carlos’s professional accomplishments are impressive, it would be remiss to honor him without touching on the love he has for his three daughters, Monica, Teresa, and Isabel. His daughters are truly his greatest treasures, and, with their support, he has become not only a successful businessman, but also a leader in his community. He has been actively involved in promoting the importance of engineering careers through leadership positions in several organizations. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Cuban American Association of Civil Engineers (CAACE), and, in fact, is the 2020 recipient of their Plinio Villanueva Award. This award recognizes his commitment and dedication to advancing the civil engineering profession. Further, it acknowledges the difference that he has made in the lives of so many, and it is one that he greatly deserves.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to call Mr. Carlos A. Penin a close friend, and to pay tribute to his impressive accomplishments. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

RECOGNIZING CLAY COUNTY SUPERVISOR, MR. SHELTON DEANES

HON. TREN'T KELLY OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Clay County Supervisor, Mr. Shelton Deanes, who is being inducted into the West Point Hall of Fame for his outstanding public service. Supervisors Deanes was born in West Point, Mississippi, in 1956. He and his wife, Mrs. Frances Deanes, are blessed with eight children, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Supervisor Deanes has always set an example for his family to follow. He has been a proud member of Palo Alto Missionary Baptist Church for over 54 years and has served his congregation as a Deacon. Supervisor Deanes was first elected as Clay County Supervisor in 1991. During his 29-year career, he has been instrumental in developing multiple projects for Clay County. His initiatives included building the Judicial Court Building, adding more voting precincts to the county, developing the Una Community Center, adding the walking trail and Fun Day, and paving residential roads.

Supervisor Deanes is a remarkable Mississippian who has set a shining example for others to follow. I thank him for his positive impact on our community, and I wish him many more years of good health.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD POLLARD

HON. LAUREN UNDERWOOD OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Donald W. Pollard, III for his service in my office in Washington, D.C. Donald joined our office as a legislative assistant and served as an advisor for my work on the House Committee on Homeland Security, in addition to handling a policy portfolio that included energy, environment, natural resources, judiciary, campaign finance, and other issues. Among other accomplishments, he developed and led introduction of the Climate and Health Protection Act and the Safe Communities Act. Donald was instrumental in our office’s work to advance clean energy policy, protect communities from domestic threats, and counter gun violence.

Donald’s intellect, diligence, and professionalism have been invaluable assets as we worked to establish our legislative operation from scratch during my first year in office. I commend his ability to direct a wide policy portfolio while leading my staff work on the Committee on Homeland Security. Although

Donald may be leaving our office, our community in northern Illinois will continue to benefit from the results of his hard work and accomplishments.

Prior to joining my staff, Donald earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Richmond. He then earned a Master of Public Administration from American University while serving his home-state Senator. I am grateful he chose to continue his career in public service by joining my office. Our team will miss his expertise, work ethic, sense of humor, and encyclopedic knowledge of Beyoncé.

Madam Speaker, I would like to formally thank Donald W. Pollard, Ill for his service to my office, to Illinois’s 14th Congressional District, and to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOHJALY MASSACRE

HON. STEVE COHEN OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this week marks the 28th anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Kohjaly in what was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijanis civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Kohjaly, which is located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, was once home to 7,000 people. Tragically, on February 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces massacred over 600 unarmed people—including 106 women and 83 children—and left less than 2,000 survivors. Hundreds more became disabled due to their injuries. More than one hundred children lost a parent and 25 children lost both parents. At least 8 families were completely killed.

Even though a ceasefire went into effect over two decades ago, more than 20 percent of Azerbaijan’s territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, remain occupied and more than 1 million Azerbaijanis remain unable to return to their home villages. Ongoing violence along the line of contact surrounding occupied Azerbaijani territory emphasizes the urgency of robust American participation in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe’s (OSCE) Minsk Group as it works toward a peaceful resolution of the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

Azerbaijan has been a strong partner of the United States and its allies. This cooperation has included: playing a leadership role in non-proliferation issues; providing troops to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan; allowing transit of non-lethal equipment used by coalition forces through Azerbaijan to Afghanistan; construction of the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea to Italy, thereby providing Europe with an alternative to Russian energy sources; and supplying 40 percent of Israel’s oil. Azerbaijan also has a thriving Jewish community and has outstanding relations with Israel.

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
As Azerbaijanis throughout the world commemorate the massacre and continue to grieve the loss of loved ones, let us commit ourselves to supporting non-violent efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

REMEMBERING THE KOHJALY MASSACRE

HON. TIM RYAN
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the Kohjaly Massacre, and to honor the victims of this horrendous act.

The appalling massacre perpetrated on the innocent people of Kohjaly in February 1992 is no less shocking 28 years later. One of the worst atrocities ever committed in the South Caucasus, justice has still not been delivered and 150 civilians are still missing.

