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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

I hereby appoint the Honorable Ed Case to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

PROMOTING PUERTO RICO'S STATEHOOD
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLON) for 5 minutes.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, on this date in 1917, Puerto Ricans became American citizens. Nineteen years after coming under the American flag, the Jones-Shafroth Act established that residents of Puerto Rico at the time, and their descendants, would be citizens of the United States. This citizenship has provided us great opportunities for security and progress. As such, we have become an integral part of the national experience, contributing in numerous fields of education, politics, law, science, art, and business; and we have defended this Nation side-by-side with our fellow citizens from other States.

We value our American citizenship so much that we included in our local constitution that one of our defining values is: Our Citizenship of the United States and the aspiration to continue enriching our democratic heritage individually and collectively in the enjoyment of its rights and prerogatives.

In votes throughout the years, overwhelming majorities of Puerto Ricans have affirmed the intention to continue being U.S. citizens. Yet, we have been denied that aspiration, denied that enrichment of values of American citizenship.

In 1898, when the U.S. Forces first landed in Puerto Rico, General Miles issued a proclamation promising: "We have come to . . . bring you protection . . . to promote your prosperity and bestow upon you the immunities and blessings of the . . . institutions of our government."

But instead, what happened was that almost right after achieving citizenship, a Supreme Court decision, Balzac v. Porto Rico, ruled that as residents in an unincorporated territory, we will only have partially those rights. That, contrary to what had been the case of every other territory before, achieving American citizenship did not mean necessarily a road to full equality as a State.

Since then, our enjoyment of rights shared by our fellow Americans in the States has been only in a limited manner, as the Congress and the courts seem fit to grant them. The promise remains unfulfilled.

Unfulfilled, in spite of how 220,000 Puerto Ricans have worn this country's uniform and fought and bled for our Nation under the orders of a Commander in Chief for whom they cannot vote.

Unfulfilled, when those living in Puerto Rico do not have full and equal representation in this Congress that decides how they will be ruled, what policies will be applied. As a Representative of almost 3.2 million American citizens, I am not allowed to vote on the passage of legislation that governs their daily lives.

This allows Puerto Rico to be treated unequally under Federal laws, regulations, and programs involving funding, levels of service, statistics, even being treated as if we were foreign for some purposes.

But we are Americans. We are born as U.S. citizens, in soil under the American flag, and the largest number of citizens who are disenfranchised.

That is why I continue to promote Puerto Rico's statehood. Our people have already decisively voted that the status quo is not acceptable and chosen their change. We deserve, we have earned full exercise of the dignity, rights, and privileges of our American citizenship, including full representation and participation in the political process which governs our lives, which is only possible with statehood.

Our American citizenship has represented 103 years of opportunities, but making the most of those opportunities can only happen in full equality. It is our right as citizens, and we have waited long enough.

RECESS
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 13(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.
The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EVANS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day. You know the Members of this assembly through and through. You know each personally. You know how they all relate to one another. You know them, as the American people do, as the 116th Congress of the United States.

Lord, help them to know You. Allow them to come to know You even as they are known by You. As ultimate truth, enter in and make them suitable for Your dwelling within, so that their constituents might place trust in them as their representatives.

May their service continue faithfully, for they were selected; they were elected by their voters back home, and called by You to selfless service.

Bless them and us all this day, and may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

CONGRATULATING IRISH DIASPORA CENTER

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Irish Diaspora Center on opening its new office in my district.

I had the opportunity to join supporters of the center this weekend at its new cultural hub in Havertown, where I had the pleasure of sharing food and swapping stories with fellow Irish Americans.

For decades, this organization has supported and celebrated the vibrant Irish community in the Philadelphia region with passport and citizenship services, senior outreach, youth programs, genealogy services, and educational and cultural events.

People of Irish descent have historically formed the largest ethnic group in my district, and to this day, we proudly continue to welcome new Irish American citizens. With almost a quarter of the population claiming Irish heritage, Delaware County is even sometimes referred to as the 33rd county of Ireland.

I look forward to supporting and celebrating our Irish neighbors both at home and abroad as I work with Chairman NEAL and the Friends of Ireland Caucus to protect the integrity of the Good Friday Agreement and maintain peace and prosperity in Ireland.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SALLY KABEL

(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 the life of Sally Kabel, a young girl from Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, who, despite battling leukemia for most of her life, did so bravely and with a love of life that earned her the nickname “Sweet Sally Sunshine.”

Sally was adored, not just by her family, but by the entire Bay Ridge community, which rallied behind her. Everyone came together to support her family, whether it was bringing meals, raising money, or just giving them hugs on the street.

With that support, Sally was able to beat cancer, but the treatments so weakened her body that she passed away in September 2018, just a week after her sixth birthday.

Although her time with us was far too short, she filled those 6 years with a lifetime of joy.

Now, her parents, Matthew and Nicole, are helping other families by going the same struggle. They are advocating for childhood cancer awareness, with the hope that more research will lead to more humane and effective treatments for children.

Sally was truly the peacemaker of Bay Ridge, bringing out the best in all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring her memory.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 2, 2020, at 10:36 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to Relative to the death of Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson S. Res. 519.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

Announcement by the Speaker pro Tempore

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

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

PROVIDING FHA SUPPORT FOR SMALL DOLLAR MORTGAGES ACT OF 2020

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5931) to require a review of the effects of FHA mortgage insurance policies, practices, and products on small-dollar mortgage lending, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5931

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 “Improving FHA Support for Small Dollar Mortgages Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. REVIEW OF FHA SMALL-DOLLAR MORTGAGE PRACTICES.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) affordable homeownership opportunities are being hindered due to the lack of financing available for home purchases under $70,000;

(2) according to the Urban Institute, small-dollar mortgage loan applications in 2017 were denied by lenders at double the rate of denial for large mortgage loans, and this difference in denial rates cannot be fully explained by differences in the applicants’ credit profiles;

(3) according to data compiled by Attom Data solutions, small-dollar mortgage originations have decreased 38 percent since 2009,
while there has been a 65 percent increase in origination of mortgages for more than $150,000;

(4) the FHA’s mission is to serve creditworthy borrowers who are underserved, according to the Urban Institute, the FHA serves 24 percent of the overall market, but only 19 percent of the small-dollar mortgage market, and

(5) the causes behind these variations are not fully understood, but merit study that could assist in furthering the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s mission, including meeting the housing needs of borrowers the program is designed to serve and reducing barriers to homeownership, while protecting the solvency of the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund.

(b) Review.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall conduct a review of its FHA single-family mortgage insurance policies, practices, and products to identify any barriers or impediments to supporting, facilitating, and making available mortgage insurance for mortgages having an original principal obligation of $70,000 or less. Not later than the expiration of the 12-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress describing the findings of such review and the actions that the Secretary will take, without adversely affecting the solvency of the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund, to remove such barriers and impediments to providing mortgage insurance for such mortgages.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

MR. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to promoting access to homeownership, much of the focus tends to be on how high housing prices are pricing borrowers out of many communities. But the landscape of homeownership opportunities is varied, and for many communities, the lack of access to traditional mortgage financing for small dollar mortgages continues to be a challenge. Specifically, I am talking about mortgages that are $70,000 or less.

For many rural communities and communities that are struggling to overcome the impacts of the foreclosure crisis, there are lower value homes that would otherwise be ideal homeownership opportunities for first-time home buyers and working-class families, but the lack of available traditional the solvency acts as a barrier to those opportunities.

Data from the Urban Institute shows that these small dollar mortgages are denied by lenders at double the rate compared to larger loans, and this trend cannot be explained away by differences in the creditworthiness of applicants. In actuality, lenders don’t make as much money originating these smaller mortgage loans, resulting in a reluctance to originate any.

The Federal Housing Administration was designed to support underserved markets and would be instrumental in supporting more small dollar mortgage lending. Studies show that the FHA is actually disproportionately failing to serve this market.

H. R. 5931 would require the FHA to identify barriers to better serving the small dollar mortgage market and to come up with a plan to reduce those barriers, a public service long overdue for rural America.

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. R. 5931, the Improving FHA Support for Small Dollar Mortgages Act. Studies suggest that borrowers of small dollar mortgages, those amounts under $70,000, may be disproportionately denied when compared to loans of higher amounts, even when the credit profiles of the borrowers are similar.

Specifically, the Urban Institute reports that, in 2015, roughly 25 percent of homes purchased for $70,000 or less were financed with a mortgage compared to 80 percent of houses worth between $70,000 and $150,000.

If there is such a disproportionate amount of denials, this could be an issue for families in my district and many others who are trying to buy a first home, particularly in our rural communities across our country.

H. R. 5931 is a bipartisan bill sponsored by Representative CLAY of Missouri and Representative STIVERS of Ohio and was reported to the House by the Housing, Community Development and Insurance Subcommittee last week. This bill seeks to better understand what is happening in small dollar mortgage lending.

This bill asks the fundamental question: Are there borrowers who otherwise qualify for a mortgage who are being left out of the market as an unintended consequence of FHA’s own rules and regulations?

After all, the FHA mission is to serve creditworthy borrowers without bias, no more, and no less. If FHA can identify how its own regulations are hurting borrowers’ access to credit and remedy the problem without affecting the health of the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund, then they should do so.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friends, Mr. CLAY and Mr. STIVERS, for bringing this issue to our attention and for their work on this bill. I would like to take the opportunity to thank my friends from Guam for managing this bill this afternoon.

H. R. 5931 is a positive example of Congress identifying a problem and working together to understand the causes and to identify a reasonable solution.

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

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield each such time as he may control to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. CLAY), the chairman of the Housing, Community Development and Insurance Subcommittee and the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank my colleague from Guam for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. R. 5931, the Improving FHA Support for Small Dollar Mortgages Act of 2020.

I want to start off by thanking my Financial Services Committee colleagues, Congressman STIVERS from Ohio, for working with my staff and me to draft a bill that will ultimately try to help close the affordable housing gap, and I look forward to working with him on other legislation and policy going forward.

H. R. 5931, the Clay-Stivers Improving FHA Support for Small Dollar Mortgages Act of 2020, would require the FHA to conduct a review of its policy to identify any barriers to serving small dollar mortgages under $70,000, or small dollar mortgages, and submit a report to Congress within a year with a plan for removing such barriers.

In a recent report, the Urban Institute found that, despite having similar performance indicators, credit profiles, loan-to-value ratios, and lower debt-to-income ratios, the financing options to purchase, renovate, or refinance homes valued at or under $70,000 remain limited compared to mortgages between $70,000 and $150,000—and many of those homes are in our State of Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, the Urban Institute report further revealed that FHA is disproportionately failing to serve this market, despite its mission to serve underserved borrowers. Specifically, the report found that FHA serves 24 percent of the overall market but only 19 percent of the small dollar mortgage market.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan study to identify any barriers to supporting these small dollar mortgages and report to Congress within a year a plan for removing such barriers to financing for creditworthy borrowers.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, H. R. 5931, as I say, is a good example of both sides in this House working together for a worthy purpose. I support the bill. I urge all my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues, Mr. CLAY and Mr. STIVERS, for their partnership on this important bill, and my colleague, Mr. HILL, for his work with me today as we seek to improve access to affordable homeownership.
This bill is an important step to better understand the barriers to obtaining traditional mortgage financing for small dollar mortgages and begin to reduce those barriers.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5003, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES FOR SERVICEMEMBERS ACT

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5003) to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to provide enhanced protection against debt collector harassment of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5003

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 “Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act”.

SEC. 2. ENHANCED PROTECTION AGAINST DEBT COLLECTOR HARASSMENT OF SERVICEMEMBERS.

(a) COMMUNICATION IN CONNECTION WITH DEBT COLLECTION.—Section 805 of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1691c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING SERVICEMEMBER DEBS.—

“(1) In this subsection, the term ‘covered member’ means—

“(A) a covered member or a dependent as defined in section 806(t)(1) of title 10, United States Code; and

“(B) an individual who was separated, discharged, or released from duty described in such section 806(t)(1), but only during the 365-day period beginning on the date of separation, discharge, or release; or

“(ii) a person, with respect to an individual described in clause (i), described in subparagraph (B) of section 1672(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

“(2) PROHIBITIONS.—A debt collector may not, in connection with the collection of any debt of a covered member—

“(A) threaten to have the covered member reduced in rank;

“(B) threaten to have the covered member’s security clearance revoked; or

“(C) threaten to have the covered member prosecuted under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(b) UNFAIR PRACTICES.—Section 808 of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1691g) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(9) The representation to any covered member (as defined under section 805(e)(1)) that failure to cooperate with a debt collector will result in—

“(A) a reduction in rank of the covered member;

“(B) revocation of the covered member’s security clearance; or

“(C) prosecution under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice)."

SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit a report to Congress on the impact of this Act on

(1) the timely delivery of information to a covered member (as defined in section 805(e) of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, as added by this Act);

(2) military readiness; and

(3) national security, including the extent to which covered members with security clearances would be impacted by uncollected debt.

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statements have been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

MR. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representative DEAN for her leadership on H.R. 5003 and the relief that it will provide to our servicemembers.

At full Financial Services Committee hearing in September of last year, we heard testimony about the harmful impact of predatory debt collection practices, including negative impacts on the servicemembers protecting our country.

We know this impact is significant, given that two out of every five servicemember complaints submitted to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau are about predatory debt collection practices.

Some of the complaints include inappropriate threats of punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, threats to the rank and security clearance of the servicemember, and even reports of debt collectors inappropriately contacting the commanding officer of the debt holder.

It is a disgrace that people serving in the military are being threatened and intimidated when they are serving our country. The impact of these abusive collection practices is severe, as servicemembers have reported increased stress and hardship as a result of predatory debt collection practices.

These unfair and unnecessary practices against people putting their lives on the line for this country must end, which is why the National Military Association of the United States supports this bill.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the work of my colleague, Representative DEAN, Chairwoman WATERS, Ranking Member McKEE (Mr. STIVERS), and colleagues on both sides of the aisle from the Financial Services and the House Armed Services Committees, we were able to collaborate on the issues and pass this bill out of our committee with unanimous support in November of last year.

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5003.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) for introducing this legislation.

Our servicemembers put their lives on the line for us every day. The last thing we want is that, when they are serving, they are to be distracted.

H.R. 5003 prohibits debt collectors from using threats against the servicemember’s rank or security clearance or threats of prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Not only are such practices unfair, they increase the risk of harm to the servicemember’s military readiness.

During the hearing the committee markup of H.R. 5003, Republicans expressed concerns that there were too many unanswered questions about how this bill could impact military readiness.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS) offered an amendment to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the impact of this bill and what its impact is on the timeliness with which service members are informed about debts and collection, as well as on military readiness and national security.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the bill’s sponsor and Chair WATERS in accepting Mr. STIVERS’ constructive addition.

This bill is a commonsense approach to ensure that Congress considers the connection between national security and the protection of servicemembers from unfair practices.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important today that we thank the Department of
Defense and the House Armed Services Committee for their support and analysis in making this a quality measure for us to consider.

All Americans deserve to be treated with dignity and respect when faced with repaying a debt. This is especially true for our servicemembers who fight for our freedoms every day.

This bill will provide important safeguards, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to my time.


Every day we are reminded of the significant sacrifices our troops make to protect us, and as Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to protect those who protect us.

The Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act works to live up to this responsibility by addressing abusive debt collection practices specifically targeting servicemembers.

According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, approximately 40 percent of the complaints filed by servicemembers concern debt collection, as compared to 6 percent by nonservicemembers. These debt collection practices are manipulative and have negative career implications for soldiers and their families.

Egregious practices include: Contacting the servicemembers’ chain of command in order to extract payment, threatening punishment through the Uniform Code of Military Justice, threatening rank reduction, or threatening to revoke a soldier’s security clearance.

Unfortunately, these practices do not stop with the servicemember. Some debt collectors also target military spouses, unfairly burdening our military families who sacrifice so much for us.

These tactics are egregious and must stop. Our servicemen and -women make extraordinary sacrifices for all of us. The last thing they need is harassment from debt collectors who take advantage of their service, which is why I am pleased to rise in support of this bill and to have had the chance to work with the entire Financial Services Committee, the chair, the ranking member, and the members.

Specifically, my bill amends the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and prohibits a debt collector from communicating with a servicemember’s chain of command or department for the purpose of threatening to have their rank reduced or threatening to revoke security clearance.

This legislation will help ensure that our military families are not unacceptably targeted for their service to our country and shield them from bad practices. I am in awe of our servicemembers’ spirit of service. We must do our part to service them.

I thank my colleagues, Representative Strickland and Representative Davidson, a fellow member of the Financial Services Committee and an Army veteran with years of service, for co-sponsoring and supporting this bill. I urge all Members to support it.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I think that was an excellent description of why this bill is needed. We honor the 1 percent of Americans that go out, put on the uniform, and serve the other 99 percent of Americans, those who work for our freedoms every day around the world, 24/7. This is one of the least things we can do to make servicemembers’ lives and the lives of those military families at the margin better.

I thank my friends for bringing this bill. I appreciate its sponsor.

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

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank Representative DEAN, Chairwoman WATERS, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their good work and collaboration on this issue.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5003, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ENSURING CHINESE DEBT TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2020

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5932) to ensure greater transparency about the terms and conditions of financing provided by China to member states of the international financial institutions, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5932
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 “Ensuring Chinese Debt Transparency Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. ENSURING CHINESE DEBT TRANSPARENCY.
(a) UNITED STATES POLICY AT THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution (as defined in section 1701(c)(2) of the International Financial Institutions Act) that it is the policy of the United States to use the voice and vote of the United States at the respective institution to seek to secure greater transparency with respect to the terms and conditions of financing provided by the government of the People’s Republic of China to any member state of the respective institution that is a recipient of financing from the institution, consistent with the rules and principles of the Paris Club.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Chairman of the National Advisory Committee on International Monetary and Financial Policies shall include in the annual report required by section 1701 of the International Financial Institutions Act—
(1) a description of progress made toward advancing the policy described in subsection (a) of this section; and
(2) a discussion of financing provided by entities owned or controlled by the government of the People’s Republic of China to the member states of international financial institutions that receive financing from the international financial institutions, including any efforts or recommendations by the Chairman to seek greater transparency with respect to the former financing.
(c) SUNSET.—Subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall have no force or effect after the earlier of—
(1) the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act; or
(2) 30 days after the date that the Secretary reports to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that the People’s Republic of China has made sufficient progress toward full compliance with the rules and principles of the Paris Club.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE
Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I very much support H.R. 5932, the Ensuring Chinese Debt Transparency Act of 2020, which seeks to reinforce U.S. policy at the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the regional development banks to press for disclosure of the amount and terms of China’s bilateral lending operations abroad.

According to the International Monetary Fund, opaque loans from China’s many lending institutions, especially those associated with China’s Belt and Road initiative, not only put many emerging market and developing countries at risk of debt distress, but also complicate the IMF’s ability to
monitor domestic, regional, and global financial risks associated with this debt.

While the ability to accurately identify the amount and terms of Chinese lending in developing countries is essential to better debt risk management, surveillance work, understanding risk pricing, it is important to understand that greater transparency itself is only a starting point.

In order to help low-income, emerging market, and fragile and conflict-affected states meet development goals while maintaining debt sustainability, the United States should be increasing its commitments to the multilateral development banks to offer these countries better options than China does, to provide additional financing on concessional terms of which China does very little.

Let me add that one argument for China’s ongoing borrowing from the World Bank is that it allows a broader public understanding to be improved and for the Chinese system, things like international environmental and societal standards, high standards of transparency and open procurement processes, strong governance programs, and respect for the importance of global economic cooperation.

However, there is very little evidence that World Bank lending to China has had any such effect on Chinese behavior with respect to its own development finance abroad, and this is a serious problem.

H.R. 5932 helps us to address this problem. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the legislation, H.R. 5932, which I introduced recently, and I was fortunate to have the Speaker’s assistance on this.

But H.R. 5932, Ensuring Chinese Debt Transparency Act, would require the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the U.S. executive director at each of the international financial institutions that it is U.S. policy to ensure greater transparency in Chinese Government lending to countries that are also beneficiaries of those international financial institutions.

Specifically, this bill would require the Secretary to report annually to Congress on the progress in advancing this policy, and secondly, lending to foreign countries by entities owned or controlled by the Chinese Government.

As we know, the international financial institutions include the International Monetary Fund, the IMF, the World Bank, and the regional development banks. The IMF lends to foreign countries in order to resolve balance-of-payments crises, while the develop-
SEC. 3. LAND USE PLAN.

The purpose of this Act is to discourage the use of discriminatory land use policies and remove barriers to making housing more affordable in order to further the original intent of the Community Development Block Grant program.

SEC. 3. LAND USE PLAN.

(a) In General.—Section 104 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5304) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(Y) Plan to Track Discriminatory Land Use Policies.—The requirements under subsection (n) of section 104 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5304), as added by subsection (a), shall—

(1) take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply to recipients of a grant under subsection (b), (d)(1), or (d)(2)(B) of section 106 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306) before, on, and after such date.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. HILL) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself in support of H.R. 4351. This bipartisan legislation would require localities to analyze and remove barriers to making housing more affordable in order to further the original intent of the Community Development Block Grant program.

It is clear, based on the broad base of industry and advocate support for this bill, as well as the bipartisan support, that there is substantial agreement on the need to facilitate more affordable housing production across the country and the need to responsibly reduce barriers to affordable housing production.

H.R. 4351, the Yes In My Backyard Act, represents a step in the right direction as we seek to address the affordable housing challenges that our country faces.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative Heck for introducing this timely legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4351. This bipartisan legislation would require localities to analyze the artificial barriers that local zoning requirements create that hinder the production of affordable housing.

Republicans agree with our friends across the aisle that the cost of local zoning rules and regulations at all levels of government often contribute to the high cost of housing. In fact, according to the National Association of Home Builders and the National Multifamily Housing Council, up to 30 percent of the cost of building each unit of housing can be attributed to these barriers.

The impact of local zoning and regulatory barriers is particularly apparent in high-cost areas, particularly on the East and West Coasts of this land, where zoning and regulatory costs can be upward of 50 percent of a total project’s cost before it even breaks ground.

Mr. Daryl Carter, founder, chairman, and CEO of Avanath Capital Management, outlined some of these zoning barriers on behalf of the National Multifamily Housing Council when he testified before the Financial Services Committee in April 2019. Examples include onerous and extended entitlement requirements, excessive impact and linkage fees, business license taxes, assessment and inspection fees, outdated minimum parking requirements, and lengthy environmental site assessments.

These costs prevent sufficient numbers of new housing units from being built to satisfy demand, driving up home prices and making housing even more unaffordable.

It is important to reiterate that this bill doesn’t punish communities or insert the Federal Government into any local zoning matters. All it does is require local barriers to constructing new affordable housing.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.
Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK), the sponsor of this important legislation.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I do, in fact, rise to support H.R. 4351, My Backyard, or YIMBY, Act. I thank the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS) as well as the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for bringing this to the floor.

Our nation is, in fact, suffering from a severe national housing crisis, a word that is overused too much but, in fact, applies to the situation.

We are indeed missing millions of homes to meet qualified and eligible demand in this country. The reference earlier was to 7.3 million. Estimates range from 7 to 10 million homes.

In my home State alone, to put that in perspective, Washington State, we are underproduced by 200,000 homes.

The implications of not having enough homes is a supply problem, but one of grave, because housing, it turns out, is an ecosystem. What we see now is this entire ecosystem is under stress, and as a consequence, the cost of shelter is going up for everyone.

From our neighbors to renters, market-rate to affordable homes, and urban to suburban and rural areas, this housing crisis has hit everyone.

One place where it is particularly acute is the production of starter homes and I think about what that does to the ecosystem. If we are not building starter homes because of some of the fees, as an example, or regulations that my friend from Arkansas alluded to, that means that people who are renting can’t quite get that first rung on the ladder of homeownership. It also means that the boomers who are seeking to downsize can’t find homes that they can purchase.

What is the implication of that? If there aren’t enough homes more people stay renting. If more people stay renting, occupancies go up. If occupancies go up, rents go up.

It is pure supply and demand. More people become rent-burdened, and, yes, in fact, this is a contributory cause of increased homelessness even in America.

How severe is this? Little known fact, but a fact nonetheless: In the last 15 years, the single largest increase in housing costs is the result of the act of housing, not counterintuitively, is not healthcare, not postsecondary education, but it is housing.

I have been saying for years that we need to encourage the construction of more homes that Americans can afford. We need to build more homes of all types and sizes for all of our neighbors.

Now, affordable housing advocates, economists, builders, lenders, and countless others have come together to try to begin to solve this problem, now a crisis, and there are a few common themes beginning to emerge from their research.

One of these common themes is that certain zoning and land use policies are negatively impacting construction and affordable housing supply. Local governments regulate zoning and land use policy, and we shouldn’t be doing that here. That is not what this bill is about.

The fact of the matter is, communities experience different barriers to housing. One size doesn’t fit all, so we shouldn’t be getting into that business. But the impact of zoning and land use policies on housing are significant. As certain regulations have been increased, they have resulted in fewer homes and unaffordable housing cost increases for everyone, the hardest hit being low-income people.

Here is another fact. There is not a single county in the United States of America where somebody working full time at a minimum wage job can afford, according to Federal standards, a two-bedroom unit—not a single county in all of America.

That is why I argue that we must have a better understanding of the impacts of these policies. Sunlight is, after all, the best disinfectant.

Under the YIMBY Act, local governments receiving Federal housing funds through the Community Development Block Grant program, or CDBG, would report on whether they have enacted policies to reduce regulations that affect affordable housing supply.

Let’s be clear. There is nothing in this bill that will deny municipalities CDBG—nothing. Rather, the bill seeks simple transparency for these decisions. It encourages localities to eliminate housing barriers.

I introduced the YIMBY Act with my friend, Congressman HOLLINGSWORTH from Indiana, and it did, in fact, pass out of the committee unopposed. But it is not only bipartisan. It enjoys an incredible support from among external stakeholders.

I am not going to bore you with all 18 organizations, but everybody from the American Planning Association, to Habitat for Humanity, to the Mortgage Bankers Association all back this bill because it is time to take this step.

Solving the housing crisis is going to require the work and collaboration of all levels of government. Everybody has a hand on the ear here, local, State, and Federal governments.

This is no longer something that elected officials at any level can ignore, and that includes us.

We have a national housing crisis, one that is brought on in part by zoning and land use policies. This YIMBY Act is a crucial first step to addressing these policies in order to bring down housing costs.

Mr. Speaker, I submit it to the body for its consideration, and I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS), and the chair of the committee as well for their work bringing this to the floor today.

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

Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to add my thanks to Congressman HECK and Congressman HOLLINGSWORTH for their leadership on this. It really draws attention to this issue. It is an issue that comes up before our committee so frequently, how we lower that cost of housing.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from Washington also emphasizing first-time home buyers and that starter home buyer. It is so important.

I am blessed in greater Little Rock to live in a place that is still pretty affordable, by national standards, to get that first home and get started in the right way.

But I think, to look at it on a national basis, I really thank my friend from Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say, though, he is such a young and dynamic person, I have never thought of him as a boomer. This Congress will be a weaker place, a less happy place, because DENNY HECK has decided to step down and return to hearth and home and another way after this Congress. I just want to say here before his friends and our colleagues what a privilege it has been to serve with him for the past 5 years.