As the demand for respect for human rights and democratic accountability within the international community, it is important that we continue to remember what happened in Kohjaly and bring those responsible to account.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONALD G. STRATTON

HON. DOUG LAMBORN
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Donald G. Stratton, who passed away on February 15, 2020 after a lifetime of service to his country. Mr. Stratton, brother Willie Stratton, grandchildren, wife of 69 years Velma, son Randy (Kathy) Stratton, brother-in-law Stratton, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Stratton was a hero. A selfless American who dedicated his life to our country and fought to have his shipmates remembered long after they, or he, had passed to another life. It was a privilege to have met Mr. Stratton and it is an honor to stand and commemorate his incredible and full life.

HONORING MR. FULTON W. WALKER

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Fulton W. Walker, a three-year World War II Veteran of the United States Army. On February 28, 2020, Mr. Fulton W. Walker will be recognized for his service and commitment to the United States and presented with his service medals.

Mr. Walker, of Emerson and Texarkana and resident of the Fourth District of Arkansas, began his service during World War II in 1943 at Fort Knox, Kentucky where he trained as part of a tank battalion. He later transferred to Fort Campbell, Kentucky as a member of a transportation outfit where he learned how to drive military trucks to haul supplies.

In July 1944, he deployed overseas to the European Theater of Operations where he served in England, France, Germany and wherever service needs required. He worked tirelessly as a truck driver transporting supplies from coastal docks to the frontlines, all during the darkness of night to avoid enemy detection.

At the end of the war, he returned home to Arkansas and re-entered the Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College (AM&N), now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB). He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and English in May 1950. He then moved on to graduate school earning a Master’s in Education Administration from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1957.

He then served in a variety of different capacities including as an English teacher and high school basketball coach in Rison, Arkansas. In 1952, he accepted a teaching position in the grade 1–12 school in Star City, Arkansas and two years later became principal, serving in this position until 1965. The Pine Bluff School District honored him into his next assignment where he served as elementary school principal, middle school principal, district central office federal title I program coordinator and finally assistant superintendent in charge of all federal programs for the Pine Bluff School District.

Mr. Walker mentored many students throughout his 36-year career and served as a role model to all he interacted with. His faithful service to students in Southeast Arkansas is a testament to his military service in putting others before self.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Fulton W. Walker and all African American veterans of World War II for their rich history of service and bravery. I thank each and every one of them for protecting the freedoms of this country, and hope their legacy continues for generations to come.
strictest people they know, but they will also tell you she is like a second mother to them. The key to the Isiserettes’ success is the family atmosphere fostered by Ms. Pam and her team.

It should not go without notice that Isiserettes’ Drill and Drum Corps is a volunteer-led organization. Ms. Pam does not receive a single dime for the thousands of hours she puts into the organization every year. She does it out of the goodness of her heart, the benefits to our community, and her commitment to the success of her students. Ms. Pam has built a tradition, pride, and dedication that has sustained the Isiserettes for 40 years. It is Ms. Pam’s dedication to providing a safe place for students to express themselves through music and dance that makes her a pillar of our community. It is an honor to commendate Ms. Pam and recognize her as the Lion of the Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, on Friday, February 7, 2020, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 52: Amendment No. 1 offered by Rep. Shalala. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.” I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 53: Motion to Recommit. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.” I was also unable to vote on Roll Call No. 54: Passage of H.R. 5687, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

RECOGNIZING THE CENTRALIA COMPETITIVE DANCE TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centralia High School Competitive Dance Team for its first-place finish in the 2020 Class 1A Illinois state dance competition. After the first day of competition, Centralia found itself in third place. By the thrilling conclusion of the event the next day, though, Centralia was hoisting the championship trophy.

Centralia finished with 97.18 points, beating its nearest competitor by nearly a full point. The score would have been high enough to see the Centralia Competitive Dance Team and offer it my sincere congratulations on being state champion. I wish the team all the best in the future.

IN HONOR OF EL AMOR M. BRAWNE ALI

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain envisioned in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation’s history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Ms. El.

El Amor M. Brawne Ali, of Ward 37, has also taken it upon herself to invest in our city’s youth. Beyond her work for local candidates and elections, she has undertaken projects that will provide structured activity to keep kids involved after school. This manifests itself in many ways, one of which is through her efforts to revitalize Fotterall Square Park. What used to be a vibrant gathering place has since devolved to abandoned fields and neglected playgrounds, but with El Amor’s leadership, Fotterall is back on track to reach its full potential. The impact of her efforts will transform the neighborhood for these kids, their kids, and generations to follow. I thank Ms. El.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Ms. El has left her own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF EDWIN ALLEN, JR.