I thank him for the leadership on this bill. I thank my friend from Guam for managing this effort.

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

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to thank Mr. HECK and Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH for their leadership on this important bipartisan bill, as well as Mr. HILL, for managing this on the floor with me.

This bill is a constructive next step to help reduce the barriers to producing affordable housing, and that is something that every American can get behind.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLAY). The question is on the motion by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4351, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1140, RIGHTS FOR TRANSPORTATION SECURITY OFFICERS ACT OF 2020; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES; AND WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(A) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Ms. SCANLON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116–877) providing for consideration of
the bill (H.R. 1140) to enhance the security of the Transportation Security Administration and stability of the transportation security workforce by applying the personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration who provide screening of all passengers and property, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and waiving a requirement of clause 9(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o’clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

☐ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEYER) at 6 o’clock and 31 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

1. Motions to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

2. Proceeding on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

3. Conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5003) to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to provide enhanced protection against debt collector harassment of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 355, nays 0, not voting 74, as follows:

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FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES FOR SERVICEMEMBERS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5932) to declare the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m., today.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENSURING CHINESE DEBT TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 356, nays 0, not voting 73, as follows:

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Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, as I was absent from the House chamber, I submit the follows.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, due to traveling commitments, I ask permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend my remarks.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy 100th birthday to private first-class David Perez.

In 1931, David’s immigrant parents and their 14 kids moved to the Salad Bowl of the World in Salinas, California to work in agriculture and raise a family.

During World War II, David and two of his brothers were drafted to fight for our country. As a combat medic, Private Perez shipped out to the Pacific theater. Serving with the 27th Infantry Division, he fought hard, saved many lives, and even was injured by enemy fire. Private Perez received many medals for his service, including the Bronze Star for his bravery in the Battle of Saipan where he evacuated and tended to four of his wounded comrades.

After the military, David returned to Salinas, raised a family and was a member of the Elks Lodge, American Legion Post 31, and in 2019 he was chosen to be the grand marshal of the Salinas Bowl of the World in Salinas, California.

For all that he has done in his long life, David will be the first to tell you, though, his proudest moments are being with his wife Lillian, his two daughters, Celia and Felicia, five grand children, and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy 100th to Mr. Perez and thank him for showing our community and our country what it means to be a part of the Greatest Generation and what it takes to fulfill an American Dream. Happy birthday.

CELEBRATING SMOKEY BEAR’S 75TH BIRTHDAY

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 celebrate the 75th birthday of Smokey Bear, one of America’s culture’s most recognizable icons.

For 75 years, Smokey Bear has impressed us time and time again to be
mindful while spending time in the great outdoors and to promote forest health with his famous slogan, “Only you can prevent forest fires.”

Smokey has taught countless individuals both young and old about the importance of personal responsibility for protecting the environment and our natural resources.

On Smokey’s 75th birthday, we should also remember that the best way to prevent a forest fire is through a well-managed forest. Proper forest management is not only critical to the health and strength of the forest industry but essential for a healthy environment and economy of the rural area, as well.

I think we can all agree that Smokey looks pretty good for 75 and is working as hard as ever to promote responsible forest stewardship. Here is to 75 more years of preventing forest fires.

CONGRESS MUST ACT QUICKLY REGARDING THE CORONAVIRUS

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, we are already paying the price for the elimination by President Trump and the Republican Congress in 2018 of both the office and the emergency funding that President Obama created to address outbreaks like the coronavirus we are now experiencing.

Starting on empty, Trump’s request for $2.3 billion in emergency funding is not even in the ballpark of what experts say is needed. Already more than 100 cases have been reported nationwide. A vaccine will probably not be available for at least a year, yet 11 States are already reporting cases of the virus.

The World Health Organization says the coronavirus can perhaps be contained, but, “the window of opportunity is narrowing.” It will be up to us in this House to act quickly this week and for the Republican Senate to follow suit.

RECOGNIZING ADVANCED INNOVATIVE IT SOLUTIONS

(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 Advanced, Innovative IT Solutions for its acceptance into the National Center for Veteran Institute for Procurement, it is finally gaining the nationwide reputation that it deserves. Acceptance to the institute is highly competitive. Includes a 3-day certification program for veteran-owned businesses to increase their ability to win government contracts.

Graduates from this program increase their revenue on average by 51 percent within the first year of graduation. I am so proud Advanced, Innovative IT Solutions is participating in this program. Congratulations, and keep up the good work.

CALIFORNIA HIGH-COST RAIL IS A TERRIBLE IDEA

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

Mr. LA MALFA. Mr. Speaker, authorizing more money for California’s high-speed rail—call it high-cost rail—is a terrible idea.

It seems that my House colleagues have quickly forgotten how much of a disaster this project has been.

This was sold to the voters in 2008 as a $55-billion project. When we finally got the truth out of them—this is a couple of years later—it tripled to $100 billion. Then, they went back and revised and said: Well, we will just downsize it a bit and make it about $65 billion. It has since ballooned back to $100 billion and more. It will probably be maybe almost double that by the time it actually gets done 30 years from now.

It has been a boondoggle since day one.

The Trump administration, thankfully, canceled just under a $1 billion grant that could have left Congress and D.C. to go toward that project. Instead, let’s put it toward something people can actually use, like our highways and our bridges, where we already have a lot of traffic that we have to deal with.

Regular people can access that. They will never be able to afford a high-speed rail ticket at $300 a head to go from San Francisco to L.A., if it actually is ever completed from San Francisco to L.A. Right now, it is just going within the central part of the State, staying between walnut orchards and hayfields.

It is really a crazy project. We shouldn’t send another dollar from D.C. toward that but claw back the dollars that have already been wasted because they haven’t upheld the contract to the voters who voted in this thing several years ago.

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH

(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, this past Saturday, I had the absolute pleasure of attending the first Legacy Recognition Award Luncheon at Abundant Life Worship Center Church with Bishop John R. Gandy.

They honored five individuals and their families whose commitment to south Jersey is undeniable: the Fann family, Pastor Loretta Farmer, Suffragan Bishop Otis Grayson, the Walters family, and Apostle Luke Witherspoon.

Thank you for your amazing work. I would also like to recognize Bishop John R. Gandy for his commitment and his leadership at Abundant Life. Bishop Gandy with his wife, Patricia, have impacted so many lives in south Jersey and beyond.

Abundant Life is a loving church and helps lives to be transformed through its threefold purpose to evangelize, edify, and equip the whole person—spirit, soul, and body—to lead a joyous, abundant, and victorious Christian life.

Thank you, Bishop Gandy, your family, and those who we recognized this past week. You truly are doing God’s work in our community, and may God bless you.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and March 3 on account of official business in district.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o’clock and 18 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH heretofore submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 5003, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act for servicemembers Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

3961. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule —
Suspension of Community Eligibility [Dock- et ID: FEMA-2020-0005; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8613] received February 26, 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.

3965. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department’s Alternate Fuels Vehicle Program Acquisitions Report for Fiscal Year 2019, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 13218(b)(1); Public Law 102- 486, Sec. 587(b); (as amended by Public Law 105- 58, Sec. 705); (119 Stat. 817); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3966. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Annual Update of Filing Fees [Docket No. RM20-3; received February 26, 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.

3967. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States which are to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112(a); Public Law 97- 31 (as amended by Public Law 106-569, Sec. 1103(c)); (114 Stat. 289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3976. A letter from the Director, Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting the 2019 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3252); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3977. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission’s FY 2019 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3252); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3978. A letter from the Acting Deputy Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Regulatory Measures for the Summer Flounder Fishery; Fishing Year 2019 [Docket No.: 19015375-9496-02 (RIN: 0648-BI92) received February 26, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3979. A letter from the Acting Deputy Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Monkfish Fishery; 2018 Monkfish Specifications [Docket No.: 180111362-8362-01 (RIN: 0648-XG168) received February 26, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3980. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Pot Catcher/Processors in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 180716393-9174-02; RTID: 0648-XY065] received February 26, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3981. A letter from the Acting Deputy Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod Catch Sources. [Docket No.: 180716393-9174-02; RTID: 0648-XY066] received February 26, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3982. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Greater Than or Equal to 60 Feet [Docket No.: 180716393-9174-02; RTID: 0648-XY065] received February 26, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Ms. SCANLON; Committee on Rules. House Resolution 877. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1140) to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and stability of the transportation security workforce by applying the personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration who provide transportation security services, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and waiving a requirement of rule 5(a) of rule XII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 116–411). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

H.R. 6042. A bill to provide that human life shall be deemed to exist from conception; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6043. A bill to reduce illegal wildlife trafficking and importation by extending State Department reporting on foreign wildlife trafficking of all species and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 6042. A bill to provide that human life shall be deemed to exist from conception; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KINZINGER for himself and Mr. SCHRADE:

H.R. 6044. A bill to amend the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act to require that Federal standards for specified information on cartons and labels be required to be prepared and established by the Secretary of Commerce and to be applied to all cartons and products sold in interstate commerce; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. KATKO, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6045. A bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish uniform job codes for direct support professionals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 6046. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Castle Pines, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. AXNE (for herself and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 6047. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation of the exclusion for dependent care assistance programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 6048. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to credit to individuals for legal expenses paid with respect to establishing guardianship of a family member with disabilities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 6049. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide enhanced security for the medical supply chain; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico (for herself, Mr. Young, Mr. SABLAN, Mrs. RADWAGEN, and Ms. GABARD):

H.R. 6050. A bill to include Puerto Rico as an eligible applicant location for WaterSMART grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. LAU(S) of Hawaii (for herself and Mr. WESTERMAN):

H.R. 6051. A bill to authorize a pilot program for dyslexia screening and early literacy intervention using evidence-based services for students suspected of having an early reading deficiency or dyslexia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself, Mr. BRINDISI, and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 6052. A bill to direct the President to withdraw from the International Joint Commission immunity from suit and other forms of judicial process; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. KIND, and Mr. DELAUGO):

H.R. 6053. A bill to establish an interagency board to develop and implement a plan to provide oceanic and coastal systems and management programs, for coastal ocean management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CICILLETTI, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. HALLAND, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SCHIEFF, Mr. NADLER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. KILMER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CRIST, Mr. POE of Maryland, Mr. BELL, Mr. CONEY, Mr. RAVENEL, Mr. SCHAFER, Mr. TIMMONS-GRANT, Mr. SMITH of Ohio, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. EIDSON, Ms. CARSON of Tennessee, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 6054. A bill to modernize laws and policies, and eliminate discrimination, with respect to persons with HIV/AIDS, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Armed Services, 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. LEWIS:

H.R. 6055. An amendment title 18, United States Code, to encourage the placement of released Federal prisoners in residential reentry centers near their homes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LIUJAN (for himself and Ms. SCHARKOWSKY):

H.R. 6056. A bill to establish the obligations of certain large business entities in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Financial Services, House Administration, 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. MCDAMAS (for himself and Mr. TAYLOR):

H.R. 6057. A bill to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in western waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. COLINS of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mrs. ROBY):

H.R. 6058. A bill to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide for liability for certain electronic commerce platforms for use of a counterfeit mark by a third party on such platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6059. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain tax benefits related to empowerment zones to the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WATKINS:

H.R. 6060. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide outer burial receptacles for each new grave in cemeteries that are the subjects of certain grants made by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 6079. A resolution recognizing the United States in the United States to recognize Monday, March 2, 2020, as Read Across America Day; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. RUFFERNSBERGER, Mr. HAFETZ, and Mr. HURST):

H. Res. 879. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should continue to support the A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft, also known as the Warthog and A-10C or OA-10C, program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. McEACHIN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SOTO, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H. Res. 880. A resolution supporting the designation of March 2020 as National College Application and Awareness Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mrs. RADWAGEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BADEGAN, Mr. DELAUBO, Ms. BEATTY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COX of California, Mr. ROYCE of California, and Mr. SCALISE):
Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. Bonamici, Ms. Brownley of California, Mr. Carson of Indiana, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Engel, Mr. Foster, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Hastings, Ms. Kaptur, Ms. Stefanik, Mr. Lowenthal, Mr. Malinowski, Mrs. Letts of Iowa, Mr. Morelle, Mr. Norton, Ms. Pressley, Mr. Panetta, Mr. McGovern, Ms. McCollum, Mr. Serrano, Mr. Tonko, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Casten of Illinois, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. DeFazio, Ms. Velázquez, Mr. Gallego, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Yamuth, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Ms. Moore, Mr. Guest, Mr. Nsue, Ms. Dean, Mr. Swalwell of California, Mrs. Davis of California, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Garamendi, Mr. Esplar, Mr. David Scott of Georgia, Mrs. Axne, Mr. Cicersero, Mr. Carrahal, Mrs. Trahan, Ms. Pingree, Mr. Takano, Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. Huppman, Ms. DeLauer, Mr. Cohen, Ms. Sánchez, Mr. McNerney, Mr. Gonzalez of Texas, Ms. Wild, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Ms. Escobar, Mr. Brown of Maryland, Ms. Wild of Florida, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, Mr. Fucar, Ms. Porter, Mr. Kinzinger, Ms. Rice of Delaware, Ms. Ballweg of Alabama, Mrs. Bostus, Mr. Hurd of Texas, Ms. Speier, Ms. Lowgren, Mr. Heck, Mr. Case, Mr. Casten of Illinois, Ms. Fudge, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Lesko, Ms. Schakowsky, Ms. Clarke of Massachusetts, Mr. San Nicolas, Ms. Johnson of Texas, Mr. Weston, Mr. Moulton, Ms. Mingo, Ms. Stevenson, Mr. Lynch, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. DeSaulnier, Ms. Finkenauer, Mr. McRath, Mr. Casta, Mr. T. Veaz, Ms. Haaland, Mr. Rose of New York, Ms. Frankel, Ms. Jackson Lee, Ms. Bass, Ms. Cicars-Powell, Ms. Craig, Ms. Omar, Mrs. Murphy of Florida, Mrs. Torres of California, Ms. Titus, Mr. Kanna, Mr. Gottthardt, Ms. Eshoo, and Ms. Houlahan:

H. Res. 881. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Women’s History Month to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. UPTON (for himself and Mr. Bishop of Georgia):

H. Res. 922. A resolution recognizing the importance of the blueberry industry to the United States of America and supporting the designation of July 2020 as ‘National Blueberry Month’; to the Committee on Agriculture.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

162. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 91, urging the U.S. Air Force to station the F-35 Lightning II at Selfridge Air National Guard Base; to the Committee on Armed Services.

163. A memorial of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, relative to House Resolution No. 11, urging Congress to require car manufacturers to improve safety devices on automobiles, relative to the protection of children left in cars; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

164. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 8, urging Congress to encourage the Administrator of the FMCUSA to change the crash indicator BASIC regulation standards to consider only crashes in which the driver was at fault for the crash; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H. Res. 602. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

H.R. 601.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Constitution in the Government of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 603.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Miss RICE of New York:

H.R. 604.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 604.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mrs. AXNE:

H.R. 607.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 608.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 609.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the United States Constitution.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico:

H.R. 610.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 609.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 608.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WATKINS:

H.R. 608.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 139: Mr. COHEN and Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.

H.R. 303: Mr. MALNOSKI.

H.R. 463: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. WITTMAN.
The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our refuge and strength. You reminded us in Romans 8:26 that we do not even know how we should pray or for what we should pray. You then promised that if we request it, Your Holy Spirit will pray for us with groaning that cannot be expressed in words. We claim that promise that Your Spirit will pray for us.

Lord, guide our Senators through the power of this celestial intercession. Inspire our lawmakers to earnestly seek Your purposes. Enable them to find unity with each other because of their experiential relationship with Your intervening love.

We pray in Your marvelous 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ADVANCED GEOThERMAL INNOVATION LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2657, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 2657, a bill to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

ANTI-DAIRY ACTIVISM
Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, our U.S. dairy farmers have had a tough decade. Margins are thinner than ever, and new milk substitutes can be found in every grocery store. While dairy farmers scored a major victory in the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement with increased market access to Canada, there is a scary new trend that is very disturbing.

Hollywood jokers have taken a stand against raising cows with the so-called hashtag “mootoo” movement. This is utterly irresponsible. U.S. dairies produce the highest quality milk and cheese in the world under the highest standards of care. Drink and eat dairy products. It is good for you—especially ice cream. Help our dairy farmers.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, over the weekend, cases of the coronavirus have been confirmed in New York, Rhode Island, and Florida. Officials in Washington State have also reported that now six Americans have died from the coronavirus—the first fatalities in the United States.

At this critical moment, we need an administration that acts with persistent and unrelenting transparency and decisiveness, and that leans on the expertise of our scientists and doctors. But this administration, unfortunately, has spent years hollowing out the domestic and global health security teams in the executive branch. It has proposed cutting funding from the infectious disease rapid response fund, the emerging infectious disease account, and public health preparedness and response programs. Undoubtedly, the Trump administration would have been better prepared to respond to the coronavirus if the President had prioritized these programs rather than urged them to be cut.

The administration’s early response efforts have not instilled much confidence either. Testing kits were not promptly sent to the hospitals and medical labs around the country, political personnel have overruled the recommendations of the CDC, and the administration was slow to appoint any single official with public health expertise to coordinate our government’s response.

Even now, President Trump seems to be spending more of his time blaming the media and blaming the Democrats than being constructive. In fact, he blames everyone not named Donald Trump. The President is downplaying—the threat of the coronavirus to a dangerous degree, and his Chief of Staff, amazingly, said to Americans: “Turn off your televisions.”

We know the history of how these viruses spread and work. When you deny them, when you don’t let people know what is happening and what to do about it, things get worse. Yet the President, being as self-centered as he is, only cares about himself and his image. As usual, instead of solving the
problem, he tries to blame somebody else.

The deflection and finger-pointing and denial must stop. President Trump must take responsibility to ensure that everyone in the public health community has the resources needed. We need the President and his team to level with the American people and get a handle on the situation.

Later this week, appropriators will put together an emergency supplemental package to surge resources into the domestic and global response and to help local communities quickly prepare for the coronavirus. I have said that we need about $8.5 billion, and, from all reports, the appropriators are very close to that number, rather than the $2.5 billion the President talked about early on. That is good because when it comes to Americans’ health, when it comes to our safety, and when it comes to dealing with this problem head-on, skimping doesn’t make any sense. Again, if there was ever something that is pennywise and pound foolish, that is it.

As this package comes together, I am going to have more to say, but, at a minimum, any package needs to have provisions that ensure that the President cannot transfer these new funds to anything other than the coronavirus and American and global preparedness to combat epidemics and infectious diseases.

Vaccines must be affordable and available to all who need them. Yesterday, I called for vaccines, when developed, to be fully covered by Medicare, because seniors who need the vaccines most should not have to worry if they can afford it once it is available.

There should be interest-free loans made available for small businesses impacted by the outbreak, and State and local governments should be reimbursed for losses related to their responses. In the meantime, the administration needs to keep working with local communities—including schools, universities, and local agencies—on the steps they must take to prepare for an increase in coronavirus cases.

Specifically, the administration needs to do the following: First, issue coherent guidance on what schools, universities, and local agencies—on the steps they must take to prepare for an increase in coronavirus cases.

Mr. President, on the Energy bill, tonight the Senate will vote on a motion to proceed on a bill that will make changes to our Nation’s energy policy. Ranking Member MANCHIN and I have had several discussions with Chairwoman MURkowski and the Republican leader about having a fair amendment process on this legislation. As a result of these conversations, I will be voting no on the motion tonight as a show of good faith.

Democrats want amendments to the Energy bill so we can make real progress on climate change. That is what we are hoping to achieve this week. Few pieces of legislation offer more opportunity for progress on climate change than those that concern our energy policy. We cannot miss this opportunity to make real, substantive progress with the climate crisis.

I am hopeful that our amendments this week and the potential progress we can make on climate change this week can be bipartisan.

For months, Republicans have been trying to act on the most pressing issue facing our planet—the climate crisis. This bill provides a real test for Senate Republicans. Will they join Senate Democrats in fighting for and passing bipartisan legislation that will address climate change in a significant way, or will they continue to do what they have done for the last several years—do the bidding of corporate polluters and Big Oil and block amendments with bipartisan support?

Mr. President, finally, on the DNI, on Friday, after dismissing Acting Director of National Intelligence Maguire and replacing him with Rick Grenell, a partisan loyalist with no experience, President Trump proposed installing as a permanent Director of National Intelligence Representative John Ratcliffe of Texas.

Replacing one highly partisan operative with another does nothing to keep our country safe. At a time when Vladimir Putin is once again interfering in our elections, we need a non-partisan leader with a high level of expertise and trust on both sides of the aisle, someone who sees the world objectively and sees change as power, at the helm of the intelligence community. Neither Acting Director Grenell nor Representative Ratcliffe comes close to that standard. Representative Ratcliffe, in particular, falls short of that high bar.

John Negroponte became DNI during decades of working in the Foreign Service. Former Directors Dennis Blair, James Clapper, and Mike McConnell—whatever you think of them individually—came from both parties, and all have experience in and working with the intelligence community. Dan Coats, the President’s last nominee to this position, served as a diplomat, a Senator, and a sergeant in the Army before assuming the post. Representative Ratcliffe, on the other hand, is a three-term tea party Congressman. He has shown extreme partisanship in the House. He lacks the experience required to lead a community of 17 intelligence agencies.

The experience Mr. Ratcliffe does have in Congress has been alarmingly partisan. He was a fierce critic of the Mueller investigation and earned praise from deep-state conspiracy theorists. During the Mueller hearings, Ratcliffe badgered the former special counsel with baseless lines of questioning—highly partisan and not at all related to fact. He didn’t seem to care. He showed little regard for the seriousness of Putin’s interference in our elections and the need for election security.

Since World War II, since OSS, and since the formation of the CIA, the intelligence agencies have, by and large, been immune from politics. Like he does with everything else, this President seems to make the arm of his likes and dislikes, of what is good for him and what is not good for him, even if it denigrates these fine men and women. He doesn’t seem to care that we need intelligence agencies who find the truth and tell the Congress and the American people the truth.

Now he appoints a rank partisan to this agency, someone he probably sees as his FO(xx)s mouthing the conspiracy theories that only he and his avid supporters seem to believe.

It is such a decline in America when this great agency, where people have risked their lives for America quietly, is made into a political football to serve one man, Donald Trump, who we all know doesn’t really have a penchant for truth, for honor, and for decency.

With this nomination, President Trump has again lost respect for the rule of law and for the intelligence community, which Republican and Democratic Presidents have all shown in the past.

Republicans must join Democrats in swiftly rejecting the nomination of the partisan Mr. Ratcliffe.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerks will call the roll.

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

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the new coronavirus, or COVID–19, continued to capture headlines over the weekend. News of the first American deaths related to the disease confirm this is a public health challenge that is upon us.

The Senate’s immediate role is clear: We need to support the Federal, State,
and local public health officials and healthcare professionals who are working overtime to blunt, delay, and mitigate the spread of the virus. I am grateful that our colleagues Chairman Shelby and Senator Leahy, along with their appropriations counterparts in the House, have worked through this unprecedented, end on a bipartisan, bicameral agreement to provide supplemental appropriations for the coordinated response. It goes without saying that a challenge like this leaves no time for moving goalposts or performative outrage. The American people deserve for their Congress to meet this subject head-on, with a bipartisan and collaborative approach, and I am confident that is exactly what can and will happen.

I am glad our prospects for supplemental appropriations rest in the hands of a bipartisan group of negotiators. I would encourage my Democratic colleagues in both Houses to let them do their work. It will be important for all of us to work overtime to unwind the failures of the 8 years that preceded it. We have worked overtime to unwind the failures of the Obama administration and to supply these important funds within the next 2 weeks.

TALIBAN

Mr. President, on another matter, on Saturday, President Trump announced a new deal with the Taliban that is designed to promote a peaceful end to the civil war in Afghanistan.

First and foremost, we must recognize the brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces. Hundreds of thousands have deployed to Afghanistan since our national security compelled us in 2001 to confront the terrorist threats emanating from that failed state that Afghanistan had become. More than 2,400 American servicemembers have given their lives in Afghanistan. More than 20,000 have been wounded. Our coalition partners, such as the United Kingdom and Canada, sustained casualties as well.

Obviously the worst burden of all has fallen on the Afghan people. Tens of thousands of Afghan security forces and civilians have been killed during this long, long war.

It is largely due to these brave, heroic, and sustained efforts to keep pressure on the terrorists that Afghanistan has not come roaring back as an international headquarters for terrorists. Thanks to these efforts, the United States and its Afghan partners are hopefully in a position to bring about a negotiated end to the conflict.

After years, two basic principles are clear: No. 1, we should welcome any serious opportunity to bring greater stability to that land, but, No. 2, we must make certain that the progress won through great sacrifice by Afghan and American forces is not undermined by a precipitous rush for the exits.

I do not trust the Taliban, so I am grateful the linchpin of the agreement is a conditions-based approach that will serve our commanders with leverage to test the will and the capacity of the Taliban to abide by the agreement. If all goes well at first, our American presence would stabilize with 8,600 troops for the time being. Having heard from our commanders, I agree that presence will remain an important tool as we combat the ongoing threats posed by the likes of al-Qaeda and ISIS and support for the Afghans’ ability to fight.

Since further drawdowns would require even further progress and cooperation from the Taliban, I look forward to hearing from administration officials, intelligence analysts, military commanders about how they will judge compliance and determine whether the conditions are, in fact, met. For my part, I believe the intra-Afghan negotiations are especially critical to the future of that country and to our own significant security interests over there. We should do what we can to help the Afghans achieve a peaceful solution to their conflict.

I am glad to hear there are no secret annexes to this agreement which Congress was not consulted on. I believe President Obama’s Iran deal. The secret documents detailing implementation arrangements are available for the review of all Senators in Senate Security, and I encourage our colleagues to review the full details.

Republicans spent much of the Obama administration reminding our colleagues that hope—hope—is not a strategy. We argued President Obama’s reckless withdrawal from Iraq would set the stage for chaos and a resurgence of terrorism. Unfortunately, the rise of ISIS proved us correct.

That is why, more than a year ago, I offered an amendment so the Senate could affirm that withdrawing from Syria or Afghanistan the wrong way could strengthen the hand of terrorists and competitors such as Russia and Iran while weakening our own vital interests.

I believe from my conversations with senior administration officials that they went into these negotiations with their eyes wide open about the Taliban’s duplicous natre. I expect Members of both parties will have many questions about this agreement and look forward to briefings from the administration about the path forward to protect American interests in Afghanistan and ensure this war ends on terms favorable to those interests.

Our fight against ISIS, al-Qaeda, and other violent enemies when you think of life. Some are heartbreakingly, but some are uplifting, and some are hopeful. Tomorrow night, during senior night, the University of Vermont men’s basketball team is going to celebrate one story that is all of these things: heartbreaker, uplifting, and hopeful. They will celebrate that when senior Josh Speidel takes the court for the first time—and what will be the only time—in his college career.

Josh is a native of Columbus, IN. He dreamed from a very young age of playing college basketball. At Columbus North High School in Indiana, Josh was the basketball team’s all-time lead
point scorer and an Indiana All-Star. In November of 2014, just before his senior basketball season, he committed to play for the University of Vermont, and he accepted a scholarship at the university to play for the team.