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Edwin Allen Jr. who is retiring from the City of Fredericksburg’s Fire Department. He served as their Fire Chief for 10 years of service.

For 45 years ago, the Fredericksburg Fire Department hired Edwin. As an ecstatic, driven
man, Edwin rose through the ranks and became a Lieutenant by 1986, then a Captain the following year. His service did not dis- appoint because by the mid-1990s, he oversaw critical operations for the Department. Soon enough, Edwin found himself leading the Fire Department as their new Chief by 2004. As a dedicated servant, he performed his duties and gained a reputation for his ef- fective management capacity. He secured millions in grant funding and amazingly acquired more responsibilities for the Department. The increased responsibilities expanded the force and augmented operational capacity. His responsibilities included expansion in emergency medical services and even water rescue serv- ices. With Edwin at the helm for 16 years, he understood the value of camaraderie and his distinguished service is worthy of veneration. His love for firefighting and passion for serving his community should be admired by all of us.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, join me to rec- ognize Chief Allen’s service to the First District and to the Commonwealth. His dedication to the Fire Department exemplifies the type of leadership that our great Nation demands. Let us wish Edwin the best during his retirement, as his rest is well deserved. On behalf of the First District, we say thank you.

IN HONOR OF DR. WALTER “WALLY” WILKERSON

HON. KEVIN BRADY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Walter “Wally” Wilkerson’s service to the community as a physician, community leader, and as Chair- man of the Montgomery County Republican Party for fifty-six years.

Born and raised in Bryan, Texas, Dr. Wilkerson stayed close to home and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in biology from Texas A&M University in 1951. After graduation, Dr. Wilkerson pursued his Medical Degree from the prestigious University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in 1955. Just one year after finishing medical school, Dr. Wilkerson joined the United States Navy and spent two years as a General Medical Officer. While stationed at Miramar Naval Air Station in San Diego, California, Dr. Wilkerson served aboard the USS Hooper Island. In the summer of 1958, Dr. Wilkerson participated in the historic atomic weapon test operation known as Operation Hardtack at Eniwetok Atoll in the southwest Pacific Ocean.

When it was time to return to civilian life, he found his way back to home to Texas and joined his family in Conroe. After encourage- ment from his father, he introduced himself to a local family medical practitioner, Dr. Deane Sadler. After shadowing Dr. Sadler for a day, a simple handshake sealed the deal and Dr. Wilkerson joined his clinic. Over the years, Dr. Sadler, became not only a business partner, but a mentor and a friend.

Eager to get involved in the community, Dr. Wilkerson entered the Conroe political scene while working at Sadler Clinic. In 1964, he ran successfully for Chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Party. The following years of leadership and devoted service to the com- munity earned him the nickname “King Wally.” Dr. Wilkerson has received several accolades for his effective leadership, vision, and hard work, has been selected as a delegate for multiple Republican National Conventions, and continues to be active in the Associated Re- publicans of Texas. In 1989, Governor William P. Clements Jr. appointed Dr. Wilkerson as a member of the San Jacinto River Authority Board. In 1995, Governor George W. Bush se- lected Dr. Wilkerson to Chair the Texas Board of Health.

In 1996, Dr. Wilkerson retired from family medicine after thirty-eight years of service and dedication to his community. Today, he rein- quishes the helm as Chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Patty. Dr. Wilkerson is respected by many and has been a faithful friend and source of professional guidance to many. We are thankful he chose to make a lasting difference right here in our community. Our entire community has been inspired by your character, integrity, patience, fairness and optimism. Your principles of free- dom and limited government enhance the lives and opportunity for the people we seek to serve.

I join the communities of Conroe and Mont-gomery County in thanking Dr. Wilkerson, and I am proud to join him and his wife Neddie Jane in celebrating this amazing milestone of service and leadership for fifty-six successful years.

IN HONOR OF ARTHUR GREEN

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party ac- tivity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in com- memoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain en-shrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an op- portunity to celebrate and recognize the ex- traordinary contributions that the African Amer-ican community has made, and continues to make, on our nation’s history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Arthur Green.

Arthur Green, who proudly served our na- tion’s Navy before taking over the helm of Ward 14, oversees a smooth electoral oper- ation, but also is a dedicated advocate on be- half of his constituents. Instrumental in the for- mulation of the 14th Ward Registered Commu-nity Organization, Arthur has made it a priority to ensure that as the East Poplar area con- tinues its developmental boom, residents will reap the benefits while avoiding gentrification-induced displacement. His efforts will bolster quality of life for those who live in Ward 14 and serve as a model for our entire city as it struggles with gentrification. I am grateful to have Arthur on the frontlines of this fight, and I thank him for his work on behalf of Ward 14. I thank Arthur for his service.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that en- courages public participation, Arthur Green has left his own mark on our city. I look for- ward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democ- racy throughout our community.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD WILLIAM LEAL

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward (Ed) William Leal as he celebrates his 100th birthday. Ed is a longtime resident of Concord and a former public servant for Contra Costa County.

Ed was born in Oakland, California in Feb-ruary 1920. His family lived in Oakley where his father was a butcher and ran a local gro-cery store. Ed attended Antioch High School where he played varsity football, basketball, tennis, and track and field. He set numerous records, including one for pole-vauling that stood for 27 years. While at Antioch High School, Ed also met his future wife, Wilma.

Ed went on to study at the University of California, Berkeley where he was a member of the track and field team. However, Ed’s col- legiate career was interrupted when he de- cided to enlist in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. He was stationed in North Africa as a member of the 49th Fight- er Squadron. Before being deployed, Ed and Wilma wed in 1942.

After Ed returned home from the war, he and Wilma moved to Concord where they raised their family. Ed worked for Contra Costa County, serving as the Assistant County Treasurer—Tax Collector. In 1978, Ed was elected as the County Treasurer—Tax Col-lector and served two terms before retiring.

Ed’s military service, commitment to his community, and his 9 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren are a legacy to be proud of. Please join me in congratulating Ed on his 100th birthday and his life of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND
OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 71, the Emmett Till Anti lynching Act, YEA on Roll Call No. 72, H.R. 4852, and YEA on Roll Call No. 73, H.R. 2490.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH
OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I unfortunately was unable to be present for votes taken on the House Floor on February 26, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Roll Call Vote No. 71: YEA; Roll Call Vote No. 72: YEA; and Roll Call Vote No. 73: YEA.

IN HONOR OF SHIRLEY GREGORY

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation’s history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Shirley Gregory.

Shirley Gregory of Ward 49 is no stranger to Congress after serving as Congressman Bob Brady’s District Director. She embodies the qualities that make for a successful Ward Leader by facilitating candidate meet and greets, hosting ballot machine demonstrations, and helping our officials disseminate information to the public. She keeps her finger on the pulse of local, state, and federal politics, helping those of the 49th ward learn how they can get involved and make a difference in their community. With Shirley as the Ward Leader, I know every resident in her community has a friendly face and helpful resource. She is a staple in the city, and I am grateful of our overlap as we look to serve the people of Philadelphia. I thank Shirley.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Shirley Gregory has left her own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEWMAN FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Newman First Christian Church on its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary.

Newman First Christian Church was born in the heart of a small band of believers in 1870. An early focus of Newman First Christian was to make disciples of Jesus, and so for the first sixteen years the church did not have a regular minister and services were led by lay leaders, evangelists and circuit riders. As the congregation grew in spirit as well as in numbers, it soon outgrew its facilities. A new building was built to the glory of God on the corner of Green and King streets in Newman in 1904 and is used to this day for worship.

Throughout its history, pastors have generally served for short periods of time, the longest being only four years. Then in 1950, the church called Reverend Wolfe and for thirty-seven years he served as its minister. After his death, the congregation took a step of faith in a new direction and in 1987 Newman First Christian became a ”teaching congregation.” It was led by faithful men and women, preachers, and ministers until, under the leadership of Perry Albin and Laverne Fraser, the church recruited its current pastor, Justin Smith, in November of 2017.

The church is serious about loving Jesus, as well as creating opportunities for community involvement, spiritual growth, and outreach. Newman First Christian, for example, continues to provide meals to various local school sports teams and prayer for local school events, sponsor community events, and offer biblical counseling to the congregation and community. This focus on service and outreach has improved the spiritual and physical well-being of countless people in the community.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I stand to recognize Newman First Christian Church on its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary. I wish Pastor Smith, the congregation, as well as the community of Newman, all the best for a bright and joyous future.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAKU POGROMS

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 30th anniversary of the anti-Armenian pogroms in then-Soviet Azerbaijan’s capital of Baku.

In January 1990, a violent seven-day long riot in Baku broke out against the city’s ethnic Armenian civilian population. Approximately 90 Armenians were killed, and hundreds more were forced to abandon their homes. The Baku Pogrom was just one of several anti-Armenian attacks that took place across Azerbaijan from 1988 to 1990 that were enabled by the Azerbaijani government. From Sumgait to Kirovabad and Baku, Armenian Christians living in the country were murdered, raped, and robbed. These vicious attacks led to the displacement of thousands of Armenian families fleeing the targeted violence as refugees.

These were crimes against humanity that have still gone unrecognized by Azerbaijan. I call upon their government to acknowledge and condemn these acts of violence, actively prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes, and take all appropriate action so that these atrocities never happen again.