Here is the heartbreaking part. Just a few days after he signed, on January 23, Josh’s dream was derailed when he suffered a traumatic brain injury, resulting from a devastating car crash. Josh would go on to spend the next 4 months in the hospital and in rehab. But just a few days after he signed, the head coach of the University of Vermont’s men’s basketball team, John Becker, went to Indiana and visited Josh there with a simple message for him: You are still welcome at UVM. Your scholarship will be honored, and we will help you in any way we can. That is, after all, the Vermont way.

Josh would ultimately arrive at UVM in August of 2016. While he hasn’t suit-ed up with the team, he has worked with trainers; he has improved his physical condition; and he has remained active on the court. What is so inspiring, his team was at his side throughout. He has been a constant fixture of the team, on the sidelines at games, cheering his teammates on. I have been at games and have seen him doing that.

Off the court, Josh has been working toward a degree through the College of Education. He is choosing a self-de-signed major to prepare him to work with children through sports, with a double minor in behavior change and coaching.

He has been a committed student throughout his time at UVM. He is set to graduate this May. After graduation, Josh hopes to use both his life experience and his education to work with children.

Tonight, the University of Vermont men’s basketball team will celebrate senior night. In a special ar-rangement with their opponent, Albany, Josh, wearing number 32, will suit up, take the court, and notch the night’s first basket after the tip-off. Then Speidel will have a chance to play in games, cheering his teammates on. I have been at games and have seen him doing that.

The next year, Speidel roomed with another teammate, Ben Shungu. The duo would take advantage of the 5-minute walk from their University Heights dorm to Patrick Gym, routinely setting the alarm clock be-fore 6 a.m. for workouts. Most mornings the UVM men’s basketball players had the gym to themselves.

On one end of the court, there was Shungu working on his jumper with a shooting machine. And on the other end, there was Speidel putting up layups and doing his exercises.

“Josh is a remarkable young man—the personification of perseverance, determination, dedication, and hope he so richly deserves. I know my fellow Vermonters who are at these games, and I know there will be very few dry eyes in the house.

We are, all of us, the product of our life experiences, of the community that supports us, and of the will we carry to press on. Josh Speidel is a remarkable young man. At the packed gym tomorrow night, there is going to be an emotional and vibrant celebration. Josh, from the floor of the U.S. Sen-ate, I congratulate you on a recog-nition so richly deserved.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record an article from the Burlington Free Press highlighting Josh’s journey, dated March 1, 2020.
to choose us," said Cleplicki. "His commitment was really special to me and the rest of the staff."

The accident and how Speidel approached his life on a daily basis revealed a side of Cleplicki that had yet to be seen.

"He’s shown me and all of us how to handle adversity," Cleplicki said. "To have to work as hard as he did to get back and then to deal with the emotional component, the mental component not being what it once was and to see him deal with that every day and maintain his work ethic and work habits—that’s the biggest inspiration.

"A lot has changed for him but it’s never allowed him to slow down." While senior night can’t replace a playing career that was cut short by an injury, Speidel has been able to soak in the achievement of earning this moment in front of hometown fans.

"To see him out there and participating, it’s going to be a crazy thing," Everett Duncan said.

Duncan’s the lone player left on the team when Speidel was honored before a Jan. 2016 game vs. Stony Brook. Duncan said his fellow Indiana native continues to motivate the Catamounts.

"I think he’s meant everything. I know that every single guy in the locker room wants him to play," Duncan said. "There are days we’ll be on the sidelines watching every single second of practice. For some of us like Benny, Anthony and me, we’ve known him for such a long time, he’s one of our best friends.

"Even now, this is our last go-round, Josh is with us. He’s more a part of this senior class than me or Anthony. He’s a big part of this senior class who’s done a lot for us." Speidel will graduate in May.

Driven to return to the game he loves, Speidel signed up with one harsh reality: He wasn’t going to play basketball for UVM. Though that didn’t make it any easier to accept.

"It’s a tough question but I’ve battled with that for a while. Obviously, I’m OK with that. I’m not able to play and I’m not back to where I was," Speidel said. "That was a tough pill to swallow, but when I think about all that I’ve gained, maybe I didn’t get back to playing, but I’m still bettering myself by working out every day and being in the best shape physically and basketball has helped me with that."

Speidel put his focus and much of his energy into his classes and becoming more independent away from school. He learned to cook for himself—a crockpot came in handy for the money.

And when it came to living off campus, it was Speidel who pushed for it.

"I don’t want to say that for myself, or that I just wanted to test myself. I wanted to see if I was able to take care of myself," Speidel said.

In school, Speidel has earned a 3.4 grade-point average, the highest on the team, through an individualized major in education and social services. He has a potential double minor in behavior change and coaching.

"Josh has always had a knack for working with kids and relating to kids. To see that more and more has been an accident in just some," said Lisa Speidel, an elementary school principal.

Speidel will graduate this May—in four years’ time. How remarkable is that?

Speidel shed away from praising himself.

"It’s not my story. It’s not just my story. It’s what I have to say that for myself,” Speidel said. "Things that go on a long way and it gives me a sense that all this hard work is doing something.

The success at UVM—from academic advisors, teachers, teammates, coaches and athletic trainers—hasn’t been lost on Speidel, his mom Lisa.

"I can’t put into words how thankful and how blessed and lucky I am," Speidel said.

Lisa Speidel: "We love UVM and everything they have meant and done for us. It’s amazing."

Josh Speidel is 24 years old. He said he could write a book of all the things he’s been through and learned over the last five years. If anything stood out above it all, if there was anything Speidel wanted to absorb from his story, it was this: Don’t give up on your dreams.

"I tell this to people: Always have an end goal in your head and chase after it as hard as you can," Speidel said. "And whenever you need help, ask the people around you because I think I’ve seen more people than you think who are there to help you.

"I’ve held on to that and really tried to live by that."

Mr. LEAHEY. Madam President, I want to do this because in an era where we hear so much bad news, it is wonderful to hear inspiring news. This is an inspiring young man. I congratulate him and the University of Vermont for what they have done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, today is Texas Independence Day. One hundred eighty-four years ago today, Texans declared our independence. We celebrated our independence from Mexico and fired a shot for liberty that was heard around the world.

As I have a number of years in the past, I am going to read the letter from the Alamo that LTC William Barrett Travis wrote calling for help. It is a letter that energized the Texans across our great State, that energized lovers of liberty. It is also a letter that I read the very first time I spoke on this Senate floor, and these are words to inspire everyone.

Commandancy of the Alamo

Bejar. Feb. 24th. 1836

To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World—

Fellow Citizens & compatriots—

I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna—I have sustained a continual Bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken—I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & and our flag still waves proudly from the walls, though we can never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch—The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country—Victory or Death.
The brave men and women of the Alamo gave their lives for liberty. But shortly thereafter, in the Battle of San Jacinto, the Texans were victorious, and the Republic of Texas was formed, an independent nation from 1836 to 1845. For 3 years, we were our own nation. Then Texas joined the United States of America. We are proud Americans, but we are proud of the history of the brave Texans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). The senior Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am here on the floor this afternoon because we will very shortly have a vote on the motion to proceed to S. 2657. This is the vehicle for our bipartisan American Energy Innovation Act.

I am here today to kick things off and just let colleagues know some of the highlights of this measure that my colleague, my friend, and ranking member of the Energy Committee, Senator MANCHIN, and I have been working on for some time. When I say “some time,” I think those here in the Senate know that when you take up substantive energy bills, they are focused on energy or whether they are focused on lands, we spend a lot of time giving good committee process to bring these matters to the floor.

The measure that we have in front of us is the American Energy Innovation Act. You will hear it referred to by its acronym, AEIA, which makes you want to do a joke about the vowels—a, e, i, o, u, and sometimes y. I can give you that, but I am not going to do that today.

The reality is that we have been working on energy reform now for almost a dozen years. Twelve years is a long time, since we have last refreshed and updated our energy policies. This act introduces policies from more than 60 Members of the Senate. So to suggest that it is a bipartisan bill—it is more than bipartisan. It has Republican priorities and Democratic priorities and priorities from urban and rural areas. It is a package that really does help move the ball forward when we think about energy and energy innovation and energy security.

I want to extend my particular thanks to my good friend and ranking member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator MANCHIN of West Virginia. He is going to be on the floor in just a couple of minutes to speak, as we take up this motion to proceed. From the start of this Congress, he and I have really been focused on modernizing our Nation’s energy policies, and this bipartisan package that we have assembled will do just that. So, again, I credit my ranking member.

I also credit the great work that both of our teams have brought to this very important national discussion. It has been a long process but one where I think Members will look critically at the package that is in front of them and realize that we have worked hard to address what more we could be doing to modernize our energy policy.

I have been framing this American Energy Innovation Act into two buckets. If you will—innovation and security. We have had access to minerals that allow you to build out your renewable energy projects. You view that security from a defense perspective. How do we ensure that our grids are secure and modernized and, again, secure from the perspective of economic security, when we ensure good jobs for Americans, from Alaska to Arkansas.

So our bill promotes energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy storage—this is what so many of us have been talking about for so long—advanced nuclear, industrial and vehicle technologies, carbon capture utilization and storage.

We review a number of broad-based support programs, including weatherization assistance programs, including programs to support programs, including weatherization assistance programs, which is a key for so many that will get us there. We have also included timely provisions to strengthen our Nation’s minerals and cyber security, as we modernize the electric grid and bolster workforce development.

What we have worked to build are commitments that will help this country maintain its status as a global energy leader—and we are a global energy leader.

We also want to ensure that we are providing affordable energy for our families and businesses and know that all of this helps to strengthen our national security and increase our global competitiveness.

These policies will also lead to the development of low- and zero-emissions technologies that will help us address climate change and protect our environment.

Now, you are going to have some people who might say: Well, this measure doesn’t solve climate change. You haven’t worked to reduce emissions to zero.

I will stand before you and acknowledge that is the case, but what we are doing is recognizing that this is a necessary first step to update, to refresh, and to modernize energy policies that have been seen an upgrade, if you will, in a dozen years, and to help incentivize these technologies that will get us to that cleaner energy future and really allow for a level of transition that will help protect the environment. These are the steps that we are taking today to focus on innovation in the energy space and the security of supply, economic security for the workforce, and physical security, when it comes to our energy grids.

The American Energy Innovation Act is a good bill. You are going to hear me say that a lot this week. It is a good bill. It was developed the right way, through regular order—something that we don’t see often around here. It is one of those things that the Energy Committee has developed a reputation for—using regular order—and we will see that regular order demonstrated here on the floor.

This measure deserves to advance through the legislative process and to become law. We have an opportunity to legislate in a meaningful way for the American people. I think all of us have a little bit of pent-up energy, if you will, to get to legislating. We will have that opportunity in just a little bit.

I would strongly encourage every Member to vote in favor of the motion to proceed to this important legislation.

Mr. President, I see that my friend, the Senator from West Virginia, the ranking member, has come to the floor. I know he is going to give more extended remarks about the measure, speaking to some of the priorities.

Mr. President, before my colleague leaves, I want to thank the Senator from Alaska, my chairman, for all the hard work, because it has been a labor that both of us have worked on together. It is something our country needs very desperately, and it is something that we have been working on for some 12 or 13 years. So the time has come.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia, Mr. President, before my colleague leaves, I want to thank the Senator from Alaska, my chairman, for all the hard work, because it has been a labor that both of us have worked on together. It is something our country needs very desperately, and it is something that we have been working on for some 12 or 13 years. So the time has come.

With that, I am pleased that we are starting the process of turning to the American Energy Innovation Act, which last year Senator MURKOWSKI and I kicked off in the 116th Congress with a hearing on the outlook of energy innovation.
Over the course of the last 14 months, we have heard from experts who have come before the committee to testify on the importance of advancing a broad range of technologies. Where we stand today, we have no silver bullet to solve the crisis—we must work consistently, maintaining our affordable, reliable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while also making sure that hard-working families and communities are not left behind.

It is my impression that I say we need to innovate, not eliminate. I repeat that—innovate, not eliminate. There is a misconception that all these emissions are coming from just the power industry, just one source. It is all we hear about. It is not true.

The facts are these: In 2017, the power sector was responsible for 27.5 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The power industry—coal-fired powerplants and natural gas plants now are determined to be responsible for 27 percent. Twenty percent of our emissions come from transportation. How we come to work and what we use in everyday life—29 percent comes from that. Twenty-two percent of emissions are from the industrial sector—the jobs that we do, the industries that we need, jobs that are provided, and the products they produce. Then 11.5 percent was commercial and residential sectors—the buildings we are in, commercial and residential, but basically a lot of government buildings.

With that in mind, we focused on an “all of the above” approach. We didn’t leave any rock unturned. Our bill will help reduce emissions in all of these sectors, except for agriculture. Agriculture represents about 9 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions, and that was not in our jurisdiction.

Innovation is a critical step to help us reliably meet tomorrow’s energy needs while reducing emissions, not just in the power sector but also in industry, buildings, and vehicles. We all know greenhouse gas emissions are a global issue, and investing now in these technologies will position the United States as a global leader and maintain our competitive edge.

It is time to seek practical solutions to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and find ways to ensure that our energy sector, the environment, and workers can all benefit. Once we vote to pass this bill, we will be laying down the American Energy Innovation Act of 2020 as a substitute amendment. This legislation brings together the strong, bipartisan work of our committee over the past year and draws from 53 bills. And I will repeat—39 of those are bipartisan. Once it is enacted, it will provide the first comprehensive Senate energy policy update in 13 years.

This bill represents an important downpayment on research and development at the Department of Energy for a range of technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, it would advance innovative technologies that can help us reduce emissions across sectors of the economy that account for 90 percent of current U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

This piece of legislation will put us on the path to reduce 90 percent of the current greenhouse gas emissions. That includes energy storage, renewable energy, energy efficiency, carbon capture, advanced nuclear, vehicles, and provisions to help get those technologies out of DOE and into the market.

As I have said before, there is no silver bullet, and this bill alone will not solve climate change, but it is critical. It is a critical step in the right direction, not just here in the United States but also for the rest of the world. I am going to take a few minutes to touch on a few of these now.

Let me start with our existing zero-carbon, baseload generation, nuclear. Using nuclear power, the industry has been losing ground to international competitors, especially those with state-funded nuclear programs like China and Russia. That is why I worked with Senator MURKOWSKI to create a program that will develop new technologies to not only usher in a new era of nuclear but also reduce the operating costs of the current nuclear fleet that will be required to operate into the middle of this century if we as a nation are to meet our emission-reduction objectives.

We also included my EFFECT Act, which invests in research and development and, just as importantly, demonstration for each aspect of carbon capture, utilization, and storage. This includes coal and natural gas technologies, utilization, storage, and even atmospheric CO₂ removal.

Fossil fuels are projected to continue to be a significant source of electric generation in the near future, not just here in the United States but around the world. We need to get ahead of the curve and invest in the technologies that will allow us to continue using them better, the cleanest way possible so we are reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We also included provisions to target industrial emissions that are particularly hard to get to with existing technologies.

With all of this, we need to continue to create quality jobs in this transitioning energy landscape. All of these provisions will protect and create jobs while reducing carbon emissions—a win-win for communities in West Virginia and rural communities across this country.

The American Energy Innovation Act also covers a lot of territory when it comes to renewable energy, from the skies and hilltops to the rivers and oceans. The bill includes incentives for small hydropower facilities and an expansion of the Department of Energy’s work on marine renewable energy. It also tackles expanding geothermal energy beyond the Western States.

Lastly, the energy package reauthorizes two incredibly successful programs at DOE that have already helped transform our energy landscape in large and small ways; that is, wind and solar technologies. The bill focuses these programs on new materials, enhanced efficiency in design and operation, and advancing 21st-century manufacturing. In fact, I want to make sure these clean energy technologies are aiding the grid and the communities that need distributed or microgrid connections to them from Arecibo on Puerto Rico to Nevada.

Of course, storage is a key enabling technology for a low-carbon, modern grid that will help us achieve our emission reductions and address climate change all while keeping energy reliable and affordable. Our bill builds on DOE’s existing energy storage R&D efforts but with additional focus on advancing long-duration energy storage technologies and with a fivefold increase in authorizations from current levels.

The bill will also help to shore up our supply chain of critical minerals because we are currently depending on imports from other countries—namely China—for many of the mineral commodities required to manufacture everyday items like our phones, security assets like satellites, and emissions-reducing technology like electric vehicles and wind turbines.

It is important to strike the right balance between supply chain concerns and environmental stewardship, and I appreciate Senator MURKOWSKI working with me to remove a provision that was concerning to some in our caucus and across groups.

Of course, the energy package also has a robust energy efficiency title that would promote efficiency in commercial and public buildings, homes, industry, and the Federal Government. Energy efficiency always is the low-hanging fruit, and 40 percent of the Nation’s energy is consumed in buildings. I will repeat that again—40 percent of the Nation’s energy is consumed in buildings. The Department of Energy estimates that efficiency improvements can save U.S. consumers and businesses $741,000 gigawatt hours of electricity between 2016 and 2035, which is equal to 16 percent of electricity use in 2016. We can reduce the amount of demand by 16 percent while not detracting from quality of life.

Multiple studies have shown that energy efficiency is cheaper than investing in any other type of new generation. It is truly the cheapest kilowatt. It is also readily available. There are lots of opportunities to improve efficiencies in buildings, industry, and transportation.

I hope we have the opportunity to vote on an amendment to add voluntary building codes back into the efficiency title of this bill, both to help...
consumers save on energy bills and to really advance carbon savings.

Finally, the electric grid is undergoing a rapid transformation. It is becoming more complex, more flexible, and more diverse in terms of energy resources. We have to continue focusing on shoring up our vulnerabilities and anticipating future weaknesses in the ever-changing environment.

Our bill supports investments in programs that are of vital importance to securing and protecting our critical energy infrastructure. As I said before, this bill represents a critical step in the right direction. I believe this package is well balanced with many of my colleagues’ priorities on both sides of the aisle. It is truly a bipartisan bill. It represents a true effort. I thank Chairman MURKOWSKI and the other members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for their work over the last 14 months to provide the basis of this package.

I encourage my fellow Members to vote today, and I look forward to working with you this week on this important piece of legislation.

I assure 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. DURBIN, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 357, S. 2657, the mandatory quorum call be rescinded.

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

CLOSURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOSURE 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. 337, S. 2657, a bill to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes: 

Math McConnell, Lisa Murkowski, Steve Daines, Bill Cassidy, John Barrasso, Martha McSally, Deb Fischer, Richard C. Shelby, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis, John Thune, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, Mike Rounds, Shelley Moore Capito, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 337, S. 2657, a bill to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas, (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 63 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Alexander
Baldwin
Barrasso
Benetton
Blackburn
Blumenthal
Burr
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Duckworth
Durbin
Enzi
Kaine
Klobuchar
Murkowski
Norton
Risch
Romney
Rose
Rubio
Schumer
Sasse
Shaheen
Sherley
Smith
Sullivan
Tester
Udall
Van Hollen
Wicker
Wyden
Young

NAYS—3

Lee
Sasse

NOT VOTING—13

Coryn
Graham
Inhofe
Jones
Klobuchar

mandaer with energy security, grid modernization, cyber security, workforce security. We are at a good place this evening.

As I mentioned in my very brief remarks before the vote, it has now been more than 12 years—more than a dozen years—since Congress enacted comprehensive legislation to update our energy laws. When you think about what has happened in a time period of a dozen years—12 years ago, we didn’t have iPads. Twelve years ago we weren’t even thinking about this shale revolution and what that would mean to America, turning us into an energy superpower. Over the course of 12 years, the costs of renewable resources have come down dramatically. New technologies are emerging.

What hasn’t kept pace are our policies. When they don’t keep pace, we miss out on opportunities to further our energy leadership, and we are failing to adequately address what I think are some very significant challenges.

That is why the innovation package that Senator MANKIN and I have put forward is so important at this time. What we are seeking to do is to modernize our energy laws to ensure that we remain a global energy leader. We seek to keep energy affordable, to strengthen our security, and to increase our competitiveness. We do all of this while making our energy cleaner and cleaner, to protect the environment and to reduce the impact of climate change. Within this measure—this American Energy Innovation Act—we have included more than 50 related measures that reflect the priorities of more than 60 different Senators.

What we have done is gone through this committee process, and, as I mentioned, it has been a very robust, very thorough committee process. We have arranged these 50-some odd measures into two titles. The first is focused on technological innovation, and the second title is focused on security and workforce development.

Starting with the first title, which is innovation, we really start with the first fuel. First fuel is energy efficiency, which has tremendous potential to lower energy bills and to meet growing demand. We certainly know and understand that in a place like Alaska, a cold State. It helps our families, our businesses, and the environment alike when we can be more efficient in our energy consumption.

I think we recognize that efficiency is often the easiest and often the cheapest option. That is why, within our bill, we take steps—reasonable steps—to improve the efficiency of everything from schools to data centers.

I mentioned also that we will renew vital programs like Weatherization Assistance. Again, that is so key to so many in States that are cold or very warm in the summer months.

The second subtitle in the bill is focused on renewable energy. When you think about what has happened in the Congressteamred Record — Senate

March 2, 2020
energy sector in a 12-year period, the progress we have made with renewable energy is remarkable. With this provision, we focus on resources like wind, solar, geothermal, hydropower, marine, and hydrokinetic energy, which offer the potential of virtually unlimited energy. By my count, more than 100 renewable technologies have come down in recent years. What we aim to do with our bill is to keep that going so that as we make our energy cleaner and more renewable, it is also more affordable.

The third subtitle in the innovation package focuses on energy storage. We talk a lot about energy storage, and folks look at that as being the holy grail. It really is critical to overcoming the variability of certain renewable resources.

I want to recognize a colleague, my friend here, Senator COLLINS, from the State of Maine. She has been a real leader on this issue. We have taken her legislation, as you called it the Better Energy Storage Act, the BEST Act. We took the BEST Act and included four other bipartisan bills, all focused on storage, to advance these technologies.

Another subtitle within the innovation package captures the entire sector—nuclear, renewable, and storage—technologies that reduce, and even eliminate, greenhouse gas emissions from coal and natural gas plants. Within this subtitle, we reflect both the EFFECT Act, which was sponsored by Senator MANCHIN, as well as the LEADING Act from Senators CORKIN and CASSIDY, and this will help us build on the work that Congress has done to promote CCUS through the Tax Code.

Another area of great focus within the bill is nuclear energy, which is clearly our largest source of emissions-free energy. Here in this country, we created nuclear energy. American ingenuity created nuclear energy, but conventional plants are closing. What has happened is we ceded our global leadership in recent decades. Through my Nuclear Energy Leadership Act, called NELA, the Nuclear Energy Renewal Act from Senator COONS, as well as the Integrated Energy Systems Act from Senator Risch, we seek to restore that leadership for next-generation reactor concepts.

We also support innovation and smart manufacturing for industrial and vehicle technologies, which will help create good jobs in America's heartland. These are some of the toughest sectors for emissions reductions. So in this space, particularly, innovation is really key.

I want to thank our colleague from Rhode Island, Senator WHITEHOUSE, who just left the floor, for his leadership on the Clean Industrial Technologies Act.

The last part of our first title will provide updated direction and authority to the Department of Energy, which is really at the heart of Federal efforts to promote energy innovation. To give a couple of examples here, we renew the popular ARPA-E program, and we improve the Office of Technology Transitions.

Then the second title of the bill is more broadly focused on security and workforce development. We start off with focus on supply chain issues as they relate to minerals themselves. I have included the American Mineral Security Act, which recognizes that our foreign mineral dependence is really our Achilles’ heel. Right now in the United States, we import at least 50 percent of our minerals, including 100 percent of 17 of them.

What we have seen is a foreign dependence that has grown significantly over the recent years. What we seek to do is to take some real steps to reverse that and rebuild our domestic supply chain. If we can do that, everyone from our military to our manufacturers will benefit.

When we think about the securities space, we also have to focus on cybersecurity. What is possible is an effective cyber attack against our Nation’s critical infrastructure, including the electric grid, could have devastating and far-reaching consequences. To guard against that, we provide new mechanisms and incentives to protect our cyber security and modernize the domestic grid.

Then again, when we think about security, we think about economic security through good jobs. We recognize the importance of a well-trained, highly skilled workforce. That is essential to our ability to produce energy, to develop clean technologies, rebuild our domestic supply chain, and ultimately remain a global energy superpower.

To address workforce challenges, we have incorporated several bills from colleagues that will meet the needs of companies and our national labs alike. We are going to focus almost all of the debate on title I, “Innovation,” and title II, “Domestic Security.”

Title III is really my favorite. It is the last title. We call it “Cleaning up the Code.” That is not very fancy, but we are working to repeal a number of sections of law that are either duplicated by the American Energy Innovation Act or simply outdated. We don’t do this often enough. We need to take the stuff off the books. There are reports that are no longer required that are parts of provisions of law that are just not in place; yet somebody out there is assuming we haven’t taken them off the books. Let’s get rid of things that are redundant or outdated.

We repeal old studies. One of the items that we propose is a requirement for motorists to purchase at least $5 when you go to the fuel tank. We are getting rid of that.

We have some other provisions in there that we believe are no longer needed. We did this very carefully. It was not just quickly going through things. We checked with the Department of Energy during both the last administration and this one to ensure they agree these are outdated or duplicative.

As proud as I am of the substance of our committee, I am also very proud of the process that we followed to put it together. I mentioned earlier that, on the Energy Committee, we developed somewhat of a reputation for doing things the old-fashioned way, through regular orders, spending some time in the committee, and really trying to build consensus products so that, when we can come to the floor, we have measures that enjoy broad support from both sides of the aisle.

I think our bill is a textbook example of the benefits of working together across the aisle in a regular order process. It is not quick to do it this way. This is the result of a full year’s worth of hearings, business meetings, and bipartisan negotiations. I think that it is important to highlight what we are doing, on what most of us agree on, rather than those things that will serve to divide us.

I am certainly aware that, even with the strong vote that we just had to proceed, there are Members who plan to support the measure. Some think it has gone too far; others think it doesn’t do enough. I heard from Members who want to add energy tax provisions. I will have an opportunity to express my opposition to that and I will remind colleagues that, when we originate here in the Senate—if there are any tax measures—that results in a blue slip from the House and effectively kills our bill. This is too good a bill to kill.

A few would like to reduce its authorization levels, while others would have us multiply them by 10 times. I think by doing either of this, what you lose is the balance that we have worked very hard to achieve with this. Last point I am going to raise—and just very briefly because I will have plenty of time on the floor and I see we have colleagues here. One criticism I find disappointing is that we are not doing enough in this bill to tackle climate change. I think what is important for Members to know is this package, without question, is a good step, a strong step, a necessary step in the right direction to continue to reduce our Nation’s greenhouse gas emissions. Whether you say we are close to climate change, you can’t get there without innovation. You can’t get there without technology. That is exactly what this bill promotes. To say that perhaps we should not pass a good bill because it doesn’t go far enough, in my view, is a mistake that will result in absolutely nothing happening, and that is not good for anybody.