Throughout history, the Armenian people have been targets of violence, murder and genocide. We must emphatically condemn these actions and any efforts to erase these atrocities from our collective memory. Failure to do so will only serve to embolden perpetrators of violence against religious and ethnic minorities around the globe. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Armenian Caucus to continue pushing policies promoting peace and human rights for Armenians and for all.

If we do not stand up to hate, we cannot end the cycle of intolerance.

IN HONOR OF PETER LYDE

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation’s history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Peter Lyde.

Peter Lyde, the Ward Leader for the 61st ward, helped shape our city’s justice department and is a long-tenured labor organizer. In this modern age where technology has allowed more and more people to access information with ease, Peter has ensured the residents of Ward 61 can find helpful guidance on their political questions, and information on upcoming events, by following their active social media accounts. As we look to bring in new participants to the political sphere, Peter models the innovation that will expand the electorate and allow new voices to take part in our political process. With ward cookouts, community gatherings, and seasonal events, he brings politics to his constituents, encouraging
engagement in ways that I admire. I thank Peter.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Peter Lyde has left his mark on our city. I look forward to 10 years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.

IN HONOR OF KATHERINE JOHNSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues today to honor the life of Katherine Johnson and to celebrate the achievements of her 35-year career at NASA and its predecessor, NACA. Her passing has been felt around the world, but her legacy lives on in so many ways.

Katherine Johnson will forever be remembered for her tenacity in spite of the challenges women and African Americans faced in the workforce, as well as for her aptitude for mathematics that became central to the nation’s success in landing the first human on the surface of the Moon. Her life and her accomplishments are inspiring to all, especially to young women and African Americans who dream of pursuing a career in STEM. May future generations look to Katherine Johnson and her fellow Hidden Figures’ dedication to advance the NASA space program with admiration and know that they too can follow in the footsteps of those talented women.

As we pursue our nation’s human spaceflight programs and advance into the next phases of space exploration, we will always remember the immense role Katherine Johnson played to get us to where we are today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 99TH BIRTHDAY OF RUBLE RAY GARDNER

HON. MIKE ROGERS
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House’s attention to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation’s history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Sharon Vaughn.

Sharon Vaughn, Leader for the 42nd ward, is transforming how this role can impact people’s lives. Sharon, a dedicated employee of the City Council, serving as Chief of Staff to Councilman at Large Derek Clark, has used her ward position to ensure her constituents understand the impact of public policy on a granular level. The residents of Ward 42 are lucky to have such a knowledgeable, dedicated representative who can articulate intricate policies in a digestible way. Her understanding of how government can serve as a conduit for change is truly an asset for those living in Ward 42. Thank you Sharon.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Sharon Vaughn has left her own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.

CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS NETWORK REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF
HON. JOHN P. SARBAZEN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. SARBAZEN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2427, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Reauthorization Act. This bipartisan bill will provide robust, long-term federal support for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program, which helps increase public access to the Bay.

As the largest estuary in the nation, the Chesapeake Bay extends through six states and the District of Columbia. It’s home to more than 18 million Americans and thousands of species of plants and animals. However, roughly 98 percent of the Chesapeake Bay’s 11,684 miles of shoreline is privately owned, leaving only a small fraction of shoreline available for public use.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program helps maximize this tiny fraction of public shoreline by improving infrastructure, signage and exhibits at key public access points throughout the Bay Watershed. The program also supports education initiatives that connect young Americans with the Bay Watershed and help instill a passion for environmental stewardship.

To date, the Gateways Program has invested more than $20 million in 300 projects across the Bay Watershed, helping boost our region’s outdoor recreation economy. This small investment over the last few decades has not only succeeded in promoting meaningful educational and recreational experiences for Marylanders and residents across the region but has also helped the National Park Service fulfill its responsibilities under the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

As a key ally in the effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay, the National Park Service works to increase land conservation, public access to the Bay, environmental stewardship, diversity and environmental education—all of which is supported by the Gateways Program. By connecting more Americans with the Bay, we can deepen ties to one of our country’s most important environmental treasures, inspire future generations of environmental stewards and give a tremendous boost to our region’s economy.

I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for supporting this small, but mighty program. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this bill.

IN HONOR OF TODD MARTIN’S DECADE OF SERVICE TO THE 24TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Todd Martin, a member of my District Office staff for over a decade, for his outstanding and dedicating service to the United States House of Representatives and to the Twenty-Fourth Congressional District of Texas.

Todd joined my staff over ten years ago initially as an intern, following his graduation from Baylor University in Waco, Texas with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing. He didn’t stay an intern for very long, as with his sharp talents he was quickly hired on to the permanent district office staff as the Director of District Affairs. Throughout his time in my office, Todd has been an integral part of the team, working diligently to provide outstanding constituent service and helping to manage the daily operations of the district office. During this time, Todd has conducted...
himself with the utmost dedication and professionalism, ensuring the needs of every constituent he encountered were addressed to the fullest extent possible. Going above and beyond the normal expectations of a Congressional staffer is a normal day for Todd.

Todd’s tireless efforts ensured countless constituents received federal assistance, unpaid benefits, and additional earned services provided by the federal government which may have been delayed, misplaced, or unknown to the constituent. Additionally, Todd’s efforts on the ground in the District ensured the legislative needs of constituents were heard and communicated to myself and my legislative team in Washington, D.C. This work often goes unnoticed but was instrumental in ensuring voices of the 24th District were constantly heard in Congress. Todd’s commitment to public service is apparent in his pursuit of excellence in the public sector. During his time on my staff, Todd acquired a master’s in public administration from the University of North Texas in 2012, further improving his abilities to serve the American public.

In a very bittersweet moment, this upcoming Friday, February 28th will be Todd’s last day working for the people of the Twenty-Fourth Congressional District. He will leave as the fourth longest serving staffer in the office during my time in Congress. Todd will be continuing his commitment to public service in a new capacity, as he will soon be working for the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Texas.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the contributions Todd has made to the 24th Congressional District of Texas, The State of Texas, and the United States of America. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Todd Martin and his outstanding service. We wish him well in his next chapter of public service.

IN HONOR OF RENEE MCNEAR
HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation’s history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Renee McNear.

Renee McNear, who leads Ward 20, has been extremely active in her first term. An experienced grassroots activist, Renee has taken it upon herself to educate voters not only on the importance of voting, but the value of being an informed and engaged voter. With a constituency that includes Temple University’s main campus, I can think of no better leader to inspire civic engagement in our youth, and I look forward to serving as her partner in the ever-important endeavor of increasing turnout among the next generation of American leaders. I thank Renee.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Renee McNear has left her own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.
Thursday, February 27, 2020

**Daily Digest**

**Senate**

**Chamber Action**

**Routine Proceedings**, pages S1161–S1237

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty-seven bills and nineteen resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3340–3366, S. Res. 506–523, and S. Con. Res. 37. Pages S1218–20

**Measures Reported:**

S. 2472, to redesignate the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Plum Brook Station, Ohio, as the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility. (S. Rept. No. 116–218)

S. 2964, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Transportation to issue non-premium aviation insurance. (S. Rept. No. 116–219)

**Measures Passed:**

Hiram Rhodes Revels as the first African American United States Senator: Senate agreed to S. Res. 508, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the historic seating of Hiram Rhodes Revels as the first African American United States Senator. Pages S1175–76, S1226

Clotilda Discovery: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 315, memorializing the discovery of the Clotilda, and the resolution was then agreed to. Page S1235

National Stalking Awareness Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 480, raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2020 as “National Stalking Awareness Month”, and the resolution was then agreed to. Page S1235

Read Across America Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 512, designating March 2, 2020, as “Read Across America Day”. Pages S1228, S1236

American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 513, designating February 2020 as “American Heart Month” and February 7, 2020, as “National Wear Red Day”. Pages S1228–29, S1236

Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act: Senate passed H.R. 4998, to prohibit certain Federal subsidies from being used to purchase communications equipment or services posing national security risks, to provide for the establishment of a reimbursement program for the replacement of communications equipment or services posing such risks. Page S1236

Electing Secretary for the Majority Robert M. Duncan: Senate agreed to S. Res. 522, electing Robert M. Duncan, of the District of Columbia, as Secretary for the Majority of the Senate. Pages S1234, S1236

Remembering Donald Stratton: Senate agreed to S. Res. 514, expressing the sense of the Senate that Donald Stratton be remembered for a lifetime of heroism and service to the United States. Pages S1229–30, S1236

Career and Technical Education Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 515, supporting the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month. Pages S1230–31, S1236

Black History Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 516, celebrating Black History Month. Pages S1231–32, S1236

Honoring Judge Nathaniel R. Jones: Senate agreed to S. Res. 517, honoring the life and legacy of Judge Nathaniel R. Jones. Pages S1232, S1236

Disabled American Veterans: Senate agreed to S. Res. 518, honoring the 100th anniversary of Disabled American Veterans. Pages S1232–33, S1236

Honoring Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson: Senate agreed to S. Res. 519, honoring the life and achievements of Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson. Pages S1233, S1236

National Speech and Debate Education Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 520, designating March 6, 2020, as “National Speech and Debate Education Day”.

Public Schools Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 521, designating the week of February 24 through February 28, 2020, as “Public Schools Week”.

Page S1233–34, S1236

Page S1233, S1236

Page S1233, S1236

Page S1233, S1236

Page S1233, S1236

Page S1233, S1236

Page S1233, S1236

Page S1233, S1236

D198
Measures Considered:

ADVANCED GEOTHERMAL INNOVATION LEADERSHIP ACT—CLOTURE: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, February 27, 2020, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2020.