I am excited to be here. I am proud to be managing a strong bill with the Senator from West Virginia. It is a strong bill that will benefit our economy, our security, our competitiveness, and our environment. I want to thank all the
Members who have contributed to it and who will help us move this forward. I think we have a lot to be proud of. I hope that we will have a productive week in front of us as we begin to work through possible amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I applaud the work of Senator MURKOWSKI, who is perhaps uniquely qualified here to find ways of doing it. Many of you, at dinner tonight, will discuss different families in different ways, but it touches pretty much everyone.

A safe, stable home is the foundation for opportunity. It determines where your kids go to school. It determines how far you have to travel to get to work. It determines whether you can go shopping. It determines whether you feel safe walking around at night.

We know where you live, maybe most importantly, affects the quality of your healthcare. It affects your education, your job opportunities—where you live affects your life expectancy.

Housing stress affects people with all kinds of jobs in all parts of the country. That is why I have been holding roundtables all over my State, beginning last week, to talk with Ohioans about their struggle with housing and what we can do to make it easier for everyone to find and afford a home.

So far, I have done roundtables in Toledo and Youngstown, Western Ohio, and Eastern Ohio. I heard from Ohioans about the challenges that too many people face. We heard about how interconnected housing is with other issues in people's lives. We heard about wages that don't keep up with the cost of living, how housing instability can affect your stress levels and your health, and how hard it can be to get financing to buy a house or start a business in neighborhoods that have been left behind.

In Youngstown and Toledo, we heard about the power shady landlords have on tenants and predatory lease-to-own land contracts. People also talked about how up-front costs aren't just an issue about the down payment you make on buying a home to get a mortgage, but if you rent, you often have to have the first month's rent, last month's rent, and a security deposit. That could be a huge obstacle to so many moderate and low-income families.

Forty percent—this number is stunning—40 percent of Americans say they can't come up with $400 in an emergency. Forty percent of Americans can't come up with $400 in an emergency. When it is that hard for so many people, it affects so many different families in different ways, but it touches pretty much everyone.

We can't untangle many of these issues from the legacy of redlining and decades of bad public policy decisions by Members, I would acknowledge, from both parties, at all levels of government that have sistematically denied people of color the ability to choose where they live and build wealth for homeownership.

More than half of African Americans and Latino renters are spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing. More than half of people of color spend 30 percent or more on their housing, making them much more likely to have a high housing cost burdens than White seniors have had. That means Black and Latino families have less to spend on healthcare, less to spend on food, less to spend on education, less to spend on their communities of color. That means Black and Latino families have less to spend on their communities of color.

We see the same thing when we look at homeownership. The African-American homeownership rate is 40 percent below the White homeownership rate. Analysts have tried to explain this with income and education, but that doesn't tell the whole story. Something more troubling is going on. With everything else being equal, similarly situated African Americans are less likely to own homes than their similarly situated White counterparts. That is a legacy of redlining, and that is a legacy of racial exclusion at work. It may be in every single, important way that African Americans can't own homes. The jobs don't pay much, and they may be part time. People may also cobble together two jobs, but they are still homeless.

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sale, rental, and financing of housing illegal for the first time. It was supposed to set us on the path of being a country in which everyone could find a safe, stable home—regardless of one’s gender and regardless of one’s race—and it would inflict the same kind of damage that was inflicted in small towns or big cities, we cannot just let the administration take away the tools that we have and that we have used for years to try to make this better and to make people’s lives better. If we want to make this country work better for everyone, we cannot shrink from these challenges. When work has dignity and when people live their lives with dignity, everyone can find and afford a safe place to call home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am here on the floor to talk about the legislation that is now before this body. We have an opportunity to proceed with reform to the energy legislation, and we just heard about the legislation from my colleague from Alaska and the President’s colleague from Alaska: Senator MURKOWSKI, who chairs the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The legislation is a good package.

As she said very well, it both helps in terms of the economy and jobs and in terms of the environment. Who would have thought that we would have a whole series of proposals with which to do it. The ones I am going to talk about tonight are the energy efficiency proposals that she talked about. In particular, I am going to talk about a concern I have that the legislation that was offered tonight took out part of our energy-efficiency package, which we hope to add later by amendment, but I want to talk about why it is so important to add it back in.

The argument about energy efficiency is something I have introduced with Senator SHAHEEN, of the great State of New Hampshire, for 9 years now, going back to 2011. Some of it has gotten passed over time, but most of it has not, so we are, once again, bringing it up. The legislation is entitled the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, which is why we commonly call it Portman-Shaheen, because it is shorter.

Our legislation has been voted on by this body before. Back in 2016, it passed the U.S. Senate. It has also passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee five separate times with bipartisan votes. In 2016, the vote was 85 to 12. Again, it was part of a larger package that time.

There is a reason this legislation has received such broad, bipartisan support over the years. It lowers energy bills, which is a good thing. It reduces emissions, and it creates new jobs. It does all without putting any new mandates on the private sector. It provides incentives but not mandates, and that is great news for the working families and businesses, large and small, that I represent.

It accomplishes all this by improving energy efficiency in three key sectors. One is buildings, commercial buildings and residential buildings. The second is the manufacturing sector, of our economy. Then the third is with regard to our U.S. Government.

Residential and commercial buildings, by the way, account for, roughly, 40 percent of the total U.S. energy consumption, which is why it is so important that we have these sections with regard to buildings.

With regard to our industry sector, manufacturers are excited about this legislation because it makes them more just more efficient in terms of energy, but it makes them more competitive globally. That is why the Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers and other groups are strongly supportive of the legislation.

The Federal Government’s part of this bill is also important. Guess what entity uses the most energy in this country—the Federal Government. It is the No. 1 consumer of energy in the United States. We think it is probably the No. 1 consumer in the world. This may not surprise you, but it is not terribly efficient. Our Federal Government sometimes preaches to the rest of us to be efficient, but our own Federal Government is lacking in that.

So this legislation focuses on those three areas and makes a real difference. It moves the needle, as they say. It makes smart improvements to energy efficiency across these sectors.

A recent analysis of Portman-Shaheen found that, over the lifetime of the legislation, the bill will save consumers $51 billion on their energy bills. It will result in an energy savings that is equivalent to the total energy use of all U.S. industry in 1 year, and it will reduce the carbon dioxide emissions—these are CO2 emissions—by the equivalent of taking nearly 4 million cars off the road every single year until 2050.

As Senator MURKOWSKI said very well earlier today, this is about reducing emissions. For those who are concerned about climate change and who want to reduce emissions, energy efficiency is a great way to do it—and, by the way, by creating jobs not eliminating jobs. Pre-vote neddles have told us that our legislation will also add more jobs to the economy. As I say, 100,000 jobs is our estimate.

I must tell you that I am supportive of the package, and I am supportive of what Senator MURKOWSKI said tonight. My disappointment is that the underlying legislation we are debating does not include two provisions in the Portman-Shaheen legislation. Those two provisions are two of the most important ones, for they result in the energy savings I talked about. In the additional jobs I talked about, and in the savings to the taxpayers I talked about.
The first one is what is known as the SAVE Act. Now, the SAVE Act allows the energy savings of an energy-efficient home to be considered when determining the loan amount that a home buyer is qualified for when he goes to get a mortgage. In other words, it helps to immediately offset the cost of a more energy-efficient home by recognizing the reduced energy bill, which is often the second biggest expense a homeowner will incur after the mortgage payment.

This bipartisan legislation was first authored by our friend and former colleague Johnny Isakson, along with Senator MICHAEL BENNET, of Colorado. As a result, Isakson and BENNET and include it in Portman-Shaheen bill. I was pleased to work with Senators Isakson and BENNET and include it in Portman-Shaheen bill. It is not the only important provision that has missed the boat on this package.

Another important section of my energy-efficiency legislation that has been adopted as part of the energy bill is known as the building codes section. This section focuses on providing best practices on how to make homes more energy efficient. We know that one of the most effective ways to ensure that a homeowner's energy bills are affordable is to build a home that is more energy efficient to begin with.

It is important to note at the outset that the building codes we are talking about tonight are well-intentioned under this legislation as voluntary. You are going to hear that a lot tonight. There are no mandates in this legislation of any kind for new homes. It is up to States, local governments, and home buyers to adopt the building code in part or in whole that they deem fit for their communities.

In fact, some States have building energy codes. Some States don’t. Some States adopt what is called the model code, which we will talk about in a minute, and some States have no model code at all that they are going to adopt. In my home State of Ohio, for example, we have adopted parts of the 2009 model building energy code and parts of the 2012 model building energy code. So, instead of mandates or a heavy-handed government approach, this provision we are talking about is an incentive-based, opt-in program that is open, transparent, and cost-effective.

It is not that the mandates haven’t been tried before. Mandated building energy codes and mandated energy savings were included as part of the 2009 energy bill, passed out of the House of Representatives. There was even legislation introduced today over in the House that would impose mandates. Our legislation does not. It takes a much more commonsense approach, in my view, and leaves it up to the States to adopt which, if any, of the model building codes work best for them.

Some of you might not know that these model building codes for commercial and residential buildings are developed and updated not through our government but through an independent organization outside of the Federal Government. They are called residential buildings codes, it is called the International Code Council, or the ICC. Every 3 years, this group, the ICC, conducts a process to update the residential model building energy code. Every 3 years, it is updated.

During that process, many stakeholders, including industry, builders, developers, State code officials, and the Department of Energy, can all weigh in with proposals or endorsements. Then they vote to approve the inclusion of the proposals in the updated code. They all have a vote, including home builders.

Today, the Department of Energy publishes a rulemaking process that just like other stakeholders. It has general authorities to offer and support proposals and to vote on the proposals. It has the authority to set targets to reach a certain percentage of energy savings in the code update. Since 1992, the DOE has had the authority to provide technical assistance and funding for States, local governments, and Tribes that want to update their building code. So that is the current practice. It is not mandatory. The DOE can set targets and can provide technical assistance. However, there have been concerns from some stakeholders that the DOE has adopted a proposal that they do not have the resources or has not adequately considered the costs of proposals and targets. That is why, in this legislation, in addition to codifying much of what the DOE was already doing, our legislation establishes a rulemaking process that requires, for the first time, the DOE to work with States, Tribes, local governments, and other interested stakeholders to set these energy savings targets in advance of the model building code update. We require the DOE to do that.

The purpose of the target is to set an energy savings percentage improvement from one model code to the next. It is intended to be a benchmark for stakeholders to consider when proposing, supporting, and voting on amendments, but it is not mandatory. In response to stakeholders’ concerns that the target might not be cost-effective, they proposed that DOE establish a target that wasn’t cost-effective for home builders, as an example—or that it wasn’t transparent and that what they were doing wasn’t open, our bill also requires DOE to publish the targets. It requires DOE to say “return on investment” analysis, not previously required, and the estimated cost and savings as a result of the target.

So we are forcing DOE to do much more than they do now—to be more transparent, to look at the cost benefit here, and to come up with a cost-effective analysis. Then, at the end of the day, the target itself is nonbinding on the model code process. DOE makes a determination on whether the target was met, and then this group, the ICC, sends their options, which they can choose to accept or reject. They do not have to accept the changes, nor does this model code have to meet the target. So it is not mandatory even at that stage. They set a target, but it is not mandatory for the ICC to adopt it.

It is important to note that the proposed model building code at the end that is ultimately published by the ICC is not an automatic mandate for new buildings. States are encouraged to take a look at the new proposed code and to let DOE know that they have considered the proposed code and determined whether to adopt it or not. Again, some States adopt it, and some States don’t.

So, as you can see, this whole process is one where the recommendation is made, but it is not mandated.

Just as in the current law today, our bill authorizes DOE to provide funding and technical assistance to States to help them update their building codes. But, ultimately, the updated code and whether the States want to consider the updated model code or not is completely nonbinding and voluntary.

I have heard concerns that our legislation will make new homes unaffordable. However, DOE’s analysis found that, for example, if the 2015 code was fully adopted—that was the 2015 code we talked about earlier that Ohio has adopted—it would result in a 33-percent reduction in energy use for that home and cost $2,787 per new home compared to the 2006 code. So, remember, this is a recent model code, 2015. They do it every 3 years. If it had been fully adopted, it would result in a 33-percent reduction in energy use for that family, and yet only an additional cost of $2,787, compared to the previous code.

We also know that these upfront costs are typically financed entirely by these energy savings through the life of the mortgage, which is typically 30 years. So you know there is a little more upfront cost, but a 33-percent reduction in energy use would more than make up for that over the time that the person owned the home. So, ultimately, our legislation is going to ensure that energy efficiency features of a home will continue to save homeowners money throughout the life of the building.

This incentive-based approach to improving energy efficiency in new buildings has bipartisan support from a broad group of stakeholders. In particular, there is strong support for the ICC. The House and Senate Energy and Commerce Committees have adopted a policy stance in support of this code. And technical assistance to States to help them update their building codes.

Our legislation has the support of the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Chemistry Council, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It has the support of commercial and real estate developers, like BOMA and the
Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, last week Templeton Press published an important new book, “How to Educate an American: The Conservative Vision for Tomorrow’s Schools,” edited by the Fordham Institute’s Michael J. Sandel. It’s a great book. It is for MG Al Shoffner, a soldier, leader, and selfless servant, whom we, with profound admiration and deep respect, pay tribute to for all he has done for the defense of our Nation for over three decades.

We thank Major General Shoffner, his wife Carron, and their daughter, Kristin, for their dedication and sacrifice, and we wish them well in the years to come.

REFORMING EDUCATION THE AMERICAN WAY: STATE BY STATE, COMMUNITY BY COMMUNITY

Mr. ALEXANDER. 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 MAJOR GENERAL WILSON A. SHOFFNER

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor MG Wilson A. Shoffner, commanding general of the U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill, OK. Major General Shoffner is one of our Nation’s finest military officers. Major General Shoffner will relinquish command and conduct his retirement ceremony on 6 March 2020, bringing to a close 32 years of distinguished service to our great Nation.

In 1988, Major General Shoffner commissioned as a second lieutenant of field artillery upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He commands units at every echelon, from platoon to the Fires Center of Excellence, with duty in Saudi Arabia, Germany, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the United States. As a young officer, Major General Shoffner deployed with the 1st Cavalry Division in support of OPERATION DESERT STORM. Major General Shoffner commanded 2nd Battalion, 39th Field Artillery Regiment under the 2nd Infantry Division during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. Later, he served as deputy chief of staff, communications, Resolute Support Mission, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, during OPERATION FREEDOM’S SENTINEL in Afghanistan.

As a general officer, Major General Shoffner served as the deputy chief of staff, G-3/5/7, for the Army’s Training and Doctrine Command. He served as the director of the Army’s Talent Management Task Force under the Army G1 and then as the director of operations for Rapid Equipment Fielding under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology. Major General Shoffner’s career culminated as the commanding general of the United States Army’s Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill, where he helped forge the future of the Army’s Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery branches.

Major General Shoffner is an exceptional leader, an American patriot committed to our Armed Forces, our National Security, and our Nation, but most importantly, Major General Shoffner is a character. It is for MG Al Shoffner, a soldier, leader, and selfless servant, whom we, with profound admiration and deep respect, pay tribute to for all he has done for the defense of our Nation for over three decades.

We thank Major General Shoffner, his wife Carron, and their daughter, Kristin, for their dedication and sacrifice, and we wish them well in the years to come.

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list of priorities: progressive education wants to liberate the student to be himself or herself, Levin writes, while conservative education wants to form the student to be better suited to the responsibilities of citizenship.

After embracing citizenship and character, the book hangs in their emphases. Several show a healthy competition, but for its limits. There is a shout-out for career and technical education. Bennett's chapter is the most persuasive. He argues that content must be at the center of any conservative consensus on education. He reminds us that in the early conservativism, conservative education leading a content crusade with E.D. Hirsch and Governors John Engler, Tommy Thompson, and Jeb Bush as well as Bennett himself as chief architects. This movement was called (shall we whisper it?) “Common Core.” This state-by-state reformation of school standards and curricula was well underway when the Obama administration tried to push it faster by making Common Core a quasi-federal mandate. Republicans imagined black helicopters flying. What conservatives had invented, many Republican legislators had voted into state law, and hundreds of thousands of classroom teachers in force. As they expected they’d teaching was suddenly condemned and abandoned . . . by conservatives.

This abandonment was less complete than it seemed. Last year, our daughter’s family lived with us in Tennessee while her home was being remodeled. She placed two sons in a nearby mountain elementary school. When the boys returned home to their Westchester County, New York, public school, I asked, “Did they have trouble adjusting?” “Nope,” she said, “Common Core here, too.” Many states simply renamed Common Core to avoid political flak and charged ahead. One advocate told me, “We won. But we’re not allowed to say so.” The backlash to Common Core brings me to the most obvious mission missing from this volume’s conservative agenda: local control of schools. America was created by community. The initiative for American public schools was entirely at the local level, Marc Tucker has written. He termed this an “accident of localism.” I have noted in my public writing trying to preserve this localism. To begin with, federalism—the dispersal of central authority—is a crucial pillar of American liberty. Our revolution after all was mostly about distributing power to the people. As a practical matter, my experience is that those governing education from a distance have good intentions but limited capacity and that schools can be only as good as parents, teachers, and citizens in a community want them to be. The saga of Common Core is the greatest proof of this pudding. Here was a conservative crusade—new rigor in what students needed to know—blown up by conservatives’ fear that Washington was forcing them to do it. The Common Core federal directive was piled on top of other dictates from Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama on how to define standards, teaching, tests, curricula, and remedies for low-performing schools. Almost everyone in public schools became sick of Washington telling them what to do. So in 2012, teacher unions and governors united to help Congress enact the “Every Student Succeeds Act,” which the Wall Street Journal said was “the largest devolution of federal control to the states in a quarter century.”

Now, after the rise and fall of a national school board, our one hundred thousand public school boards the same balance between federal leadership and state and local autonomy that existed during the George H. W. Bush administration. Once again, we have it about right. Thirty years ago, President Bush and the governors set the nation’s first national education goals and then launched an “America 2000” initiative to help states meet those goals by creating voluntary standards, voluntary tests, and start-from-scratch schools. This was the done the hard way, state by state, community by community—not by federal mandates. Today’s environment is ripe for a revival of a content-based conservative consensus, or in Bill Bennett’s words, “a great relearning,” the best way for our public schools to help our country get where we want it to go. But this time, let’s avoid the lure of federal mandates and do the job the American way: state by state, community by community.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT S. FRASER

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to celebrate Robert S. Fraser’s retirement from the Federal Government after 50 years of faithful service to our country.

Mr. Fraser traveled for over 40 years with the U.S. Air Force, both as a dependent and serving on active duty. He attended the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he graduated in 1973 and received the Outstanding Cadet in Engineering Sciences. In 1993, he retired as a major in the U.S. Air Force and began a distinguished career at the Department of Defense’s Industrial Security Agency, where he received multiple achievements and awards. Throughout his career, Mr. Fraser has had a selfless dedication to duty and professionalism.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DR. PARTHASARATHY VASUDEVAN

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Parthasarathy Vasudevan, who passed away on December 31, 2019. Dr. Vasudevan was a local medical leader in Phillips County who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for those around him.

Dr. Vasudevan was a physician specializing in Urology in Helena, AR, with demand by his patients, and his deeply respected legacy will transcend time. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Dr. Vasudevan’s loved ones, his patients, and Phillips County citizens. We pray his remarkable example inspires many future Arkansas leaders.

RECOGNIZING THE ALEXANDER ROBOTICS TEAM

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, the students on the robotics team in the small northwestern North Dakota town of Alexander set a goal at the beginning of this school year to win their State competition. Their determination and hard work paid off in February, and northern Alexander FIRST Robotics team "FIRST Tech Challenge Team #9963 is preparing to represent North Dakota in the world championship competition. FIRST is the acronym for the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology organization, which plans the annual competitions between schools. There, the students build and program robots to perform challenging tasks and then compete with other teams.

Robotics competition is growing in popularity in schools because it provides an ideal opportunity for young people to apply their knowledge of STEM subjects. It also teaches valuable life skills like communication, creativity, and collaboration and opens up countless doors of opportunity for the future.

While new to some schools, the Alexander students have participated in the North Dakota championship competition for the past 5 years. Each year, they have brought home a trophy from one of the categories. For this year’s competition, these future engineers built and programmed a robot they
nicknamed “Spiderbot,” which competed against other robots, doing tasks like maneuvering under bridges and stacking blocks on a plate.

This progressive small town of less than 500 residents is preparing its students for 21st-century careers by fostering robotics as a career and technical education course for credit at the school. The success of this program is due in large part to the support and encouragement from many, including school administrators, teachers, volunteers, and parents.

To the students on the Alexander Robotics Team, their adviser Cathy White, and all who support them, I send my congratulations on becoming State champions. They are an inspiration to so many with their knowledge and passion. North Dakota will be watching as they compete in the world championships in Detroit in late April. I have a feeling we will be learning much more from all of them in future careers as successful engineers and entrepreneurs.

RECOGNIZING THE GATHERING PLACE

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today I am pleased to honor The Gathering Place located in Bonner’s Ferry as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for March 2020.

In 2006, Norv and Sharon Skrivseth founded Sharon’s Country Store as a thriving storefront providing local jobs and opportunities to the Bonners Ferry community. Eventually, Sharon’s Country Store expanded to include the Bread Basket Bakery in 2014 and the 3-Mile Produce market in 2016. As the business grew, friends and customers started referring to the stores as “The Gathering Place,” and the Skrivseths happily embraced the new title.

Today, The Gathering Place continues to be run by Norv, Sharon, and their six children. With the motto “Come, Sit, and Stay Awhile,” the businesses continue to attract locals and travelers alike with its wide array of homegrown products, fresh food, and produce. The Skrivseths’ warm hospitality and a commitment to service translates not only into a superior experience for their customers, but also into strong community engagement. Norv is considered by many in the Bonners Ferry community, often donating to various charitable causes and school events throughout the area. Success stories like that of The Gathering Place demonstrate why Idaho is consistently ranked one of the best places in the country to do business.

Congratulations to Norv, Sharon, and all of the employees of The Gathering Place on being selected as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for March 2020. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.

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

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2339. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the sale and marketing of tobacco products, and for other purposes.
H.R. 2819. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the sale and marketing of tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2339. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the sale and marketing of tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.
H.R. 2819. An act to extend the authority for the sale of commemorative work in honor of Gold Star Mothers Families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:
EC–4099. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Temporary General License Validity” (RIN 09694–AH97) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 21, 2020, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.
EC–4100. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amended General License for Russia and Yemen under the Export Administration Regulations” (RIN 09694–AH98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.
EC–4101. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Capital Rule: Revisions to the Supplementary Leverage Ratio To Exclude Certain Central Bank Deposits of Banking Organizations Predominantly Engaged in Custody, Safekeeping, and Asset Servicing Activities” (RIN3069–AB8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.
EC–4102. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Annual Update of Filing Fees” (RIN0962–AP98 (Docket No. RM20–3–000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
EC–4103. A communication from the Chief of Policy, Regulation and Analysis, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2020 Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment for Oil, Gas, and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf” (RIN0998–AD99) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 21, 2020, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
EC–4104. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “District of Columbia: Negative Declaration for the Oil and Gas Industry 2015 Control Technique Guideline” (FRL No. 10005–75–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2020, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.
EC–4105. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Procedures for Review of CBI Claims for the Identity of Chemicals on the ‘TSCA Inventory’” (FRL No. 10005–48–OCSPS) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2020, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.
EC–4106. A communication from the Chief of the Publication and the Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revenue Procedure for Posting of Chart of Accounts” (263A from 263A(d) (3) to 263A(1)) (Rev. Procs. 2020–13) received in the Office of the President of
the Senate on February 25, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4107. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removing Inability to Communicate in English as an Education Category” (RIN 2445–AC45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4108. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to sections 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to Italy, Japan, Finland, the Netherlands, and Norway for the design and development of composite components for the manufacture of subassemblies for the F–35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter Center Fuselage in the amount of $50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDT–19–093); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4109. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of five recommendations adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 72nd Plenary Session; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4110. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2020–5, Small Entity Compliance Guide” ((48 CFR Ch. I) (FAC 2020–05)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4111. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2020–05, Introduction” ((48 CFR Ch. I) (FAC 2020–05)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4112. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2020–05, Parts 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 19, 42, and 52” (FAC 2020–05)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.


EC–4115. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitted, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Twenty Percent of ODCA Recommendations Implemented by the Office of Management and Budget on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs”.

EC–4116. A communication from the Associate Director, Office of General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4117. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Code of Federal Regulations” ((48 CFR 2019–074)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4118. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of the HUBZone Program, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “HUBZone Program in the Designation of Covered Areas” (RIN 3245–AI06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–4119. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of the HUBZone Program, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Small Business Size Standards: Calculation of Annual Average Receipts” (RIN 3245–AI06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 21, 2020; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–4120. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Office of Women’s Business Ownership: Women’s Business Center Program” (RIN 3245–AG02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 21, 2020; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–4121. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Women’s Business Ownership, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Office of Women’s Business Ownership: Women’s Business Center Program” (RIN 3245–AG02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 21, 2020; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–4122. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Incorporation by Reference; North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria; Hazardous Materials Safety Permits” (RIN 31284–A285) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4123. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Amendments Implementing the Cybersecurity Executive Order 13850, Authority Act of 2018” (RIN 30970–AC77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4124. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Improving Outage Reporting for Submarine Cable Data” (47 CFR 2019–072) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4125. A communication from the Manager, Procurement and Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Code of Federal Regulations; Administrative Provisions” (RIN3245–AG07; Amendment Nos. 40; Amendment No. 3889) ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31292)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4126. A communication from the Manager, Procurement and Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Code of Federal Regulations; Administrative Provisions” (RIN3245–AG07; Amendment Nos. 40; Amendment No. 3889) ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31292)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4127. A communication from the Manager, Procurement and Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Code of Federal Regulations; Administrative Provisions” (RIN3245–AG07; Amendment Nos. 40; Amendment No. 3889) ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31292)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4128. A communication from the Manager and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives: The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2129–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0700)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4129. A communication from the Manager and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives: Dassault Aviation Airplanes” ((RIN2129–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0700)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4130. A communication from the Manager and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives: Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes” ((RIN2129–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0714)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4131. A communication from the Manager and Program Analyst, Federal
Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes (RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0670)’ received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2020, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4132. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes (RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0668)’ received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2020, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4133. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes (Office of Safety and Assurance) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0670)’ received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2020, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4134. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corpora-

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–186. A concurrent resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio urging the United States Congress to encourage the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration to provide comprehensive, informative, and regularly updated safety performance data; and

Whereas, SMS data is used to make safety-hazardous decisions using all available sources of information; and

Whereas, The Crash Indicator BASIC includes data concerning all state-reported crashes regardless of the driver’s role in the crash; and

Whereas, By including crashes in which a carrier or driver was not at fault, the current data creates an inaccurate, incriminating, and imbalanced portrayal of the carrier’s or driver’s crash record, with the potential for devastating personal and business consequences for otherwise upstanding and safe carriers and drivers: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the 116th Congress of the United States, urge the Congress of the United States to encourage the Administrator of the FMCSA to change the Crash Indicator BASIC regulation standards to consider only crashes in which the driver was at fault for the crash; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit copies of this resolution to the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States, the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the media.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES FROM FEBRUARY 27, 2020

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 2712. A bill 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 (Rept. No. 116–218).