Prior to the consideration of this measure, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 3:00 p.m., on Monday, March 2, 2020; and that the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, March 2, 2020.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 85 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 62), Travis Greaves, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

58 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.
1 Army nomination in the rank of general.
3 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Diana Furchtgott-Roth, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.
Katherine Camille Henderson, of Tennessee, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service.
William E. Todd, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
John Peter Cronan, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.
James E. Trainor III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023.

Messages from the House:
Measures Referred:
Measures Placed on the Calendar:
Executive Communications:
Petitions and Memorials:
Additional Cosponsors:
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Additional Statements:
Privileges of the Floor:
Record Votes:
Adjournment:
Committee Meetings
(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 29 public bills, H.R. 5984–6012; and 8 resolutions, H. Res. 868–875, were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 3641, to enhance civil penalties under the Federal securities laws, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–410).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Recess: The House recessed at 10:40 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.
Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by voice vote. Pages H1231, H1241

Recess: The House recessed at 1:06 p.m. and reconvened at 2:02 p.m. Page H1239

Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 866, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2339) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the sale and marketing of tobacco products, by a yea-and-nay vote of 210 yeas to 200 nays, Roll No. 75, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 74. Pages H1233–39, H1239–41

Committee Election and Ranking: The House agreed to H. Res. 870, electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives and ranking a Member on certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. Page H1241

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1239–40 and H1240–41. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security held a budget hearing on the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Testimony was heard from Mark A. Morgan, Acting Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Education. Testimony was heard from Betsy DeVos, Secretary, Department of Education.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Transportation. Testimony was heard from Elaine L. Chao, Secretary, Department of Transportation.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Energy. Testimony was heard from Dan Brouillette, Secretary, Department of Energy.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing on the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General. Testimony was heard from Sue Murrin, Deputy Inspector General for Evaluation and Inspections, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

U.S. EUROPEAN COMMAND (EUCOM)
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled “U.S. European Command (EUCOM)”. Testimony was heard from General Tod D. Wolters, U.S. Air Force, Commander, U.S. European Command, and NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe. This hearing was closed.

APPROPRIATIONS—U.S. FOREST SERVICE
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the U.S. Forest Service. Testimony was heard from Vivki Christiansen, Chief, U.S. Forest Service.

APPROPRIATIONS—LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the Library of Congress. Testimony was heard from Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, Library of Congress.

OVERSIGHT OF VA’S ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION IMPLEMENTATION
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Oversight of VA’s Electronic Health Record Modernization Implementation”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Veterans Affairs officials: Melissa Glynn, Assistant Secretary for Enterprise Integration; Richard Stone, Executive in Charge, Veterans Health Administration; and John H. Windom, Executive Director, Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
APPROPRIATIONS—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the Government Accountability Office. Testimony was heard from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office.

MEMBERS DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a hearing entitled “Members Day”. Testimony was heard from Chairman McGovern, and Representatives Espaillat, Hill, Jackson Lee, Spanberger, Costa, and Judy Chu of California.

WORLD–WIDE THREAT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled “World-Wide Threat”. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Robert P. Ashley, Jr., Director, Defense Intelligence Agency; and Joseph D. Kernan, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security. This hearing was closed.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY


STRATEGIC FORCES POSTURE HEARING

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing entitled “Strategic Forces Posture Hearing”. Testimony was heard from James Anderson, Performing the Duties of Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Department of Defense; General John Raymond, Commander, U.S. Space Command; and Admiral Charles Richard, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command.

AIR FORCE PROJECTION FORCES AVIATION PROGRAMS AND CAPABILITIES RELATED TO THE 2021 PRESIDENT’S BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces held a hearing entitled “Air Force Projection Forces Aviation Programs and Capabilities Related to the 2021 President’s Budget Request”. Testimony was heard from William Roper, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, U.S. Air Force; and Lieutenant General David S. Nahom, Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs, U.S. Air Force.

BUDGET PRIORITIES: MEMBERS’ DAY

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Budget Priorities: Members’ Day”. Testimony was heard from Representatives McCol- lum, Budd, Burgess, Cline, Correa, and Cloud.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 EPA BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2021 EPA Budget”. Testimony was heard from Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS TO HELP AMERICANS IN CRISIS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Strengthening Communications Networks to Help Americans in Crisis”. Testimony was heard from Anthony Gossner, Fire Chief, Santa Rosa, California; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 149, the “Housing Fairness Act of 2020”; H.R. 4351, the “Yes In My Backyard Act”; H.R. 5187, the “Housing Is Infrastructure Act”; H.R. 5929, the “Shareholder Political Transparency Act”; H.R. 5930, the “Workforce Investment Disclosure Act”; H.R. 5931, the “Improving FHA Support for Small Dollar Mortgages Act of 2020”; H.R. 5932, the “Ensuring Chinese Debt Transparency Act”; Views and Estimates of the Committee on Financial Services on Matters to be Set Forth in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 Budget; and a resolution electing minority members to the subcommittees of the Committee on Financial Services.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019: THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation held a hearing entitled “Coronavirus Disease 2019: The U.S. and International Response”. Testimony was heard from Ian Brownlee, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State; Jonathan Fritz, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State;
William A. Walters, Executive Director and Managing Director for Operational Medicine, Bureau of Medical Services, Department of State; and Robert Redfield, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

EXAMINING THE EFFECT OF THE BORDER WALL ON PRIVATE AND TRIBAL LANDOWNERS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations held a hearing entitled “Examining the Effect of the Border Wall on Private and Tribal Landowners”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUILDING A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE TO MEET THE HOMELAND SECURITY MISSION

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability held a hearing entitled “Building a Diverse and Inclusive Workforce to Meet the Homeland Security Mission”. Testimony was heard from Angela Bailey, Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Homeland Security; and Yvonne Jones, Director, Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office.

RETURNING CITIZENS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR REENTRY

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing entitled “Returning Citizens: Challenges and Opportunities for Reentry”. Testimony was heard from Vanessa Martin, Director, Reentry Services, Office of Diversion and Reentry, Los Angeles County Department of Health and Human Services, California; and public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING


THE CURRENT STATE OF THE U.S. REFUGEE PROGRAM

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship held a hearing entitled “The Current State of the U.S. Refugee Program”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 3651, to facilitate the use of certain lands in Nebraska for public outdoor recreational opportunities, and for other purposes; H.R. 3681, the “Green Spaces, Green Vehicles Act of 2019”; H.R. 4236, the “Reducing Waste in National Parks Act”; and H.R. 4512, the “Outdoors for All Act”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Quigley, Barragán, Fortenberry, and Levin of California; Lena McDowall, Deputy Director, Management and Administration, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Allegra Haynes, Executive Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, City and County of Denver, Colorado; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Examining Opportunities to Improve Prevention and Response of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration”. Testimony was heard from Neil Jacobs, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction, performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and public witnesses.

THE ADMINISTRATION’S RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ASSAULT ON LGBT RIGHTS

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Administration’s Religious Liberty Assault on LGBT Rights”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Takano, and Representatives Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, Kennedy, and Kelly of Pennsylvania; and public witnesses.

KARSHI-KHANABAD: HAZARDOUS EXPOSURES AND EFFECTS ON U.S. SERVICEMEMBERS

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on National Security held a hearing entitled “Karshi-Khanabad: Hazardous Exposures and Effects on U.S. Servicemembers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

A REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION’S FEDERAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “A Review of the Administration’s Federal Research and Development Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2021”. Testimony
was heard from Kelvin Droegemeier, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy.

AN EXAMINATION OF FEDERAL FLOOD MAPS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Environment; and Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a joint hearing entitled “An Examination of Federal Flood Maps in a Changing Climate”. Testimony was heard from Michael Grimm, Assistant Administrator for Risk Management, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security; Mark Osler, Senior Advisor for Coastal Inundation and Resilience, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

MOVING AMERICA’S INFRASTRUCTURE FORWARD

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure held a hearing entitled “Moving America’s Infrastructure Forward”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PROPOSALS FOR A WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2020: MEMBERS’ DAY HEARING


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2021”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Veterans Affairs officials: Robert Wilkie, Secretary; Richard Stone, Executive in Charge, Veterans Health Administration; Paul Lawrence, Under Secretary for Benefits; Jon Rychalski, Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer; and public witnesses.

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET WITH HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SECRETARY AZAR

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget With Health and Human Services Secretary Azar”. Testimony was heard from Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 149, the “Housing Fairness Act of 2020”; H.R. 4351, the “Yes In My Backyard Act”; H.R. 5187, the “Housing Is Infrastructure Act”; H.R. 5929, the “Shareholder Political Transparency Act”; H.R. 5930, the “Workforce Investment Disclosure Act”; H.R. 5931, the “Improving FHA Support for Small Dollar Mortgages Act of 2020”; H.R. 5932, the “Ensuring Chinese Debt Transparency Act”; Views and Estimates of the Committee on Financial Services on Matters to be Set Forth in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 Budget; and a resolution electing minority members to the subcommittees of the Committee on Financial Services, 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Evaluating the Trump Administration’s Policies on Iran, Iraq and the Use of Force”, 8:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
3 p.m., Monday, March 2

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 a.m., Friday, February 28

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Consideration of H.R. 2339—Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act.

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