A bill to authorize the United States Code to extend the authority of the Secretary of Transportation to issue non-premium aviation insurance (Rept. No. 116–219).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1389. A bill to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justification and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available (Rept. No. 116–220).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 2964. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–218).

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 Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3367. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to establish a Diversity Advisory Group to study and make recommendations on strategies to increase gender, race and ethnic diversity among the members of the board of directors of issuers, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require issuers to make disclosures to shareholders with respect to gender, racial, and ethnic diversity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. BARRASO):

S. 3368. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to set the rate of pay for employees of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection in accordance with the General Schedule; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3369. A bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 3370. A bill to conduct or support further comprehensive research for the creation of a universal coronavirus vaccine; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3371. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to create a database of owners of properties receiving tenant-based assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. TSAI and Mrs. HAWLEY, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 3372. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for treatment of certain respiratory protective devices as covered countermeasures for purposes of targeted liability protections for pandemic and epidemic products and security countermeasures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 3373. A bill to clarify low or no emission vehicle project eligibility for bus and bus facility competitive grants; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. Res. 521. A resolution condemning the practice of politically motivated imprisonment, calling for the immediate release of political prisoners in the Russian Federation, and urging action by the United States Government to impose sanctions with respect to persons responsible for that form of human rights abuse; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 523. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should continue to support the people of Nicaragua in their peaceful efforts to promote the restoration of democracy and the defense of human rights, and use the tools under United States law to increase political and economic pressure on the government of Daniel Ortega; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

By Mr. BARRASO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 383, a bill to support carbon dioxide utilization and direct air capture research, to facilitate the permitting and development of carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration projects and carbon dioxide pipelines, and for other purposes.

By Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

By Mr. BARRASO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 670, a bill to make daylight savings time permanent, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 701, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program, and for other purposes.

By Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 959, a bill to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, and for other purposes.

S. 1071.

By Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1081, 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.

S. 1082.

By Mr. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1082, a bill to prevent discrimination and harassment in employment.

S. 1273.

By Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to amend title XVII of the Social Security Act to establish an alternative dispute resolution program for copyright small claims, and for other purposes.

S. 1280.

By Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1280, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility, to simplify and modernize the eligibility enrollment process, and for other purposes.

S. 1330.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1330, a bill to amend the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 to clarify whistleblower rights and protections, and for other purposes.

S. 1473.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1473, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to set maximum contaminant levels for certain chemicals, and for other purposes.

S. 1490.

By Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1490, a bill to amend the General Education Provisions Act to allow
the release of education records to fa-
cilitate the award of a recognized post-
secondary credential.

At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the
name of the Senator from North Caro-
line (Mr. Tillis) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2511, a bill to amend sec-
tion 287 of the Immigration and Na-

tionality Act to limit immigration en-
forcement actions at sensitive loca-
tions, to clarify the powers of immigra-
tion officers at such locations, and for
other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Kennedy, the
name of the Senator from Colorado
(Mr. Gardner) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2247, a bill to amend titles XI
and XVIII of the Social Security Act to
provide greater transparency of dis-
counts provided by drug manufactur-
ers, to establish requirements relating
to pharmacy-negotiated price conces-
sions, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the
name of the Senator from Maryland
(Mr. Van Hollen) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2438, a bill to prevent,
treat, and cure tuberculosis globally.

At the request of Mr. Braun, the
names of the Senator from Arkansas
(Mr. Boozman) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Burr) were added as cosponsors of S. 2590, a bill to pro-
defend the dignity of fetal remains, and for
other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the
name of the Senator from North Da-

kota (Mr. Cramer) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2621, a bill to provide for
the restoration of legal rights for
claimants under Holocaust-era insur-
ance policies.

At the request of Mr. Coons, his
name was added as a cosponsor of S.
2699, a bill to amend the Federal Elec-
tion Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify
the obligation to report acts of foreign
election influence and require imple-
mentation of compliance and reporting
systems by Federal campaigns to de-
tect and report such acts, and for other
purposes.

At the request of Mr. Cardin, the
name of the Senator from Michigan
(Ms. Stabenow) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2687, a bill to amend the Safe
顺Kink Act of 1990, the Federal Water
Pollution Control Act to estab-
lish pilot programs to assist low-in-
come households in maintaining access
to sanitation services and drinking
water, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Crapo, the
name of the Senator from South Da-

kota (Mr. Thune) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2794, a bill to provide for
the creation of the Missing Armed
Forces Personnel Records Collection at
the National Archives, to require the
expenses of a public disclosure by the
Archivist and public disclosure of Miss-

ing Armed Forces Personnel records, and
for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Capito, the
names of the Senator from Maine (Ms.
Collins) and the Senator from West
Virginia (Mr. Manchin) were added as
cosponsors of S. 2842, a bill to amend
title XVIII of the Social Security Act
and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018
to expand and expedite access to car-
diac rehabilitation and pul-

monary rehabilitation programs under
the Medicare program, and for other
purposes.

At the request of Mr. Perdue, the
name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.
Perdue) was added as a cosponsor of S.
3129, a bill to provide for certain re-
forms with respect to the Medicare pro-
gram under title XVIII of the Social
Security Act, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Crapo, the
name of the Senator from Connecticut
(Mr. Murphy) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 3146, a bill to amend
the Family Educational Rights and
Privacy Act to provide protections for
health insurance con-
sumers from surprise billing.

The public health service act to pro-
provide protections for health insurance con-
sumers from surprise billing.

At the request of Mr. Young, the
name of the Senator from Utah (Ms.
Sensenbrenner) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2975, a bill to prevent the
spread of aquatic invasive species in
western waters, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Bennet, the
name of the Senator from Colorado
(Mr. Gardner) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2975, a bill to prevent the
spread of aquatic invasive species in
western waters, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Peters, the
names of the Senator from Arkansas
(Mr. Boozman) and the Senator from
Colorado (Mr. Gardner) were added as
cosponsors of S. 2974, a bill to require
the Postmaster General to establish a
comprehensive organizational strategy
to combat the use of the mail in the
distribution of illicit drugs.

At the request of Mr. Nelson, the
name of the Senator from Delaware
(Mr. Coons) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2949, a bill to direct the Secre-
tary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to
groups of organizations to provide serv-
dice dogs to veterans with severe post-
traumatic stress disorder, and for other
purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Fischer, the
name of the Senator from Delaware
(Mr. Coons) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2949, a bill to direct the Secretary
of Veterans Affairs to make grants to
groups of organizations to provide serv-
dice dogs to veterans with severe post-
traumatic stress disorder, and for other
purposes.

At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the
name of the Senator from North Caro-
line (Mr. Tillis) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2511, a bill to amend sec-
tion 287 of the Immigration and Na-

tionality Act to limit immigration en-
forcement actions at sensitive loca-
tions, to clarify the powers of immigra-
tion officers at such locations, and for
other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the
name of the Senator from Maryland
(Mr. Van Hollen) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2438, a bill to prevent,
treat, and cure tuberculosis globally.

At the request of Mr. Braun, the
names of the Senator from Arkansas
(Mr. Boozman) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Burr) were added as cosponsors of S. 2590, a bill to pro-
defend the dignity of fetal remains, and for
other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the
name of the Senator from North Da-

kota (Mr. Cramer) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2621, a bill to provide for
the restoration of legal rights for
claimants under Holocaust-era insur-
ance policies.

At the request of Mr. Coons, his
name was added as a cosponsor of S.
2699, a bill to amend the Federal Elec-
tion Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify
the obligation to report acts of foreign
election influence and require imple-
mentation of compliance and reporting
systems by Federal campaigns to de-
tect and report such acts, and for other
purposes.

At the request of Mr. Cardin, the
name of the Senator from Michigan
(Ms. Stabenow) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2687, a bill to amend the Safe
顺Kink Act of 1990, the Federal Water
Pollution Control Act to estab-
lish pilot programs to assist low-in-
come households in maintaining access
to sanitation services and drinking
water, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Crapo, the
name of the Senator from South Da-

kota (Mr. Thune) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2794, a bill to provide for
the creation of the Missing Armed
Forces Personnel Records Collection at
the National Archives, to require the
expenses of a public disclosure by the
Archivist and public disclosure of Miss-

ing Armed Forces Personnel records, and
for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Capito, the
names of the Senator from Maine (Ms.
Collins) and the Senator from West
Virginia (Mr. Manchin) were added as
cosponsors of S. 2842, a bill to amend
title XVIII of the Social Security Act
and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018
to expand and expedite access to car-
diac rehabilitation and pul-

monary rehabilitation programs under
the Medicare program, and for other
purposes.

At the request of Mr. Perdue, the
name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.
Perdue) was added as a cosponsor of S.
3129, a bill to provide for certain re-
forms with respect to the Medicare pro-
gram under title XVIII of the Social
Security Act, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Crapo, the
name of the Senator from Connecticut
(Mr. Murphy) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 3146, a bill to amend
the Family Educational Rights and
Privacy Act to provide protections for
health insurance con-
sumers from surprise billing.

The public health service act to pro-
provide protections for health insurance con-
sumers from surprise billing.

At the request of Mr. Young, the
name of the Senator from Utah (Ms.
Sensenbrenner) was added as a co-
sponsor of S. 2975, a bill to prevent the
spread of aquatic invasive species in
western waters, and for other purposes.
(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3146, a bill to ensure a fair process for negotiations of collective bargaining agreements under chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code.

S. 3167

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STabenow) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3167, a bill to prohibit discrimination based on an individual’s texture or style of hair.

S. 3173

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

S. 3190

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow) were added as cosponsors of S. 3339, a bill to restore military priorities, and for other purposes.

S. 3340

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEARY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3194, a bill to establish a program ensuring access to accredited continuing medical education for primary care physicians and other health care providers at Federally-qualified health centers and rural health clinics, to provide training and clinical support for primary care providers to practice at their full scope and improve access to care for patients in underserved areas.

S. 3341

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 3358

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3358, 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 skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. 3366

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Daines) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 3392

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3392, a resolution calling on the Government of Cameroon and armed separatist groups to respect the human rights of all Cameroonians citizens, to end all violence, and to pursue an inclusive dialogue to resolve the conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions.

S. 3393

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STabENoW) were added as cosponsors of S. 3252, a bill to prohibit chemical abortions performed without the presence of a healthcare provider, and for other purposes.

S. 3221

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Cortez Masto) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Cramer) were added as cosponsors of S. 3221, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modernize certain processes regarding expulsion of credit union members for cause, and for other purposes.

S. 3393

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow) were added as cosponsors of S. 3393, a bill to restore military priorities, and for other purposes.

S. 3341

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 3390

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3390, 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 skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. 3396

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Daines) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3396, 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.

S. 3392

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3392, a resolution calling on the Government of Cameroon and armed separatist groups to respect the human rights of all Cameroonians citizens, to end all violence, and to pursue an inclusive dialogue to resolve the conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions.

S. 3252

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Cortez Masto) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Cramer) were added as cosponsors of S. 3221, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modernize certain processes regarding expulsion of credit union members for cause, and for other purposes.

S. 3221

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Cortez Masto) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Cramer) were added as cosponsors of S. 3393, a bill to restore military priorities, and for other purposes.

S. 3393

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STabENoW) were added as cosponsors of S. 3393, a bill to restore military priorities, and for other purposes.

S. 3341

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 3390

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3390, 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 skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. 3396

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Daines) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3396, 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.

S. 3392

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3392, a resolution calling on the Government of Cameroon and armed separatist groups to respect the human rights of all Cameroonians citizens, to end all violence, and to pursue an inclusive dialogue to resolve the conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions.
in peaceful demonstrations, in a ruling Human Rights Watch has described as “an outrageous violation of the right to peaceful protest”.

Whereas Anastasia Shevchenko, an activist in the Open Russia movement, has been held under house arrest since January 23, 2019, on the charge of belonging to an “undesirable organization” and has been ignored by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience;

Whereas Yevgeniy Mitryev, a historian and the leader of the Memorial Human Rights Center’s branch in the Republic of Karelia who has worked to document mass burial sites of political prisoners held in pretrial detention on charges of child pornography that Human Rights Watch has described as “bogus” and part of an ongoing “smear campaign”;

Whereas Dennis Christensen, a Jehovah’s Witness and a citizen of Denmark, was sentenced to 6 years’ imprisonment on February 6, 2019, in a decision condemned by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom as part of the broader pattern of the Government of the Russian Federation to intimidate or tolerate severe violations of religious freedom;

Whereas, on February 10, 2020, a court in Penza sentenced 7 activists to prison terms ranging from 6 to 10 years for participation in what authorities alleged was a terrorist organization called “Network” after a trial marked by incommunicado detention, torture, and a failure to extradite prisoners, in what Human Rights Watch has described as an example of the Russian authorities “abusing counterterrorism laws to silence critics and deny fundamental human rights”;

Whereas, on June 18, 2018, the Department of State determined that the Russian Federation is deeply concerned by the growing number of individuals identified by credible human rights organizations as political and religious prisoners held by the Government of the Russian Federation and called on the Government of the Russian Federation “to release all those identified as political or religious prisoners immediately and cease its use of the legal system to suppress dissent and peaceful religious practice’’;

Whereas, on January 28, 2020, 43 parliamentarians from 14 European countries introduced a resolution in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe calling for the appointment of a rapporteur by the Council of Europe to the group of politically motivated imprisonments in the Russian Federation’’; and

Whereas, according to the Memorial Human Rights Center, the number of political prisoners in the Russian Federation has increased more than 6-fold since 2015: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for those unjustly imprisoned in the Russian Federation;

(2) urges the Russian Federation to immediately release all political prisoners in the Russian Federation, including Aleksey3. Shevchenko, Konstantin Kotov, Anastasia Shevchenko, Yuri Dmitriev, and Dennis Christensen;

(3) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release political prisoners, including Alexey Pichugin, the Russian Federation to international legal standard of crimes against humanity;

Whereas an estimated 82,000 Nicaraguans fled the country between April 2018 and October 2018, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and

Whereas, in the absence of such steps, the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury have imposed targeted sanctions on Nicaraguan officials and entities, including First Lady and Vice President Rosario Murillo, Daniel Ortega’s sons, Rafael Ortega Murillo and Laureano Ortega Murillo, and Nicaragua’s Banco Corporativo (Bancorp);

Whereas, on June 26, 2019, the Government of Nicaragua engaged in outrageous violation of the right to peaceful protest;

Whereas the government of Daniel Ortega has severely restricted freedom of the press by closing five local television stations, attacking independent journalists, arbitrarily detaining journalists, and arbitrarily restricting print supplies from entering the country;

Whereas, beginning on November 14, 2019, Nicaraguan police conducted attacks on churches throughout the country, cut water to hunger strikers barricaded inside a church in Masaya, and arrested 13 people attempting to bring them water;

Whereas doctors, lawyers, academics, and other professionals in Nicaragua face persecution and, in some cases torture, based on suspicion of aiding or sympathizing with protestors;

Whereas the Ortega regime has violated the economic and political rights of indigenous communities, Afro-descendent populations, rural campesinos, land rights defenders, and individuals living in the Caribbean Autonomous indigenous Communities (COICA);

Whereas the Ortega regime has violated and continued to violate international legal standard of crimes against humanity; and

Whereas, on November 27, 2018, Executive Order 13851 was issued, which blocks the property of certain persons involved in the Nicaraguan crisis, in Nicaragua, which was expanded by the Office of Foreign Asset Control of the Department of the Treasury on September 4, 2019;

Whereas the bipartisan Nicaraguan Human Rights and Anticorruption Act of 2018 (Pub- lic Law 115–355; commonly referred to as the “NICA Act”) was signed into law on December 20, 2018, imposing sanctions against officials of the Ortega regime and the Nicaraguan government by international financial institutions and requiring the President to sanction non-United States persons implicated in serious human rights abuses and corruption in Nicaragua;

Whereas the NICA Act expresses the support of Congress for a negotiated solution to the Nicaraguan crisis and includes an annual certification to waive sanctions if the Ortega government takes steps to restore democratic governance and uphold human rights; and

Whereas, on August 6, 2019, the Nicaraguan government took steps to restore democratic governance and uphold fundamental human rights.

Whereas, in the absence of such steps, the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury have imposed targeted sanctions, including First Lady and Vice President Rosario Murillo, Daniel Ortega’s sons, Rafael Ortega Murillo and Laureano Ortega Murillo, and Nicaragua’s Banco Corporativo (Bancorp);

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Government of Nicaragua to immediately release all political prisoners without conditions and cease all acts of violence, repression, and intimidation against dissenting voices in Nicaragua;

(2) urges the Joint Committee on Foreign Relations to request Nicaragua’s constitutional rights and implement the electoral reforms mentioned
above in order to permit the holding of free, fair, and transparent elections; (3) encourages the United States Government to align United States sanctions with diplomatic efforts to advance electoral reforms that could lead to free, fair, and transparent elections in Nicaragua; (4) expresses full support for the people of Nicaragua, their democratic ideals, independent media, and Nicaraguan civil society organizations that are working for a peaceful return to democratic order in Nicaragua; (5) supports the efforts of the United States Government to apply pressure on the Ortega government in order to hold accountable those actors involved in human rights abuses and to prevent significant progress toward the undermining of democratic institutions in Nicaragua; (6) urges the international community to hold the Ortega government accountable for human rights abuses and to restrict its access to foreign financing unless or until it allows for free, fair, and transparent elections monitored by credible international and local electoral observers; and (7) urges the United States Government to investigate and hold accountable those responsible for the killing of Eddie Montes, a United States citizen and Navy veteran, who was shot and killed while in the custody of the Nicaraguan police at La Modelo Prison on May 16, 2018.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1327. Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table; (1) ‘‘momentum in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1328. Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1329. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1330. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1331. Mr. MKPKEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASHY, Mr. DURHAM, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1332. Mr. MKPKEY (for himself and Mr. WARRHEUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1333. Mr. MKPKEY (for himself, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WARRHEUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1334. Mr. MURPH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1335. Mr. MURPH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1336. Mr. MURPH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1337. Ms. HARRIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1338. Ms. HARRIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1339. Mr. HIROGD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1341. Mrs. GILLBRAND (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1342. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1343. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1344. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1327. Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table; (1) ‘‘momentum in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SEC. 18. SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY AND ASSISTANCE.
Section 1003 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16393) is amended— (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ‘‘the activities described in paragraph (2)’’— (A) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means— (i) the Director of each National Laboratory; and (ii) the Director of each single-purpose research facility.

SEC. 2657. SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY AND ASSISTANCE.
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SEC. 2657. SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY AND ASSISTANCE.
Section 1003 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16393) is amended— (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ‘‘the activities described in paragraph (2)’’— (A) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means— (i) the Director of each National Laboratory; and (ii) the Director of each single-purpose research facility.
At the end of subtitle H of title I, insert the following:

SEC. 18. IMPACT FOR ENERGY FOUNDATION.

(a) Establishment.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1, 2021, the Secretary shall establish a nonprofit corporation to be known as the “IMFACT for Energy Foundation” (referred to in this section as the “Foundation”).

(2) A Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and (or) laboratories and facilities of the Department; and (or) nonprofit organizations.

(c) Communities, including—

(i) nonprofit organizations;

(ii) the business community;

(iii) the communities surrounding the laboratories and facilities of the Department; and

(iv) the technology transfer and commercialization community.

(d) Restriction on membership.—No employee of the Department shall be appointed as a member of the board of directors.

(e) Purpose.—The purpose of the Foundation is to channel private sector investments that support efforts to create, develop, and commercialize innovative technologies that address energy challenges by methods that include—

(A) fostering collaboration and partnerships with researchers from the Federal Government, State governments, institutions of higher education, federally funded research and development centers, industry, and nonprofit organizations for the research, development, or commercialization of transformative energy technologies;

(B) supporting transformative energy technologies by supporting new product development that supports regional economic development; and

(C) administering prize competitions to accelerate private sector competition and investment.

(f) Activities.—

(A) In general.—The Foundation may solicit gifts, grants, and other donations, establish accounts, and invest and expend funds in support of the activities and programs described in subparagraphs (B) through (D).

(B) Studies, competitions, and projects.—The Foundation may conduct and support studies, competitions, projects, and other activities that further the purposes of the Foundation described in paragraph (1). (C) Fellowships and grants.—

(i) Award.—The Foundation may award fellowships and grants for activities relating to research, development, prototyping, manufacturing, or commercializing of energy technologies.

(ii) Form of award.—A fellowship or grant under clause (i) may consist of a stipend, health insurance benefits, funds for travel, and funds for other appropriate expenses.

(iii) Length of award.—A fellowship or grant under clause (i) shall be an agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government.

(b) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Foundation.

(c) NONPROFIT STATUS.—The Foundation shall be an organization described in section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code.

(d) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall operate under a board of directors.

(B) Initial appointment.—The initial appointment of the board of directors shall be facilitated by the Secretary.

(C) Composition.—To the maximum extent practicable, the board of directors shall include representatives from a diverse range of communities, including—

(i) the academic community;

(ii) the business community;

(iii) nonprofit organizations;

(iv) the communities surrounding the laboratories and facilities of the Department; and

(v) the technology transfer and commercialization community.

(d) Restriction on membership.—No employee of the Department shall be appointed as a member of the board of directors.

(e) Purpose.—The purpose of the Foundation is to channel private sector investments that support efforts to create, develop, and commercialize innovative technologies that address energy challenges by methods that include—

(A) fostering collaboration and partnerships with researchers from the Federal Government, State governments, institutions of higher education, federally funded research and development centers, industry, and nonprofit organizations for the research, development, or commercialization of transformative energy technologies;

(B) supporting transformative energy technologies by supporting new product development that supports regional economic development; and

(C) administering prize competitions to accelerate private sector competition and investment.

(f) Activities.—

(A) In general.—The Foundation may solicit gifts, grants, and other donations, establish accounts, and invest and expend funds in support of the activities and programs described in subparagraphs (B) through (D).

(B) Studies, competitions, and projects.—The Foundation may conduct and support studies, competitions, projects, and other activities that further the purposes of the Foundation described in paragraph (1). (C) Fellowships and grants.—

(i) Award.—The Foundation may award fellowships and grants for activities relating to research, development, prototyping, manufacturing, or commercializing of energy technologies.

(ii) Form of award.—A fellowship or grant under clause (i) may consist of a stipend, health insurance benefits, funds for travel, and funds for other appropriate expenses.

(iii) Length of award.—A fellowship or grant under clause (i) shall be an agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government.

At the end of title I, insert the following:

SEC. 1. TREE PLANTING GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Eligible cost.—The term “eligible cost” means, with respect to a project—

(A) the cost of implementing the project, including—

(i) planning and designing the planting activity;

(ii) purchasing trees; and

(iii) preparing the site and conducting planting activities, including the labor and cost associated with the use of machinery;

(B) the cost of maintaining and monitoring planted trees for a period of up to 3 years to ensure successful establishment of the trees;

(C) the cost of training activities associated with the project; and

(D) any other relevant cost, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) Eligible entity.—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a State agency;

(B) a local governmental entity; (C) an Indian Tribe; (D) a nonprofit organization; and (E) a retail power provider.

(b) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(c) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(d) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(f) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(g) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(h) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(i) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(j) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(k) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(l) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(m) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(n) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(o) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(p) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(q) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(r) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(s) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(t) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(u) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(v) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(w) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(x) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(y) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(z) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (d)) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter.
(2) TREE PLANTING.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, award sufficient grants each year to plant not less than 200,000 trees; and

(c) APPLICATIONS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that seeks to receive a grant under the Program shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such form, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including the information described in paragraph (b).

(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—
(A) a description of how the project will reduce the costs associated with tree planting; and
(B) a description of the anticipated community and stakeholder engagement in the project.

(3) A description of the tree species to be planted and how that species is suitable for the local environmental conditions and climate; and
(D) any other relevant information required by the Secretary.

(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the Program, the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—
(1) provide the largest potential reduction in residential energy consumption for households with energy burdens;
(2) are located in a neighborhood with lower tree canopy cover and higher maximum daytime summer temperatures;
(3) are located in a neighborhood with high amounts of senior citizens or children;
(4) will collaboratively engage neighbors and community members that will be closely affected by the tree planting; and
(5) will employ a substantial percentage of the workforce locally, with a focus on engaging unemployed and underemployed persons.

(e) OTHER.
(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Secretary shall award a grant to an eligible entity under the Program in an amount equal to not more than 75 percent of the eligible costs of the project, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of receiving a grant under the Program, an eligible entity shall provide, in cash or through in-kind contributions from non-Federal sources, matching funds in an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of the eligible costs of the project, as determined by the Secretary.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Program $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

SA 1330. Mr. Heinrich submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 22. FERC RULEMAKING TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERREGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLANNING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall initiate a rulemaking to increase the effectiveness of the interregional transmission planning processes at identifying interregional transmission projects that provide economic, reliability, operational, and public policy benefits; and (2) consider—
(A) changes to the processes described in paragraph (1) to ensure that efficient, cost-effective, and broadly beneficial interregional transmission resources are selected for construction, taking into consideration—
(i) the public interest;
(ii) the integrity of markets; and
(iii) the protection of consumers; and
(B) cost allocation methodologies that reflect the multiple benefits provided by interregional transmission resources.

(2) TMIMO.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall promulgate a final rule to complete the rulemaking initiated under subsection (a).

SA 1331. Mr. Markey (for himself, Mr. Booker, Mr. Casey, Mr. Durbin, Ms. Harris, and Ms. Smith) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 11. REPORT ON EFFECT OF DEPARTMENT POLICIES ON VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that—
(A) describes any gaps in collected metrics, data, or analytics on how vulnerable populations, including communities of color, indigenous communities, and low-income communities in the United States (including the territories and possessions of the United States and the District of Columbia) are affected by policies, and activities of the Department on issues including—
(i) energy efficiency, including retrofitting, weatherization, and smart buildings;
(ii) energy generation, transmission, consumption, costs, and project siting;
(iii) research, development, and deployment grants; and
(iv) energy workforce development; and
(B) includes recommendations for—
(i) developing measures to assess and evaluate equity in the areas described in subparagraph (A) through (D) of paragraph (1);
(ii) improving program structure and design to address the needs of vulnerable populations; and
(iii) to the maximum extent practicable, implementing the measures described in subparagraph (A) and improvements described in subparagraph (B) throughout the activities of Department.

SA 1332. Mr. Markey (for himself and Mr. Whitehouse) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 12. ENERGY CREDIT FOR QUALIFIED OFFSHORE WIND PROPERTY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—
(i) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;
(ii) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;
(c) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;
(d) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and
2. A provision on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.
(2) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term "community college" has the meaning given the term "junior or community college" in section 312 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).
(3) DISLOCATED WORKER.—The term "dislocated worker" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).
(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means an entity that is—
(A) an institution of higher education; or
(B) a labor organization.
(5) GRANT PROGRAM.—The term "grant program" means the grant program established under subsection (d).
(6) The term "grant program" means an eligible entity that has received a grant under this section.
(7) INDIVIDUAL WITH A BARRIER TO EMPLOYMENT.—The term "individual with a barrier to employment" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).
(8) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institute of higher education" has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).
(9) LEAD APPLICANT.—The term "lead applicant" means the eligible entity that is primarily responsible for the preparation, conduct, and administration of the project for which a grant is awarded under this section.
(10) VETERAN.—The term "veteran" has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER TRAINING NEEDS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with representatives from the offshore wind industry, eligible entities, including eligible entities that are community colleges, State and local governments, labor organizations, ports, vessel operators, and nonprofit organizations, shall identify educational and career training needs with respect to the offshore wind industry, including needs relating to manufacturing, construction of offshore wind energy facilities, and the vessels required to service those facilities, installation, operation, engineering training and education, and related activities.

(c) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—
(1) issue guidelines for the submission of grant proposals under this section, which shall include a list of the educational and career training needs identified under subsection (b); and
(2) publish and maintain the guidelines described in paragraph (1) on a public website of the Secretary.

(d) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a grant program under which the Secretary may award offshore wind career training grants to eligible entities for the purpose of developing, offering, or improving educational or career training programs that provide individuals who are enrolled in those programs with skills that are necessary for employment in the offshore wind industry.
(e) ALLOCATION OF GRANTS.—
(1) LIMITATION ON GRANT QUANTITY AND SIZE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall allocate the grant funds to an eligible entity—
(A) more than 1 grant for which the eligible entity is the lead applicant; or
(B) a grant that is in an amount that is more than $2,500,000.
(2) ALLOCATION TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES.—The Secretary shall ensure that, in a fiscal year beginning after the enactment of this Act, the total amount that the Secretary awards in grants under this section is awarded to eligible entities that are community colleges.
(3) ELIGIBILITY.—An eligible entity seeking to receive a grant under this section may partner with 1 or more of the following:
(A) Another eligible entity, including an eligible entity that is a community college.
(B) A State or local government.
(C) A nonprofit organization.

(g) USE OF GRANT.—An eligible entity may use a grant awarded under this section to carry out—
(1) occupational skills training, including curriculum development, on-the-job training, safety and health training, and classroom training;
(2) incumbent worker and career ladder training and retraining, including skill upgrading and transitional job strategizing;
(3) individual referral and tuition assistance for a training program offered by a nonprofit organization through which an individual may attain a recognized postsecondary credential as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102);
(4) custom training in conjunction with an existing registered apprenticeship program, internship, or labor-management partnership; and
(5) other activities that the Secretary determines meet the purposes of this section.

(h) SUBMISSION PROCEDURE FOR GRANT PROPOSALS.—An eligible entity seeking to receive a grant under this section shall submit a grant proposal to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and, in accordance with the guidelines issued under subsection (c)(1), containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(i) CRITERIA FOR AWARD OF GRANTS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary may award a grant under this section only after an evaluation of—
(A) the merits of the grant proposal with respect to the grant;
(B) the likely employment opportunities available to individuals who complete the educational or career training program that the eligible entity is applying for the grant proposes to develop, offer, or improve;
(C) prior demand for educational or career training programs in the community served by the eligible entity applying for the grant; and
(D) the availability and capacity of existing educational or career training programs in the community served by the eligible entity applying for the grant.
(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that—
(A) are—
(i) institutions of higher education that have formed partnerships with labor organizations; or
(ii) labor organizations that have formed partnerships with institutions of higher education;
(B) have entered into a memorandum of understanding with an employer in the offshore wind industry to foster workforce development;
(C) will use the grant funds to assist individuals who are—
(i) dislocated workers, with a focus on workers from the offshore oil and gas, onshore fossil fuel, nuclear energy, or fishing industry;
(ii) veterans, members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, or former members of those reserve components; or
(iii) individuals with a barrier to employment;

(j) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—A grant awarded under this section may not be used to match any non-Federal funds matching requirement under any other provision of law.

(k) GRANTEES DATA COLLECTION.—In general.—A grantee shall collect and report to the Secretary on an annual basis the following information regarding the educational or career training program for which the grantee receives a grant under this section:

(1) The number of participants in the educational or career training program referred to in subsection (c). The services received in that program by the participants, including a description of training, educational, and supportive services.

(2) The rate at which participants are retained in positions of employment 1 year and 2 years after the date on which the participant has completed the program.

(l) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible entity shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an initial report describing the results of the grant program, including a description of—
(A) the grantees that were awarded a grant under this section; and
(B) the activities for which the grantees described in subparagraph (A) used a grant awarded under this section.

(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

SA 1334. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2301, to add a provision on innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 4001. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE LAST GREEN VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR AND THE UPPER HOUSATONIC VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) LAST GREEN VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR.—
(1) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 106(b) of title 4 of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 (54 U.S.C. 3201 note; Public Law 103–438; 117 Stat. 3202) is amended by striking "2030" and inserting "2036".
(2) APPROPRIATION OF TOTAL FUNDING CAP.—Section 109(a) of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 (54 U.S.C. 3201 note; Public Law 103–438; 117 Stat. 3202) is amended by striking the second sentence.
SA 1335. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 17. CLEAN SCHOOL BUS GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS.—The term "electric school bus" means a school bus that is propelled—

(A) to a significant extent by an electric motor that—

(i) draws electricity from a battery; and

(ii) is capable of being recharged from an external source of electricity; or

(B) by 1 or more hydrogen fuel cells.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means—

(A) 1 or more local, regional, or State governmental entities; or

(B) a nonprofit school transportation association; or

(C) a tribe.

(b) Reference.—The guidance issued by the Administrator of General Services under section 6 of this Act shall be treated as a reference to the "Weir Farm National Historic Site" established under section 4 of this Act.

SEC. 18. MISCELLANEOUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Weir Farm National Historic Site shall be known and designated as the "Weir Farm National Historical Park".

(b) Amendments to the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990.—The Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 (Public Law 109—338; 120 Stat. 1819) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(c) References.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of the United States to the Weir Farm National Historic Site shall be considered to be a reference to the "Weir Farm National Historical Park".

SEC. 19. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

March 2, 2020

(b) Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area.—

(1) REPEAL OF TOTAL FUNDING CAP.—Section 127 of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area Act (54 U.S.C. 320101 note; Public Law 109—338; 120 Stat. 1819) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(2) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 2003 of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area Act (54 U.S.C. 320101 note; Public Law 109—338; 120 Stat. 1819) is amended by striking "15 years" and inserting "30 years".

SA 1337. Ms. HARRIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title 1, add the following:

SEC. 4001. WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Weir Farm National Historic Site shall be known and designated as the "Weir Farm National Historical Park".

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 1990.—The Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 (Public Law 109—338; 120 Stat. 1819) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of the United States to the Weir Farm National Historic Site shall be considered to be a reference to the "Weir Farm National Historical Park".

SA 1338. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 4. PROMOTING USE OF RECLAIMED REFRIGERANTS IN FEDERAL FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall issue guidance relating to the procurement of reclaimed refrigerants to service existing equipment and for future equipment.

(b) REFERENCES.—The guidance issued under subsection (a) shall give preference to the use of reclaimed refrigerants, on the condition that the (i) the refrigerant has been reclaimed by a person or entity that is certified under the laboratory certification program of the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute; and (ii) the price of the reclaimed refrigerant does not exceed the price of a newly manufactured ( virgin) refrigerant.

SA 1337. Ms. HARRIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title 1, add the following:

SEC. 4001. WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Weir Farm National Historic Site shall be known and designated as the "Weir Farm National Historical Park".

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 1990.—The Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 (Public Law 109—338; 120 Stat. 1819) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of the United States to the Weir Farm National Historic Site shall be considered to be a reference to the "Weir Farm National Historical Park".

SA 1336. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 4. PROMOTING USE OF RECLAIMED REFRIGERANTS IN FEDERAL FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall issue guidance relating to the procurement of reclaimed refrigerants to service existing equipment and for future equipment.

(b) REFERENCES.—The guidance issued under subsection (a) shall give preference to the use of reclaimed refrigerants, on the condition that (i) the refrigerant has been reclaimed by a person or entity that is certified under the laboratory certification program of the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute; and (ii) the price of the reclaimed refrigerant does not exceed the price of a newly manufactured ( virgin) refrigerant.

SA 1337. Ms. HARRIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title 1, add the following:

SEC. 4. PROMOTING USE OF RECLAIMED REFRIGERANTS IN FEDERAL FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall issue guidance relating to the procurement of reclaimed refrigerants to service existing equipment and for future equipment.

(b) REFERENCES.—The guidance issued under subsection (a) shall give preference to the use of reclaimed refrigerants, on the condition that (i) the refrigerant has been reclaimed by a person or entity that is certified under the laboratory certification program of the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute; and (ii) the price of the reclaimed refrigerant does not exceed the price of a newly manufactured ( virgin) refrigerant.

(b) TO ensure a fair assessment of total workforce impact, a detailed accounting of the workforce of the eligible entity at the time of application, including—

(1) the number of employees, organized by salary;

(2) the bargaining unit status of each employee;

(3) the full- or part-time status of each employee; and

(iv) the job title of each employee.

(3) PRIORITY OF GRANT APPLICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give highest priority under the program to proposed projects of eligible entities that—

(i) serve the neediest students, as described in subparagraph (B); and

(ii) will most reduce emissions, as described in subparagraph (C).

(B) NEEDIEST STUDENTS.—The neediest students referred to in subparagraph (A)(i) are students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

(C) MOST EMISSIONS-REDUCING PROJECTS DESCRIBED.—The projects that will most reduce emissions referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii) are projects that—

(i) will enable broader deployment of electric vehicles, such as securing additional sources of funding through public-private partnerships with utilities, grants from other entities, or issuance of school bonds; or

(ii) achieve reductions in emissions, such as installing solar panels to power electric school buses purchased with grant funds.

(D) THE TEN.—In the event that 2 or more eligible entities seeking grants to purchase electric school buses under the program meet the priorities described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary may consider—

(i) whether the grant will benefit students in a region that is in nonattainment of a national ambient air quality standard under section 7409 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7409); and

(ii) whether the eligible entity, or whether the school system or school that would be served by the eligible entity, has taken other action to reduce emissions during the transportation of students, such as instituting a no-idling policy.

(E) USE OF SCHOOL BUS FLEET.—Each electric school bus acquired with funds provided under the program—

(A) shall be operated as part of the school bus fleet for which the grant was made for not less than 5 years;

(B) shall be maintained, operated, and charged according to manufacturer recommendations or State requirements; and

(C) may not be manufactured or retrofitted with, or otherwise have installed, a power unit or other technology that creates air pollution within the school bus, such as an unvented diesel passenger heater.

(5) GRANT AWDARDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may use funds made available to carry out the program—

(i) to award grants for—
(I) the replacement of existing diesel school bus fleets with electric school buses; (II) the implementation of recharging infrastructure or other infrastructure needed to charge electric school buses; (III) workforce development and training, to support the maintenance, charging, and operations of electric school buses; and (IV) technical activities to support the adoption and implementation of electric school buses; and
(ii) to develop resources to inform, encourage, and provide data to entities in applying for and fulfilling the requirements of grants awarded under the program, including materials on the development and training described in clause (i) and the planning and technical activities described in clause (i)(IV).

(b) Applications. In order to receive a grant under the program, the Secretary shall—
(i) require that grant recipients—
(I) replace diesel school buses with electric school buses;
(ii) (aa) not later than 1 year after receiving the electric school bus purchased using a grant under the program, using a diesel engine of the school bus being replaced; or
(bb) receive a waiver under paragraph (6);
(iii) do not, as a result of receiving the grant—
(aa) lay off, transfer, or demote any current employee; or
(bb) reduce the salary or benefits of any current employee; and
(iv) provide current employees with training to effectively operate, maintain, or otherwise adapt to new technologies relating to electric school buses; and
(ii) permit grant recipients to receive and retain grants for purposes described—
(I) scrapping a diesel engine;
(II) transferring or repurposing a diesel school bus as authorized under a waiver under paragraph (6); and
(III) the resale or reuse of other parts of a school bus replaced using grant funds.

(C) GRANT AMOUNTS.—
(i) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum amount of a grant under the program is $2,000,000.

(ii) AMOUNTS FOR PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES.—
(I) IN GENERAL.—For any grant under the program, the amount of funds awarded for the purchase of an electric school bus shall not exceed 110 percent of the amount equal to the difference between—
(aa) the cost of an electric school bus; and
(bb) the cost of a diesel school bus.

(II) DETERMINATION OF COST OF SCHOOL BUSES.—In determining the amount of funds under subclause (I), the Secretary may determine the cost of a school bus for the purpose of calculating the marginal cost under that subclause through—
(aa) a competitive solicitation process for the purchase or lease of a school bus; or
(bb) a cooperative purchase agreement permitted by the laws of the State in which the grant recipient is located; or
(cc) another method that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(iii) AMOUNTS FOR SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES.—
For any grant under the program, the amount of funds awarded for the purposes described in subparagraphs (II) through (IV) of sub- paragraph (A)(i), or other purposes related to those subclauses, as determined by the Secretary, shall not exceed $600,000.

(D) BUY AMERICA.—
(I) IN GENERAL.—As excepted in provided in clause (ii), any electric school bus purchased using grant funds under the program shall comply with the requirements described in section 5323(j) of title 49, United States Code.

(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—
(I) WAIVER.—The Secretary may provide any waiver to the requirements described in clause (i) in the same manner and to the same extent as the Secretary may grant a waiver in accordance with section 5323(j)(2) of title 49, United States Code.

(II) PERCENTAGE OF COMPONENTS AND SUBCOMPONENTS.—The Secretary may grant a waiver in accordance with section 5323(j)(2)(C) of title 49, United States Code, when a grant recipient procures an electric school bus replaced by the receiving entity described in paragraph (6)(A), the number, make and model, year of make, fuel type, type of school bus, annual vehicle miles traveled, and the number of students transported per day.

(vii) whether the grant recipient received a waiver under paragraph (6) and, if the grant recipient received such a waiver, with respect to a school bus replaced by the receiving entity described in paragraph (6)(A), the number, make and model, year of make, fuel type, type of school bus, annual vehicle miles traveled, and the number of students transported per day.

(viii) an estimate of the local air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions avoided as a result of the grant; and
(ix) any other data determined by the Secretary to enable an analysis of the use and impact of grants under the program.

(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than January 31 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make available on the website of the Department a report that describes—
(i) the grant applications received under the program, including a summary of the grant applications meeting the criteria described in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (5), if any;
(ii) the grants awarded under the program, including a summary of the data described in subparagraph (A);
(iii) the effect of the receipt of the grant on students, schools, local communities, industry, and the workforce;
(iv) the impact of the awarded grants on local air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; and
(v) any other information determined by the Secretary to enable Congress to understand the implementation, outcomes, and effectiveness of the program.

(C) REPORT ON BUY AMERICA WAIVERS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing any waiver granted under paragraph (5)(D)(i)(I) during the preceding year to—
(i) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;
(ii) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;
(iii) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and
(iv) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(iii) the criteria that the grant recipient—
(I) do not, as a result of receiving the grant; and
(ii) that provides that—
(I) to transfer a diesel school bus replaced using grant funds under the program for the purpose of using the school bus being replaced; and
(ii) any diesel engines described in subclause (I) are older and more polluting than the diesel engines in the school buses being replaced; and
(iii) provided to the Secretary; or
(B) to delay the requirement under paragraph (5)(B)(i)(II)(aa) for not more than 3 years after receiving the school bus purchased using a grant under the program for the purpose of using the school bus being replaced for a use determined by the Secretary to be appropriate.

(7) DEPLOYMENT AND DISTRIBUTION.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable—
(I) achieve a balanced deployment of electric school buses through the program; and
(II) ensure a broad geographic distribution of grant awards, with no State receiving more than 25 percent of the grant funding made available to carry out the program for each fiscal year.

(B) ANNUAL REPORTING.—
(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after funds are appropriated to carry out the Program, the Secretary shall develop an education outreach program to promote and explain the Program.

(2) COORDINATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.—The outreach program under this subsection shall be designed and conducted in conjunction with national school bus transportation associations, educators, school bus drivers, and other stakeholders.

(3) COMPONENTS.—The outreach program under this subsection shall—
(I) inform eligible entities of the process of applying for grants;

(ii) describe the available technologies and the benefits of the technologies;

(iii) explain the benefits of participating in the program;

(iv) facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learned among grant recipients and eligible entities; and
(E) include, as appropriate, information from the annual reports required under subsection (b)(8).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the program $200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, to remain available until expended.

SA 1338. Ms. HARRIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 12. WATER EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘‘eligible entity’’ means—

(A) a State;

(B) a unit of local government;

(C) an entity established by an interstate compact; and

(D) an Indian tribe.

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘‘Indian tribe’’ has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5364).

(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘‘program’’ means the program established under subsection (b).

(B) a unit of local government;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

(D) any other territory or possession of the United States.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish, to be known as the ‘‘Water Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program’’, under which the Secretary shall provide grants to eligible entities to carry out activities to achieve the purpose of the program described in subsection (c).

(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program is to assist eligible entities in implementing strategies—

(1) to reduce water use in a manner that—

(A) is environmentally sustainable;

(B) maximizes benefits for local and regional communities; and

(C) maximizes benefits for local and regional communities;

(2) to reduce the total water use of the people, businesses, farms, and institutions located within the jurisdiction of eligible entities receiving grants under the program;

(3) to improve water efficiency in the agricultural sector, building sector, or any other appropriate sector operating within the jurisdiction of the eligible entities receiving grants under the program; and

(4) to reduce the energy required to pump, transport, and heat water.

(d) ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity may use a grant under the program to carry out activities that include—

(1) developing and implementing a water efficiency and conservation strategy;

(2) retaining technical consultant services to assist in the development of a strategy described in paragraph (1), including services to assist with—

(A) the formulation of water efficiency, water conservation, and water usage goals;

(B) the engagement of water users and other stakeholders in the identification of goals and priorities for water efficiency and conservation;

(C) the identification of strategies to achieve the goals formulated under subparagraphs (A) and (B)—

(i) through investments in physical measures to increase water efficiency and reduce water consumption;

(ii) by encouraging water conservation practices by—

(I) the population served by the eligible entity; and

(II) the suppliers of water and sanitation services operating within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity; and

(iii) by collecting any revenues that may be required to support the implementation of those strategies and transparent mechanisms that encourage efficient use of water and support the affordability of water and sanitation services for low-income households;

(D) the development of methods to measure progress in achieving the goals formulated under subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(2) conducting residential and commercial building water use audits;

(3) conducting water loss audits of public water distribution systems, securing validation of the audit reports, and conducting component analyses of any leaks and losses described in an audit report;

(5) establishing a financial incentive program for water efficiency improvements;

(6) providing grants to nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, and Tribal governments for the purpose of performing water efficiency upgrades that result in quantifiable savings;

(7) developing and implementing water efficiency and conservation programs for buildings and facilities within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity, including programs that—

(A) identify the most effective methods for achieving maximum participation rates and administrative efficiency;

(B) effectively engage the owners and tenants of affordable housing;

(C) have a public education component;

(D) use measurement and verification protocols; and

(E) identify water efficient technologies;

(8) developing and implementing building codes and inspection services to promote building water efficiency;

(9) adopting ordinances for the annual benchmarking of the water use of large buildings and the public posting of water benchmark reports;

(10) implementing water distribution technologies that significantly increase water efficiency, including—

(A) customer service meters with enhanced accuracy at low flow levels;

(B) automated meter infrastructure for data collection, analysis, and display;

(C) pressure monitoring and management to mitigate excessive pressure; and

(D) automated water distribution improvements, including—

(i) water measurement devices of sufficient accuracy to use for billing purposes;

(ii) the installation of agricultural water delivery systems; and

(C) maximize benefits for local and regional communities;

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $2,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

SA 1339. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title I, add the following:

SEC. 13. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GOALS RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

Section 602(a)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16111(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ‘‘and’’ each place it appears and inserting ‘‘and’’ each place it appears;

(2) in paragraph (5),—

(A) by inserting ‘‘and greenhouse gas emissions’’ after ‘‘environmental impact’’; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting ‘‘and’’; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(6) preparing the energy systems of the United States for the impacts of climate change.’’.

SA 1340. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title I, add the following:

SEC. 14. CONTRACTS FOR FEDERAL PURCHASES OF ENERGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part 3 of title V of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act is amended by adding after section 553 (42 U.S.C. 8259b) the following:

‘‘SEC. 554. LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FOR ENERGY.

‘‘(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Federal Energy Management Program, shall publish a standardized energy purchase agreement setting forth commercial terms and conditions that agencies may use to acquire renewable energy or energy from cogeneration facilities for the Federal Government, which may be made for a period not to exceed 30 years.

‘‘(b) STANDARDIZED ENERGY PURCHASE AGREEMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Federal Energy Management Program, shall publish a standardized energy purchase agreement setting forth commercial terms and conditions that agencies may use to acquire renewable energy or energy from cogeneration facilities.

‘‘(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to help agencies in implementing this section.’’.
SA 1341. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 328. USE OF ASSISTANCE FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS AND STRUCTURES.

"(a) Definitions.—In this section—

"(1) the term ‘energy-efficient product’ means a product that—

"(A) meets or exceeds the requirements for designation under an Energy Star program established under section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6294a); or

"(B) meets or exceeds the requirements for designation as being among the highest 25 percent of equivalent products for energy efficiency under the Federal Energy Management Program; and

"(2) the term ‘energy-efficient structure’ means a residential structure, a public facility, or a private nonprofit facility that meets or exceeds the requirements of American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Standard 90.1-2019 or the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code, or any successor thereto.

"(b) Use of assistance.—A recipient of assistance may use the assistance to replace or repair a damaged product or structure with an energy-efficient product or energy-efficient structure.

"(c) Applicability.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to assistance made available under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act that is expended on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 1342. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 329. NATURAL GAS DEMAND RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

"(1) commission.—The term ‘Commission’ means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

"(2) Pilot program.—The term ‘pilot program’ means the natural gas demand response pilot program established under subsection (b)(1).

(b) Establishment.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 150 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary, shall establish a natural gas demand response pilot program to use the latest demand response technology from the energy sector for natural gas—

(A) to reduce the cost of energy for consumers;

(B) to reduce market price volatility;

(C) to increase reliability of the energy system; and

(D) to achieve reductions in air emissions and other benefits.

"(2) Eligible entities.—(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), to be eligible to participate in the pilot program, an entity shall be—

(i) a gas utility, including a local distribution company;

(ii) a State public utilities commission;

(iii) an electric utility, including a local distribution company;

(iv) a municipality;

(v) a large industrial consumer, large commercial consumer, or retail marketer of natural gas; or

(vi) a third-party energy efficiency program administrator.

"(B) Limitations.—An entity described in any of clauses (i) through (vi) of subparagraph (A) shall not be eligible to participate in the pilot program if the Secretary determines that the entity is not meeting or exceeding the requirements for energy efficiency under the Federal Energy Management Program.

"(3) Requirements.—The Secretary shall require participating entity to—

(A) carry out the pilot program under different scenarios, including in a region that is experiencing fuel shortages or natural gas infrastructure constraints that cause the cost of energy to increase for consumers.

(B) subsection (a) shall not be eligible to participate in the pilot program.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

(i) improve data collection;

(ii) conduct an analysis of the pilot program; and

(iii) evaluate the impact of the pilot program.

"(b) Submissions of applications.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 200 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to all relevant eligible entities notice that the Secretary is accepting applications for participation in the pilot program.

"(2) Requirements.—The Secretary shall—

(A) accept applications for participation in the pilot program; and

(B) make determinations as to whether eligible entities are eligible to participate in the pilot program.

"(c) Authorization of appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the pilot program $10,000,000.

SA 1343. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 330. PROTECTION OF THE MERCURY AND AIR TOXICS STANDARDS.

Section 12926(n)(4)(A) of the Air Quality Act (42 U.S.C. 7412(n)(4)(A)) is amended, in the fourth sentence, by inserting ‘‘, if the Administrator and all that follows through ‘‘this subparagraph’’.

SA 1344. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 331. WOOD HEATERS EMISSIONS REDUCTION.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

"(1) Administrator.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

"(2) Affected wood heater model.—The term ‘affected wood heater model’ means a model of wood heater described in section 60.530(a)(3)(ii) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

"(3) Certified clean heater.—The term ‘certified clean heater’ means a heater that—

(A) has been certified or verified by—

(i) the Administrator; or

(ii) the California Air Resources Board; or

(B) subsections (a) and (b) of section 60.5472 of that title.

"(4) Final rule.—The term ‘Final Rule’ means the final rule entitled ‘Standards of Performance for New Wood Heaters, New Residential Hydronic Heating, Forced-Air Furnaces’ (80 Fed. Reg. 13672 (March 16, 2015)).

"(5) Indian tribe.—The term ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

"(6) Regional or local government agency.—The term ‘regional or local government agency’ means a regional or local government agency.
(A) with jurisdiction over air quality; or
(B) that has received approval from the air quality program of the State of the agency to carry out a wood heater emissions reduction program.

(7) REPLACEMENT OF AN OLD WOOD HEATER.—The term ‘replacement of an old wood heater’ means the replacement of an existing wood heater that—
(A) is removed from a home or building in which wood heater was the primary or secondary source of heat; and
(B) is not meet the standards described in subparagraph (B); or
(C) is surrendered to a supplier, retailer, or other entity, as defined by the Administrator, for the purpose of replacing the existing wood heater inoperable and ensure the existing wood heater is disposed through—
(i) recycling; or
(ii) scrappage.

(8) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means—
(A) each of the several States of the United States;
(B) the District of Columbia;
(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
(D) Guam;
(E) the United States Virgin Islands;
(F) American Samoa; and
(G) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(9) WOOD HEATER.—The term ‘wood heater’ means an enclosed, wood-burning appliance capable of and intended for residential space heating or space heating and domestic water heating that is an affected wood heater model, including—
(A) a residential wood heater;
(B) a hydronic heater; and
(C) a forced-air furnace.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM FOR WOOD HEATER EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall establish a grant program that provides funding for grant, rebate, and other programs administered by States, regional agencies, and Indian tribes that are designed—
(A) to provide financial incentives to homeowners for the replacement of old wood heaters that greatly contribute to particulate matter pollution, more efficient, cleaner-burning wood heaters that are—
(i) properly installed; and
(ii) certified clean heaters; or
(B) to achieve a significant reduction in wood heater emissions; and

(2) APPLICATIONS.—The Administrator shall—
(A) provide to States, regional agencies, and Indian tribes guidance for use in applying for funding under this subsection, including information regarding—
(i) the process and forms for applications;
(ii) permissible uses of funds received under this subsection; and
(iii) the cost-effectiveness of various emission reduction technologies eligible for funds provided under this subsection;

(B) establish, for applications described in subparagraph (A),—
(i) a deadline for submission of the applications;
(ii) a process by which the Administrator shall approve or disapprove each application; and
(iii) a process by which the Administrator shall expedite the provision of funds and

(iv) a streamlined process by which a State, regional agency, or Indian tribe may renew an application described in subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year an allocation of funds, with priority given to States, regional agencies, and Indian tribes that will use the funds to support projects that—
(i) maximize public health benefits, including indoor and outdoor air quality;
(ii) are the most cost-effective;
(iii) target the replacement of wood heaters that emit the most pollution;
(iv) include certified clean heaters and other heaters that achieve emission reductions and efficiency improvements that are more stringent than the Step 2 emission reductions standards, as described in the Final Rule; and

(v) target low-income households;

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—A State, regional agency, or Indian tribe shall use funds provided under this subsection for—

(1) REPLACEMENT OF AN OLD WOOD HEATER.—

(A) with jurisdiction over air quality; or

(B) a process by which the Administrator shall approve or disapprove each application; and

(C) the process and forms for applications.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM FOR WOOD HEATER EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall establish a grant program that provides funding for grant, rebate, and other programs administered by States, regional agencies, and Indian tribes that are designed—

(B) APPLICATIONS.—The Administrator shall—

(i) the process and forms for applications;

(ii) permissible uses of funds received under this subsection; and

(iii) the cost-effectiveness of various emission reduction technologies eligible for funds provided under this subsection;

(B) establish, for applications described in subparagraph (A),—

(i) a deadline for submission of the applications;

(ii) a process by which the Administrator shall approve or disapprove each application; and

(iii) a process by which the Administrator shall expedite the provision of funds and

(iv) a streamlined process by which a State, regional agency, or Indian tribe may renew an application described in subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year an allocation of funds, with priority given to States, regional agencies, and Indian tribes that will use the funds to support projects that—

(i) maximize public health benefits, including indoor and outdoor air quality;

(ii) are the most cost-effective;

(iii) target the replacement of wood heaters that emit the most pollution;

(iv) include certified clean heaters and other heaters that achieve emission reductions and efficiency improvements that are more stringent than the Step 2 emission reductions standards, as described in the Final Rule;

(v) target low-income households;

(C) USE OF FUNDS.—A State, regional agency, or Indian tribe shall use funds provided under this subsection for—

(1) REPLACEMENT OF AN OLD WOOD HEATER.—

(A) with jurisdiction over air quality; or

(B) a process by which the Administrator shall approve or disapprove each application; and

(C) the process and forms for applications.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM FOR WOOD HEATER EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall establish a grant program that provides funding for grant, rebate, and other programs administered by States, regional agencies, and Indian tribes that are designed—

(B) APPLICATIONS.—The Administrator shall—

(i) the process and forms for applications;

(ii) permissible uses of funds received under this subsection; and

(iii) the cost-effectiveness of various emission reduction technologies eligible for funds provided under this subsection;

(B) establish, for applications described in subparagraph (A),—

(i) a deadline for submission of the applications;

(ii) a process by which the Administrator shall approve or disapprove each application; and

(iii) a process by which the Administrator shall expedite the provision of funds and

(iv) a streamlined process by which a State, regional agency, or Indian tribe may renew an application described in subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year an allocation of funds, with priority given to States, regional agencies, and Indian tribes that will use the funds to support projects that—

(i) maximize public health benefits, including indoor and outdoor air quality;

(ii) are the most cost-effective;

(iii) target the replacement of wood heaters that emit the most pollution;

(iv) include certified clean heaters and other heaters that achieve emission reductions and efficiency improvements that are more stringent than the Step 2 emission reductions standards, as described in the Final Rule; and

(v) target low-income households;

(C) USE OF FUNDS.—A State, regional agency, or Indian tribe shall use funds provided under this subsection for—

(1) REPLACEMENT OF AN OLD WOOD HEATER.—

(A) with jurisdiction over air quality; or

(B) a process by which the Administrator shall approve or disapprove each application; and

(C) the process and forms for applications.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM FOR WOOD HEATER EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall establish a grant program that provides funding for grant, rebate, and other programs administered by States, regional agencies, and Indian tribes that are designed—

(B) APPLICATIONS.—The Administrator shall—

(i) the process and forms for applications;

(ii) permissible uses of funds received under this subsection; and

(iii) the cost-effectiveness of various emission reduction technologies eligible for funds provided under this subsection;

(B) establish, for applications described in subparagraph (A),—

(i) a deadline for submission of the applications;

(ii) a process by which the Administrator shall approve or disapprove each application; and

(iii) a process by which the Administrator shall expedite the provision of funds and

(iv) a streamlined process by which a State, regional agency, or Indian tribe may renew an application described in subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year an allocation of funds, with priority given to States, regional agencies, and Indian tribes that will use the funds to support projects that—

(i) maximize public health benefits, including indoor and outdoor air quality;

(ii) are the most cost-effective;
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be reported to the Senate, as ordered yesterday, that it be referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and that no further business be in order until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

KENNETH J. BRATHWAITE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, VICE RICHARD Y. SPENCER, MATTHEW P. DONOVAN, OF RHODE ISLAND, UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS, VICE ROBERT L. WILKIE, RESIGNED; VICTOR G. MERCADO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE JAMES H. ANDERSON.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

DANA T. WADE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE BRIAN D. MONTGOMERY.

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOSEPH RYAN GRUTERS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE ROBERT L. WILKIE, RESIGNED.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

SHERI BARRIE, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2024, VICE VIRGINIA TYLER LEE, TERM EXPIRED.

BRIAN NOLAND, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2024, VICE BRYCE ANDERSON WALTER, TERM EXPIRED.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ALMA L. GOLDEN, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE ABIEL PARLOS-MINDEZE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DONALD MORTENSEN, OF UTAH, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATIONS), VICE ANN CLARE RICHARD.

BARBARA HAL THORNBECK, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPUR.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

DONALD LEE MOAK, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE (TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2022, VICE ALAN C. KESSLER, TERM EXPIRED).

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

JOHN L. RATCLIFFE, OF TEXAS, TO BE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, VICE DANIEL COATS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PETER M. MCCOY, JR., OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE CONRAD A. LYTTON, RESIGNED;

ANNA MARIA RUSINSKI, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPOUR;

VICTOR G. MERCADO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADVOCACY, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, VICE DARYLL L. DEFRIEST, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF STAFF: UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 6101 AND 9033:

To be general

GEN CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 6101:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ GEN DAVID A KRUMM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 6101 AND 9033:

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following fellows in my office be granted floor privileges through June 30, 2020:

Robert Ivanaukas, Stephanie Miller, and Heather Boothe.

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

MERCHANT MARINERS OF WORLD WAR II CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of this Act and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5671) to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Merchant Mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital services to the nation during World War II.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. The bill (H.R. 5671) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until Tuesday, March 3, 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. That following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2657 and that the Senate recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly conference meeting. Finally, that not-withstanding rule XXII, all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postelection on the motion to proceed to S. 2657.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:56 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 10 a.m.
To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. TIMOTHY G. FAY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

ADM. ROBERT P. BURKE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) ANNE M. SWAP

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. DON D. EISEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. RICK FREEDMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. THOMAS M. HENDERSCHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KRIT P. EYRES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. BRADLEY J. AYRES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be major

STEFANIA N. SCHWARZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 625:

To be colonel

DAVID S. BOLCHACER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 625:

To be captain

PAUL R. BELTIN

MICHAEL A. JACKSON

ERICK D. ROBBITS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 625:

To be lieutenant colonel

JONATHAN E. DOWLING

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JONATHAN E. DOWLING

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

JONATHAN E. DOWLING

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JOSEPH A. ANDERSON

SETH E. ANDERSON

MICHAEL A. ARNONE

MATTHEW A. BALDWIN

JOSEPH D. BROOME

MICHAEL L. BROOKS

SETH E. ANDERSON

RINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

JOSEPH A. ANDERSON

SETH E. ANDERSON

MICHAEL A. ARNONE

MATTHEW A. BALDWIN

JOSEPH D. BROOME

MICHAEL L. BROOKS

SETH E. ANDERSON

RINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JOSEPH A. ANDERSON

SETH E. ANDERSON

MICHAEL A. ARNONE

MATTHEW A. BALDWIN

JOSEPH D. BROOME

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SETH E. ANDERSON

RINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

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RINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:
WASHINGTON

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on March 2, 2020 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

ELAINE A. MCCUSKER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMPTROLLER), VICE DAVID L. Norquist, Resigned, which was sent to the Senate on November 13, 2019.
Mr. MULLIN. Madam Speaker, I was not present the week of February 25–28, 2020 on account of supporting my son’s continuing recovery. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 71; YEA on Roll Call No. 72; YEA on Roll Call No. 73; NAY on Roll Call No. 74; NAY on Roll Call No. 75; YEA on Roll Call No. 76; YEA on Roll Call No. 77; and NAY on Roll Call No. 78.

RECOGNIZING MS. ELIZABETH MANN AS THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Elizabeth Mann as the Santa Rosa County Teacher of the Year. Ms. Mann has served the Santa Rosa County School District with talent, passion, and an unwavering commitment to serving her students.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the Nation. Teaching is a difficult profession, yet immensely rewarding. Ms. Mann has performed her teaching duties exceptionally, while also being an active and supportive member of our Northwest Florida community.

Her passion for teaching stemmed from her childhood, as both of her parents served as educators. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve those that matter mo— the students and youth of our Nation.

Ms. Mann has set an example for all of her students, and has achieved the excellence that we strive for in Northwest Florida.

For all of her contributions to our community, I am truly proud to have Ms. Mann as a constituent in Florida’s First Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Elizabeth Mann for her many accomplishments, and her deep commitment to excellence, professionalism, innovation, and collaboration in the Santa Rosa County School District. I thank her for her service, and I wish her all the best for her continued success.

HONORING DELEQUA DRAKE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I arise today to honor a remarkable community servant Ms. Delequa Drake.

Ms. Delequa Drake was born in Natchez, MS on December 12, 1986. She graduated with honors from Natchez High School in 2005. From there, she received an Associate of Arts degree from Copiah-Lincoln Community College in 2007. After receiving her Associate’s degree, she transferred to Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in education. Upon arrival, she discovered a field (kinesiology) that piqued her interest as well as fed her burning desire to learn anything about everything. Two years later, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education with a concentration in Clinical Exercise Physiology. It was after this feat that this young adult experienced one of life’s many curveballs.

While prepping and planning to attend graduate school at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, this 22-year-old, Delequa Drake, received a notification that she would need to change her life forever. Her favorite person in the world, her grandmother, had just been notified that the lump in her breast was malignant. Ms. Drake decided to put her plans on hold and stay home to be closer to her family. She began working odd jobs that had no connection to her degree to make ends meet. In her down-time, she also volunteered to coach pee- wee basketball in the local recreational league. It was then that she first discovered her love for working with children. The philosophy for her players was “Grades before Plays” which worked out fine for everyone except a struggling young reader on the team. Ms. Drake took it upon herself to tutor this struggling reader while coaching him.

Much to his surprise and hers, the tutorials worked better than expected. The student’s grade began to increase mightily. His reading grade improved from a letter grade of D to a letter grade of B by the end of the semester. Still, Ms. Drake had no clue that teaching was where she belonged. It wasn’t until a few more success stories later that she even considered pursuing her passion by taking the necessary steps toward becoming a teacher. She enrolled in Belhaven University’s Master of Arts in Teaching program in the Fall of 2016 and never looked back.

Ms. Drake became the 2019–2020 Teacher of The Year from Gilmer McLaurn Elementary School. Congratulations to Ms. Delequa Drake for her accomplishments. She still lives by the philosophy of “Grades before Plays” and tries to instill in every child that she crosses paths with the importance of learning and her love for reading.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Delequa Drake for her dedication and tenacity to serving the community and the desire to be an example for all.

PEACE CORPS TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contributions of the Peace Corps and its necessity to U.S. national security on its 57th Anniversary.

Over 235,000 volunteers have served in the Peace Corps since its creation in 1961. Of those volunteers, approximately 7,600 have been native Coloradans. All have played a critical role in creating community links that remain the foundation of U.S. security and diplomacy as well as building international personal relationships and living out a mission of service that extends beyond their tenure with the Peace Corps.

From teaching English, to helping farmers increase crop yields, to advising local business, the projects these volunteers pursue are wide ranging. In these various capacities, they function as the face of America overseas in locations where people have likely never met an American previously. Immersed in the local community through language and cultural immersion, volunteers are trusted by local decision makers.

As an important part of America’s soft power arsenal, the Peace Corps has shown exceptional mission, vision, and outcomes. Its work abroad has resulted in improvements along U.S. borders because of its presence in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru, helping to fix conditions that have pushed citizens to leave their homes. In 2017, 121 retired generals and admirals wrote to Congress to convey their support for the Peace Corps because of this work, calling it vital to preventing conflict and reducing the need for military personnel to be put in harm’s way.

Madam Speaker, through the dedication of each volunteer, the Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation’s commitment to encouraging partnerships, creating opportunity, and expanding development at the grassroots level in the developing world. I hope its service inspires other students and professionals from all walks of life.

EMMETT TILL ANTILYNCHING ACT

SPEECH OF
HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, one hundred years ago, Missouri Republican Congressman Leonidas Deyer introduced an anti-lynching bill in the 65th Congress. The legislation eventually died in the Senate in 1918. In the one hundred years since that failure, there have been over two hundred unsuccessful attempts to prohibit lynching in the
INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AS AN EMPOWERMENT ZONE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would irrevocably add the District of Columbia to the national empowerment zone program, which provides federal tax incentives for businesses to locate and invest in low-income areas. In 1993, Congress created the national empowerment zone program and left it to federal agencies to designate a certain number of low-income areas as empowerment zones. The District was not one of the areas selected. However, in 1997, working primarily with Republicans in Congress, I created federal tax incentives for investment in the District by businesses and individuals. The business incentives were similar to, but more generous than, those available under the national empowerment zone program. I got the D.C. incentives reauthorized regularly until 2011, when Congress refused to extend only the D.C. program. At the same time, the national empowerment zone program continued to be reauthorized and was reauthorized last year through 2020. Under my bill, certain low-income neighborhoods, particularly in Wards 5, 7 and 8, would be treated as empowerment zones as long as the national empowerment zone program remains in effect.

The wisdom of the bipartisan, modest, targeted business tax incentives for D.C. has been amply and visibly demonstrated in the economic resurgence of parts of the nation’s capital where they were applied. Among the most visible examples are the formerly run-down area around the Verizon Center (now Capital One Arena), which is now surrounded by offices, restaurants and vibrant nightlife, and the Penn Quarter neighborhood, which had limited residential, commercial and retail spaces, and is now a popular mixed-use neighborhood.

Unfortunately, the D.C. tax incentives were allowed to expire before the poorest D.C. neighborhoods were ready to make use of them, especially in Wards 5, 7 and 8. Withdrawing the D.C. incentives, particularly after they had proven to be effective in other areas of the city, has left the nation’s capital with essentially half of a revival, and was tragically timed just as the lower-income parts of the District, which need the incentives most, were proving to be effective. The effectiveness of these incentives for the District has been demonstrated and their costs have been de minimis compared to the measurable benefits they have generated in the District.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. White was born in Duck Hill, Mississippi in July of 1955. Duck Hill is in Montgomery County, a county laden with much civil rights history. Mr. White has committed his life to documenting and presenting this history. Mr. White graduated from Duck Hill High School in 1973. He is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University. Mr. White worked with “Why Was Mississippi Burning” in response to the “Mississippi Burning” documentary. He documented the inception of the Southern Echo and other entities. He’s worked with the NAACP, COFO, ACLU, Kellogg, and the Algebra Project. He also continues to be instrumental in documenting the conferences, events, and interviews around the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement.

Mr. White is currently the Director of the MSVSU TV Studio and Instructor at Mississippi Valley State University. In this role, he shares the history of the civil rights movement with his students, ensuring that this history is passed on to the next generation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Al White for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, on Friday, February 28, 2020 I regret not being present for a vote session. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of H.R. 2339—Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019. Roll Call vote 78, and voted in support of H.R. 2819—Gold Star Mothers Families National Monument Extension Act, Roll Call Vote 76.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes due to circumstances beyond my control. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 76; Yea on Roll Call No. 77; and Nay on Roll Call No. 78.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL O'ROURKE, JR

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bill O’Rourke, Jr., a beloved pillar of our community, who passed away on January 28, 2020. The O’Rourke’s was an all-animal sanctuary, coaching hundreds of students in the Webster Central School District for over forty years. Under the coaching of his father, O’Rourke became an outstanding player at St. John
IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters and the 60th anniversary of the Miami-Dade County chapter. Founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920, the League of Women Voters has never wavered in its fundamental belief that all citizens should make their voices heard not only at the ballot box but also through continuous participation in every aspect of civic life. This organization is comprised of more than 700 local chapters dedicated to protecting voting rights and empowering voters to advocate for themselves and their communities.

The League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County has helped shape our community for six decades. This chapter supports a variety of, issues, from ensuring adequate funding for our county library system to fostering environmental resilience, to expanding early voting sites to the campuses of our public universities and colleges.

Miami-Dade County is richer and fuller thanks to the efforts of the League of Women Voters, and I am grateful for their advocacy and commitment to our shared community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, due to unavoidable scheduling conflict, I needed to be in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 76; YEA on Roll Call No. 77; and NAY on Roll Call No. 78.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, due to unavoidable scheduling conflict, I needed to be in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 76; YEA on Roll Call No. 77; and NAY on Roll Call No. 78.

HONORING VALERIE BERNARD
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a resourceful and ambitious woman, Ms. Valerie Bernard. Valerie has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Ms. Valerie Bernard who is amid her 24th year teaching, is a second-grade teacher at Dana Road Elementary School in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

With both a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in Elementary Education from Mississippi College, Bernard began her career teaching in the Jackson Public Schools at Powell Middle School. She also taught at Sykes Elementary School in Jackson before moving to St. Therese in the Diocese of Jackson in 2011. In 2014, she returned to Jackson Public Schools, teaching math and social studies at John Hopkins. She then moved to fifth grade at John Hopkins before coming to Dana Road Elementary in 2018.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Valerie Bernard for her passion and dedication and a desire to make a difference in the lives of children.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters and the 60th anniversary of the Miami-Dade County chapter.

Founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920, the League of Women Voters has never
standards and to serve with his best and nothing less. He believed that all elected, and government officials should remember and heed the words of Thomas Jefferson who said, “Governments are the servants, not the masters, of the people.”

Madam Speaker, Mayor Justin S. Flippens’s spirit and loving memory will always live on. His continued legacy our community will be remembered for generations to come. I offer my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and the entire Broward County community during this time of great sadness and loss.

IN MEMORY OF ELLEN M. BLOOM
HON. JAMIE RASKIN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Ellen M. Bloom, a dedicated public servant, beloved Congressional staffer and compassionate constituent of mine in Silver Spring whose earthly journey concluded on February 4, 2020. I include in the RECORD her obituary, which was published in the Washington Post on February 7, 2020 and tells the story of her wonderful life.

ELLEN M. BLOOM

A highly accomplished consumer advocate, mother, wife, sister, aunt, friend, mentor and devoted D.C. sports fan whose professional life was committed to public service, died on February 4, 2020 surrounded by her loving family at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

Ellen’s four-decade career included 18 years on the senior staff of Senator Howard Metzenbaum (D–OH; within the Clinton Administration where she helped set national telecommunications policy and later served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Commerce Secretary William Daley; and led the federal policy office of Consumer Reports. She graduated from the University of Maryland-College Park, and earned her Masters in Public Administration from George Washington University.

But Ellen’s most cherished position was as the gravitational center of her family. With her husband of 33 years, David Bushnell of Silver Spring, MD, she raised two children, Michael W. Bushnell and Jenna L. Bushnell, both of Washington, D.C.

While the kids were growing up, the family set out on extended cross-country road trips. As a foursome, they trekked through three dozen national parks, visited all 50 states and traveled thousands of miles together while enjoying all America has to offer.

Among her surviving family is her brother, Alan Bloom of Montclair, NJ, her sister-in-law, Miriam Bloom of Teaneck, NJ, eight nieces and nephews and two grand-nieces who knew her as Aunt Ellen. She was the daughter of the late William and Sydelle Bloom of Silver Spring.

Ellen’s untimely death followed a three-decade battle against two blood disorders, and a recent stem cell transplant at Johns Hopkins. The family’s profound sadness is eased by the joy and inspiration Ellen shared with all who knew and loved her.

HONORING HELEN CARTHAN INGRAM
HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable hero, Helen Carthan Ingram. Helen Carthan Ingram was born March 16, 1952. She is the second child born to Will Carthan, a railroad worker for Illinois Central and Doris Carthan, a housewife.

Helen Carthan Ingram spent all her time in Lambert, Mississippi. She was always involved in civil rights from an early age of 16. May 1968, Ingram was involved in the civil rights walk out for the seven civil right workers that were incarcerated in Quitman County Jail. She and three hundred students marched from the Quitman County High School to Quitman County Jail. The jail was guarded by the United States Army National Guardsmen where they were beaten by the United States National Guardsmen. But after all of this, it still did not deter her from being involved with the civil rights movement.

Ms. Ingram attended Northwest Community College from 1970 to 1971. She received an associate degree in business administration. She later attended Coahoma Community College from 1982 to 1984, where she received an associate degree in elementary education. She attended Mississippi Valley State University where she received a bachelor’s in elementary education. She received a certificate in inter-denominational faith from Morehouse University. She was an advocate for civil rights and worked tirelessly to obtain housing for families. She also helped organize the first commemoration of the Mule Train in 1996. She is still actively involved in working with the Poor People Campaign, and with the Mule Train.

Ms. Ingram works diligently with Quitman County and the City of Lambert, trying to get different things for the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Helen Carthan Ingram for her dedication and remarkable works.

CELEBRATING ADVENTIST HEALTH WHITE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL’S MALCOLM BALDRIGE NATIONAL QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE AWARD
HON. JIMMY GOMEZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Adventist Health White Memorial Hospital as a recipient of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The Boyle Heights hospital is the first organization in Los Angeles, the only hospital in Los Angeles County, and the twelfth hospital in the nation to receive this prestigious award.

The Baldrige Award is the highest level of national recognition for performance excellence an organization in the United States can receive. Since 1987, the award has been given to organizations and businesses in that have demonstrated visionary leadership, operational excellence, and drive for providing innovative solutions to complex challenges. It is the dedication, hard work, and outstanding achievements of White Memorial Hospital’s associates, physicians, and partners in delivering quality healthcare that caught the attention of the Baldrige Award.

Founded in 1913, the White Memorial Hospital has since become one of the region’s leading nonprofit, faith-based hospitals, providing a full range of inpatient, outpatient, emergency and diagnostic services to the underserved communities in and near downtown Los Angeles. As a major teaching hospital, White Memorial also plays a vital role in training future physicians, nurses, and other medical professionals.

It is fitting White Memorial Hospital’s mission is “living God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness, and hope” because the hospital’s volunteers and staff demonstrate daily, their commitment and service to improving the physical, mental, and spiritual health of the community. This award only underscores this exemplary level of excellence and dedication and I have no doubt, the important role White Memorial Hospital will continue to have in the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Adventist Health White Memorial Hospital on receiving the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

COMMENORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAKU AND SUMGAIT POGROMS
HON. JUDY CHU
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to help commemorate the Baku and Sumgait Pogroms and to reaffirm that the U.S. stands on the side of democracy and peace—and that means standing with the Armenian people.

Thirty years ago, as the lines of the Soviet Union were fading, the people of Artsakh were united and voted for greater independence from Azerbaijan. But this peaceful movement for self-determination was followed by premeditated and government-sponsored attacks. Over the next two years, the Armenian population of Artsakh was repeatedly victim to brutal and racially motivated pogroms. Hundreds were murdered, and thousands were displaced; not only in Baku, but in places like Sumgait and Kirovabad as well.

These pogroms were a direct assault on the right of self-determination in Artsakh. And it is an assault that is continuing today. I know, because I have recently returned from my first ever trip to Armenia and Artsakh.

Since being elected and getting to know the Armenian community myself, I have wanted to visit Armenia. And this visit was so much more than I could have imagined. I was able to meet both the Prime Minister and the President, have incredible dialogues with the new parliament of Armenia, and take in the beautiful country.

But I also knew that while I was there, I had to visit Artsakh. Prior to my trip, my office was visited by a delegation of the Artsakh Parliament. They
told me not to go, that it was too violent, and that there would be consequences. But I knew I had to go, and I had to see for myself.

Not only was it not a war-torn area, as Azerbaijani would have you believe, but Artsakh was beautiful and charming. And I was able to see and feel the national pride that was there. Azerbaijan may not want to recognize Artsakh, but all you have to do is walk around and talk to the people there and you will know. The Armenian people are alive and thriving in Artsakh.

But something else I saw while I was there was the lingering damage caused by Azerbaijan’s war on Artsakh. Land mines still make so much land unusable, threatening the lives of farmers, children, or people just out for a walk. And Azerbaijan’s military still threatens the peace along the border. That is why, last year, I introduced and secured House passage of a pro-peace amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. This common-sense amendment urged all parties to agree on the non-deployment of snipers, heavy arms, and new weapons; the deployment of additional OSCE monitors; and, the placement of gunfire-locators along the line-of-contact. But sadly, despite overwhelming support in this House, the Senate caved to pressure from Azerbaijan and stripped this amendment.

And now, in another gift to Azerbaijan, the State Department seems ready to end funding for demining. This is unacceptable. I was privileged to visit the HALO Trust in Artsakh, which leads the demining work there, and I was amazed at how much land was cleared and made usable again. Thanks to HALO, thousands of mines and unexploded ordnance have been identified and removed, and Armenians in Artsakh are able to reclaim lands that had been too dangerous before. We cannot let this work go unfinished. I am committed to standing with the people of Artsakh, and that is why, as we consider Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations, I will be supporting no less than $10 million for Artsakh demining and rehabilitation services. You can count on me to always stand with the Armenian people and to stand up for democracy and peace in Artsakh.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. TERRI A. SEWELL
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020
Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Nsombi Lambright-Haynes.

Nsombi Lambright-Haynes is the Executive Director of One Voice, a statewide advocacy and policy advocacy organization. Basequartered in Jackson, MS. The goal of One Voice is to build leadership in an effort to address structural oppressions that show up in the institutions that are significant in the lives of families, including the public education system, voting, the environment, and the criminal justice system. The organization has given our community hope for a grander future.

Words cannot express how grateful we are to have a leader like Howard in our community. His heart has always been set on improving the lives of the community he serves. The compassion and ongoing success of NWSCDC reflects the kindness and leadership he has provided to the Greater Milwaukee community.

While he may be entering a new chapter of his life, I know that his work and dedication will not end. Madam Speaker, Howard Snyder has made Milwaukee and the 4th Congressional District, a better place and I salute him for his love and service to its residents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. BILLY LONG
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020
Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, on Friday, February 28, 2020, I was unable to vote on any legislative measures. Had I been present, I would have voted the following: (Roll no. 76) On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2819—Gold Star Mothers Families National Monument Extension Act, had I been present I would have voted yes. (Roll no. 77) On Motion to Recommit with Instructions of H.R. 2339—Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act, had I been present I would have voted yes. (Roll no. 78) On Passage of H.R. 2339—Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act, had I been present I would have voted no.

RECOGNITION OF RICK KELLER’S SERVICE TO IDAHO AGRICULTURE
HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON
OF IDAHO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020
Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rick Keller on...
HONORING RUTHIE MAE RANSOM MORRIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Ruthie Mae Ransom Morris.

Ruthie Mae Ransom Morris was born on October 24, 1942 in Leland, Mississippi, to Henry Parker Ransom, Sr. and Blanche Johnson Ransom. She was the sixth of their ten (10) children.

Ruthie accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized under the leadership of her uncle, Reverend Clarence Johnson, who was the Founder and Senior Pastor of the Shady Grove South Missionary Baptist Church (SGSMB) in Greenville, Mississippi. During her years at SGSMB, Ruthie sang in the Senior Choir, typed and printed the Church bulletins, organized special events, and served as a trusted confidant and adviser to Reverend Clarence Johnson as well as to his successor, Pastor Solomon B. Miller. Following Pastor Miller’s departure from SGSMB, Ruthie continued to serve under Pastor Gregory C. Lance, Sr., who, like Pastor Miller, not only became the Senior Pastor of SGSMB, but was also “a spiritual son” to Ruthie.

In 1977, Ruthie joined Agape Storehouse Christian Center (ASC) under the leadership of Dr. Thomas P. Coleman, who was a lifelong family friend and former member of SGSMB.

During her years at ASC, Ruthie served as a Greeter before answering God’s call for her to become an ordained minister. In 2011, Ruthie obtained her Minister’s License after graduating from the ASCC School of Ministry. She faithfully served on the Ministry Team until her health began to fail in April of 2019.

Ruthie was educated in the Bolivar County Public Schools in Mississippi and in the Greenville Public Schools where she graduated from Coleman High School in the Class of 1960. She also attended Alcorn A&M College in Lorman, Mississippi where she first majored in Elementary Education. However, after her first day of “practice teaching” with a classroom full of young children, Ruthie quickly realized that she was in the wrong field and changed her major to Business Administration.

She was the first of her siblings to both graduate from high school and attend college. After leaving Alcorn A&M College, Ruthie returned home to Greenville where she worked as a Secretary in the Greenville Public Schools at T.L. Weston High School and E.E. Bass Jr. High School before starting her banking career as a Teller. Throughout her career in banking, she worked at various banks in the area, including Trustmark Bank, and Sunburst Bank, which later became Union Planters Bank before eventually becoming present day Regions Bank.

Ruthie’s natural gift for accurately and speedily counting money; her excellent people skills; and her mavenic rise in every bank where she worked. Not only was she chosen to train numerous Tellers who came after her, but she eventually became the first African-American Branch Manager of a bank in Greenville, Mississippi. After retiring from Bank, in the summer of 1996, Ruthie was hired as the Office Manager at Infipro Security for several years before her love for both ministry and business led her to become the Bookkeeper at The Salvation Army in Greenville, Mississippi. She “officially” ended her work career when she retired from her bookkeeping position at The Salvation Army in 2012. However, in 2016, Ruthie was recruited to become the Office Manager at Jackson Heating and Air Conditioning where she remained for two (2) years until she acquired her “spiritual son,” Malcom Jackson, who was her boss.

Despite being a working mom with three (3) children, Ruthie still found time to be civically and politically active in her community. For more than thirty (30) years, Ruthie served on the Board of Directors of the Brent Daycare Center, which later became known as The Greenville Daycare and Learning Center (TGDALC). While serving on the Board of TGDALC, Ruthie worked closely with her fellow Board Members as well as various Directors, including Judge Washington, who also became a close friend of Ruthie’s; and Dolly Creath, who became a mentee of Ruthie’s. Throughout her years on the Board of TGDALC, Ruthie formed strategic partnerships with various agencies to secure the necessary funding in order to ensure that numerous children throughout the South End and all over the City of Greenville were able to obtain an excellent pre-school education. She remained on the Board of Directors of TGDALC until it eventually closed its doors.

In addition to her community engagements with several organizations, including her beloved Coleman High School Class of 1960, Ruthie was passionate about politics. In fact, she canvassed Delta neighborhoods and traveled around the State of Mississippi in order to get Democratic candidates elected on the local, state, and national levels.

For many years, Ruthie was an active member of the Washington County Democratic Party, and she worked closely with the Democratic National Committee (DNC). She not only canvassed for State Democratic candidates such as Robert Clark, but in 1987, Ruthie campaigned diligently to elect Mike Espy to the U.S. House of Representatives (MS 2nd District). Then, in 1993, she helped to secure victory for Bennie Thompson when he successfully ran for the 2nd Congressional seat after Mike Espy became the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

In 1988, while serving as the Precinct Captain of 3–1, Ruthie galvanized the highest voter turnout in the precinct’s history, which played a pivotal role in electing Mississippi’s 60th Governor, Raymond Mabus, Jr.

In 1993 and 1994, Ruthie was also instrumental in helping to elect Greenville attorneys, Johnnie E. Walls, Jr. and Willie Bailey to the Mississippi State Senate (12th Senatorial District) and the Mississippi State House of Representatives (49th District), respectively.

Because Ruthie was such a gracious hostess who maintained a lovely home, she was often called upon to host visiting dignitaries at her residence, including The Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., Minister Louis Farrakhan, Judge James Earl Graves, Jr., and former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young’s daughter, Andrea Young, just to name a few.

Moreover, long before the “Me Too Movement,” Ruthie recognized the need for women to hold political offices. As a result, she served as the Campaign Manager or as a volunteer for numerous female candidates, including Vernita King Johnson, Bernadine Young (Deceased), Laverne Moore Holmes, Margaret Carey-McClay, and Estelle Pryor, among others.

Ruthie was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Blanche; her siblings, Martha (Bay) Birkhead Brewer, Alma Catherine (Gloria) Ransom, Marguerite (Sister) Clark, Betty Jean (Beh Jean) Walker, Henry (Bay Brother/Ramp) Ransom, Jr., Clarence (Scrappy) Ransom, and Charles (Birley) Ransom. She will be missed by many more.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Ruthie Mae Ransom Morris for her dedication to serving others and giving back to her community.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST 2020 GRADES 6-8

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize exemplary middle and high school students from Virginia’s Fourth Congressional District who were selected as winners of the Black History Month essay contest I hosted earlier this month. I am inspired by the words of these students, and I encourage young people across our country to reflect on what this month means to them personally.

Since its creation less than 50 years ago, Black History Month has been a time to honor...
and recognize the remarkable achievements of the African-American community. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these distinguished students and their accomplishments in celebration of Black History Month.

I include in the RECORD Trenton Blake Townes’ winning essay:

**WHAT BLACK HISTORY MONTH MEANS TO ME**

(By Trenton Blake Townes)

As an African American male, Black History means a great deal to me. In todays society racism impacts the lives of my people in a major way, and for me that is very scary. Black history means to me that no matter how you view me, I am somebody and I stand on the shoulders of those before me. I can not think of what black history means to me without thinking of the years of slavery my ancestors had to endure. I think of the world we live in, and I don’t understand why racism continues to exist today. The achievements of black people compared to the many pitfalls set before us should allow people to see how strong and resilient we are, instead they only continue their attempts to destroy us and what we value and love.

I wish black history month would mean to everyone what it means to me. Black history month means to me in times of turmoil I have the strength to rise victorious. Black history month is a time where all can reflect, not only on what they want us to believe in, but one that is factual and full of strength, hope and promise. It’s one where Manu Musa was King of the Mali empire in 1312 and is regarded even today as the richest man in the history of the world. Black history month means to me even as an enslaved people we can lead others to join us and help us to rise to a position to help many to freedom and share her could have freed more if they only knew they were enslaved. Black history month means to me we must pass the knowledge of the achievements of our ancestors like the establishment of what was known as Black Wall Street. Black wall street was a very prosperous and self-sufficient business district in Oklahoma where black people owned barbershops and stores, and even a local newspaper. Black history month means to me one that is factual and full of strength, hope and promise.

Black history month means to me it is a time where all people should be able to reflect upon the history of African Americans. This is a time where our culture, contributions, music, and arts should be celebrated as a positive influence and reviewed as leaving a positive impact on the entire world. Black history month is a time where all people should be able to come together as a people and uplift one another and celebrate the many achievements of our past and the hope and realization of a rich future.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 2, 2020*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I was necessarily absent and unable to cast my votes on all of Thursday, March 5, and Friday, March 6, so I have been present, I would have voted: YEA Roll Call No. 235; YEA Roll Call No. 236; YEA Roll Call No. 237; YEA Roll Call No. 238; NAY Roll Call No. 239; YEA Roll Call No. 240; YEA Roll Call No. 403; YEA Roll Call No. 404; NAY Roll Call No. 405; YEA Roll Call No. 406; NAY Roll Call No. 407; YEA Roll Call No. 408; YEA Roll Call No. 409; YEA Roll Call No. 410; and NAY Roll Call No. 411.

**REVERSING THE YOUTH TOBACCO EPIDEMIC ACT OF 2019**

**SPEECH OF**

**HON. PETER A. DEFAZIO**

**OF OREGON**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2020*

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I will vote in support of H.R. 2339, the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2020. Despite a previous years-long decline in youth tobacco use, we have witnessed a sharp rise in youth tobacco use and nicotine addiction in recent years. At the heart of this trend are flavored e-cigarettes, which Big Tobacco companies have marketed toward young people in their ongoing drive to increase their profits at the cost of public health. I believe H.R. 2339 takes important steps toward tackling the youth tobacco epidemic and curtailing Big Tobacco’s unfeathered promotion of these highly addictive products, including closing loopholes in current law that cover traditional tobacco products but not e-cigarettes.

This includes H.R. 2339’s provisions to prohibit the marketing, advertising, and promotion of e-cigarette products to individuals under 21 years of age; ban online sales of e-cigarettes; close a tax loophole for e-cigarettes by establishing tax parity with current tobacco taxes; apply graphic health warnings to cigarette packages; and provide funding for tobacco cessation research, therapies, and counseling, as well as for outreach and grants to medically underserved communities.

I also support provisions in H.R. 2339 which would waive Medicare’s compliance requirements for colorless cancer screening and increase access to asthma medications. While I will vote in support of H.R. 2339, I believe important improvements could have been made to strengthen the overall bill.

For example, in light of the legislation’s ban on all tobacco flavors—including menthol—I strongly opposed the inclusion of a provision that creates a discriminatory exemption for premium cigars. This clearly unfair provision protects the tobacco habits of wealthier individuals—who use premium cigars at higher rates—over disadvantaged communities that smoke products that low-income individuals and communities of color are more likely to use.

I also believe H.R. 2339 should have contained stronger provisions to alleviate criminal justice concerns that this legislation could disproportionately impact people of color, increase criminal penalties in state and localities across the country, and potentially encourage harmful police practices.

Additionally, while I am pleased H.R. 2339 takes vital steps to address the youth tobacco epidemic, the legislation unfortunately does not address the disturbing outbreak of vaping-related lung illnesses and deaths that we witnessed in recent months. The CDC found that these deaths and illnesses stemmed primarily from black market THC-containing e-cigarettes with vitamin E acetate—an additive that can damage lungs when inhaled.

Despite these concerns, I believe the clear public health benefits of this legislation outweigh its faults. There is no time to waste. I will not stand idly by while corporate greed and Big Tobacco marketing tactics threaten to engulf yet another generation to the ravages of addiction, cancer, stunted brain development, damaged lungs, and more.

You can be sure I will work with my colleagues in the Senate to improve this legislation in order to put forward well-balanced legislation that can comprehensively address the youth tobacco epidemic.

**SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur. As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s record.

**MEETINGS SCHEDULED**

MARCH 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Defense

SD–138

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of the Interior

SD–124

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Transportation

SD–192

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold open and closed hearings to examine the Department of Defense review of vetting policies for international military students following
the attack on Naval Air Station Pensacola.

SR–232A
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower

To hold hearings to examine the Federal Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR–222
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine 5G supply chain security, focusing on threats and solutions.

SR–253
Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD–406
Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Peter Cronan, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Thomas T. Cullen, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, and Jennifer P. Togliatti, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

SD–226
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water and Power

To hold hearings to examine the impact of invasive species on Bureau of Reclamation facilities and management of water resources in the West.

SD–G50
2 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks

To hold hearings to examine S. 1863, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the sites associated with the life and legacy of the noted American philanthropist and business executive Julius Rosenwald, with a special focus on the Rosenwald Schools, S. 1910, to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park, S. 1969, to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 2206, to express the sense of Congress regarding restoration and maintenance of the Marodson Memorial in Bastogne, Belgium, S. 2349, to establish the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park in the States of Illinois and Missouri, S. 2327, to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the U.S. African-American Burial Grounds Network, S. 2328, to establish the Bandelier National Park and Preserve in the State of New Mexico, S. 3098, to redesignate the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site as the ‘‘Jimmy Carter National Historical Park’’, S. 3119, to modify the boundary of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, S. 3121, to establish the Chiricahua National Park in the State of Arizona as a unit of the National Park System, S. 3265, to redesignate the Weir Farm National Historic Site in the State of Connecticut as the ‘‘Weir Farm National Historical Park’’, S. 3331, to modify the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park, H.R. 182, to extend the authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission, and H.R. 1472, to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park.

SD–366
Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–219
2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Energy.

SD–138
Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense budget posture in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SH–216
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Aviation and Space

To hold hearings to examine the role of global aviation in containing the spread of infectious disease, focusing on coronavirus.

SD–628
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine authorities needed to protect and secure the homeland.

SD–342
Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 2610, to authorize certain programs under the Office of Energy Policy and Programs of the Department of Energy, and S. 2891, to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish Tribal Wildlife Corridors.

SR–253
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism

To hold hearings to examine big tech and China.

SD–226
9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD–G50
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Federal interagency response to the Coronavirus and preparing for future global pandemics.

SD–342
10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Commerce.

SD–192
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Education.

SD–124
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine threats posed by state-owned and state-supported enterprises to public transportation.

SD–538
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the latest developments and longer-term prospects for global energy markets, with a special focus on the United States, from the perspective of the International Energy Agency.

SD–366
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development

To hold hearings to examine the Global Engagement Center, focusing on leading the United States Government’s fight against global disinformation threat.

SD–419
Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Fernando L. Aenlle-Rocha, Stanley Blumenfeld, and Mark C. Scarsi, each to be a United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, John Leonard Badalamenti, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, William Scott Hardy, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, John F. Heil III, to be United States District Judge for the Northern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Oklahoma, David Cleveland Joseph, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, Anna M. Manasco, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Drew B. Tipton, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, and Grace Kauffa Obermann, of Virginia, Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, and Edward Hulvey Meyers, of Maryland, each to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SD–226
MARCH 10
10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s semi-annual report to Congress.

SD–538
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights
To hold hearings to examine competition in digital technology markets, focusing on self-preferencing by digital platforms.

MARCH 11
10 a.m.
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion.

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine personnel programs in the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD–226
SD–106

MARCH 11

SD–226

MARCH 24

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

2:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Intellectual Property
To hold hearings to examine copyright law in foreign jurisdictions, focusing on how other countries are handling digital piracy.

SD–G50
SD–538
HIGHLIGHTS
See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1239–S1271

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3367–3373, and S. Res. 524–525.

Measures Reported:

- S. 565, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–220)
- S. 2560, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 116–221)
- H.R. 1589, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear intelligence and information sharing functions of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security and to require dissemination of information analyzed by the Department to entities with responsibilities relating to homeland security, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–222)

Measures Passed:

Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5671, to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Merchant Mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II, and the bill was then passed.

Nominations Received:

- Kenneth J. Braithwaite, of Pennsylvania, to be Secretary of the Navy.
- Matthew P. Donovan, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.
- Victor G. Mercado, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.
- Dana T. Wade, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.
- Joseph Ryan Gruters, of Florida, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.
- Leon A. Westmoreland, of Georgia, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.
- Christopher T. Hanson, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2024.
- Beth Harwell, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2024.

During consideration of this motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, March 3, 2020; and that notwithstanding Rule XXII, all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

- Kenneth J. Braithwaite, of Pennsylvania, to be Secretary of the Navy.
- Matthew P. Donovan, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.
- Victor G. Mercado, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.
- Dana T. Wade, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.
- Joseph Ryan Gruters, of Florida, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.
- Leon A. Westmoreland, of Georgia, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.
- Christopher T. Hanson, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2024.
- Beth Harwell, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2024.
Brian Noland, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2024.

Alma L. Golden, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Ronald Mortensen, of Utah, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Population, Refugees, and Migration).

Barbera Hale Thornhill, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore.

Donald Lee Moak, of Florida, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2022.

John L. Ratcliffe, of Texas, to be Director of National Intelligence.

Peter M. McCoy, Jr., of South Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of four years.

Anna Maria Ruzinski, of Wisconsin, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Wisconsin for the term of four years.

David Christian Tryon, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

4 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.
47 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Elaine A. McCusker, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), which was sent to the Senate on November 13, 2019.

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:56 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1269.)

Committee Meetings

(Business not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism: Senators Romney (Chair), Cruz, Graham, Gardner, Paul, Murphy, Cardin, Shaheen, and Kaine.


Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation: Senators Johnson (Chair), Barrasso, Portman, Paul, Romney, Shaheen, Murphy, Cardin, and Coons.

Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy: Senators Graham (Chair), Perdue, Portman, Johnson, Cruz, Kaine, Coons, Booker, and Murphy.

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy: Senators Gardner (Chair), Rubio, Johnson, Perdue, Young, Markey, Coons, Merkley, and Udall.

Subcommittee on Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy: Senators Young (Chair), Romney, Paul, Perdue, Graham, Merkley, Udall, Markey, and Booker.

Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development: Senators Barrasso (Chair), Young, Paul, Portman, Rubio, Booker, Mark, Merkley, and Udall.

Senators Risch and Menendez are ex officio members of each subcommittee.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 6042–6060; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 878–882, were introduced. Pages H1437–38

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H1438–39

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 877, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1140) to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and stability of the transportation security workforce by applying the personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration who provide screening of all passengers and property, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 116–411). Page H1437

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Case to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H1437

Recess: The House recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. Pages H1425–26

Recess: The House recessed at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 4:59 p.m. Page H1426

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Improving FHA Support for Small Dollar Mortgages Act of 2020: H.R. 5931, amended, to require a review of the effects of FHA mortgage insurance policies, practices, and products on small-dollar mortgage lending; Pages H1426–28


Ensuring Chinese Debt Transparency Act of 2020: H.R. 5932, amended, to ensure greater transparency about the terms and conditions of financing provided by China to member states of the international financial institutions, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 356 yea with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 80; Pages H1429–30, H1433–34

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To ensure greater transparency regarding the terms and conditions of financing provided by the People’s Republic of China to member states of the international financial institutions.”; and Page H1434

Yes In My Backyard Act: H.R. 4351, amended, to require certain grantees under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to submit a plan to track discriminatory land use policies. Pages H1430–32

Recess: The House recessed at 5:45 p.m. and reconvened at 6:31 p.m. Page H1433

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1426.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1433 and H1433–34. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Committee Meetings

RIGHTS FOR TRANSPORTATION SECURITY OFFICERS ACT OF 2020

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1140, the “Rights for Transportation Security Officers Act of 2020”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–2, a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1140, the “Rights for Transportation Security Officers Act of 2020”. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Homeland Security now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in
the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of March 5, 2020, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV, relating to a measure making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020. The rule waives the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of March 5, 2020, relating to a measure making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020. Testimony was heard from Chairman Thompson of Mississippi and Representative Rogers of Alabama.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY,
MARCH 3, 2020
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Transportation Security Administration, 10 a.m., SD–138.
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense cyber operations, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine United States policy and posture in support of Arctic readiness, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Science, Oceans, Fisheries, and Weather, to hold hearings to examine securing United States leadership in the bioeconomy, 9:15 a.m., SD–562.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to consider the nomination of James P. Danly, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Energy, 9:30 a.m., SD–566.
Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness, to hold hearings to examine censorship as a non-tariff barrier to trade, 2 p.m., SD–215.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine an emerging disease threat, focusing on how the United States is responding to COVID–19, the Novel Coronavirus, 10 a.m., SD–430.
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, 2 p.m., SD–G50.
Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House
Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the National Gallery of Art, 9:30 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.
Committee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, budget hearing on the U.S. Agency for International Development, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.
Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Reducing Child Poverty”, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the House Officers, 1 p.m., HT–2 Capitol.
Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled “National Guard/Reserves”, 3 p.m., H–140 Capitol.
Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2021 Air Force and Space Force Readiness Posture”, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request for Nuclear Forces and Atomic Energy Defense Activities”, 2:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.
Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Combating an Epidemic: Legislation to Help Patients with Substance Use Disorders”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.
Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: Advanced Nuclear Technology’s Role in a Decarbonized Future”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.
Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation; and Subcommittee on the
Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism, joint hearing entitled “50 Years of the Non-Proliferation Treaty: Strengthening the NPT in the Face of Iranian and North Korean Nonproliferation Challenges”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.


Committee On House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Government Publishing Office”, 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on Article I: Constitutional Perspectives on the Responsibility and Authority of the Legislative Branch [Original Jurisdiction Hearing], 10 a.m., H–313 Capitol.


Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled “The Airline Passenger Experience: What it Is and What It Can Be”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “The Silver Tsunami: is VA Ready?”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, business meeting on the Views and Estimates Letter to the Committee on the Budget, 9 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin”, 9 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, 2 p.m., SD–G50.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 3 through March 6, 2020

Senate Chamber

On Tuesday, Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2657, Advanced Geothermal Innovation Leadership Act, post-cloture.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: March 3, Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Transportation Security Administration, 10 a.m., SD–138.

March 4, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the National Guard and Reserve, 10 a.m., SD–138.

March 4, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., SD–192.

March 4, Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD–124.

March 4, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Energy, 2:30 p.m., SD–138.

March 5, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Commerce, 10 a.m., SD–192.

March 5, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Education, 10 a.m., SD–124.


March 3, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine United States policy and posture in support of Arctic readiness, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

March 3, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense cyber operations, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

March 4, Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program, 10 a.m., SR–222.

March 4, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold open and closed hearings to examine the Department of Defense review of vetting policies for international military students following the attack on Naval Air Station Pensacola, 10 a.m., SR–232A.


March 5, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the posture of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: March 5, to hold hearings to examine threats posed by
state-owned and state-supported enterprises to public transportation, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: March 3, Subcommittee on Science, Oceans, Fisheries, and Weather, to hold hearings to examine securing United States leadership in the bioeconomy, 9:15 a.m., SD–562.

March 4, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine 5G supply chain security, focusing on threats and solutions, 10 a.m., SR–253.

March 4, Subcommittee on Aviation and Space, to hold hearings to examine the role of global aviation in containing the spread of infectious disease, focusing on coronavirus, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: March 3, business meeting to consider the nomination of James P. Danly, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Energy, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

March 4, Subcommittee on Water and Power, to hold hearings to examine the impact of invasive species on Bureau of Reclamation facilities and management of water resources in the West, 10:30 a.m., SD–366.

March 4, Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine S. 1863, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the sites associated with the life and legacy of the noted American philanthropist and business executive Julius Rosenwald, with a special focus on the Rosenwald Schools, S. 1910, to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park, S. 1969, to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 2206, to express the sense of Congress regarding restoration and maintenance of the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne, Belgium, S. 2340, to establish the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park in the States of Illinois and Missouri, S. 2827, to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the U.S. African-American Burial Grounds Network, S. 2924, to establish the Bandelier National Park and Preserve in the State of New Mexico, S. 3098, to redesignate the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site as the "Jimmy Carter National Historical Park", S. 3119, to modify the boundary of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, S. 3121, to establish the Chiricahua National Park in the State of Arizona as a unit of the National Park System, S. 3265, to redesignate the Weir Farm National Historic Site in the State of Connecticut as the "Weir Farm National Historical Park", S. 3331, to modify the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park, H.R. 182, to extend the authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission, and H.R. 1472, to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park, 2 p.m., SD–366.

March 5, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the latest developments and longer-term prospects for global energy markets, with a special focus on the United States, from the perspective of the International Energy Agency, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: March 4, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: March 3, Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness, to hold hearings to examine censorship as a non-tariff barrier to trade, 2 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: March 5, Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development, to hold hearings to examine the Global Engagement Center, focusing on leading the United States Government’s fight against global disinformation threat, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: March 3, to hold hearings to examine an emerging disease threat, focusing on how the United States is responding to COVID–19, the Novel Coronavirus, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: March 4, to hold hearings to examine resources and authorities needed to protect and secure the homeland, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

March 5, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Federal interagency response to the Coronavirus and preparing for future global pandemics, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: March 4, to hold hearings to examine S. 2610, to reauthorize certain programs under the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs of the Department of Energy, and S. 2891, to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish Tribal Wildlife Corridors, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: March 4, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Peter Cronan, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Thomas T. Cullen, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, and Jennifer P. Togliatti, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, 10 a.m., SD–226.

March 4, Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, to hold hearings to examine big tech and Beijing, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

March 5, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Fernando L. Aenlle-Rocha, Stanley Blumenfeld, and Mark C. Scarsi, each to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Drew B.
Tipton, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, and Grace Karaffa Obermann, of Virginia, Stephen Sidney Schwarz, of Virginia, Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, and Edward Hulvey Meyers, of Maryland, each to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: March 3, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, 2 p.m., SD–G50.

March 4, Full Committee, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: March 3, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

March 4, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, March 4, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The State of the Rural Economy with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, March 4, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency, 9:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 4, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, budget hearing on the Department of the Treasury, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

March 4, Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the National Institutes of Health, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

March 4, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 10:30 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

March 4, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10:30 a.m., 2358–B Rayburn.

March 4, Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, 11 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

March 4, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing entitled "Member Day", 1 p.m., HT–2 Capitol.

March 4, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, budget hearing on the Export and Finance Agencies, 1 p.m., 2358–C Rayburn.


March 4, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing entitled "Public Witness Day", 2 p.m., HT–2 Capitol.

March 4, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled "U.S. Space Force Organizational Plan", 3 p.m., H–140 Capitol.

March 5, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled "Defense Health Program (DHP)", 9 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 5, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch budget hearing on the Architect of the Capitol, 10 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

March 5, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Government Publishing Office, 11 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.


March 4, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing entitled “Department of the Navy Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request for Seapower and Projection Forces”, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 4, Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request for U.S. Cyber Command and Operations in Cyberspace”, 2:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

March 5, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2021 Army and Marine Corps Ground Modernization Programs”, 9:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, March 4, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Department of Health and Human Services FY 2021 Budget”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.


Committee on Foreign Affairs, March 4, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 512, calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws; H. R. 5408, the
"Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act"; H. Res. 742, the "Recognizing the continued success of the Food for Peace Act"; H.R. 5664, the "LIFT Act"; H. Res. 720, expressing the sense of House of Representatives that the International Olympic Committee should correct Jim Thorpe's Olympic records for his unprecedented accomplishments during the 1912 Olympic Games; H.R. 2166, the "Global Health Security Act"; H.R. 2847, the "No Passport Fees for Heroes' Families Act"; H. Res. 723, encouraging all nations to end sexual violence against girls through in-country data-driven reforms as demonstrated by multiple African nations; H. Res. 809, Expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States; H. Res. 458, reaffirming the strong partnership between Tunisia and the United States and supporting the people of Tunisia in their continued pursuit of democratic reforms; and H.R. 1611, the "Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.


Committee on the Judiciary, March 5, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled "Presidential Clemency and Opportunities for Reform", 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, March 4, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the Department of the Interior's Spending Priorities and the President's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Proposal". 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, March 4, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4894, the "Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act"; H.R. 5885, the "Federal Employee Parental Leave Technical Corrections Act"; H.R. 5901, the "Modernization Centers of Excellence Program Act"; and H.R. 6020, a bill requiring a GAO study on Minor League Baseball; and several postal naming measures, 10:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, March 4, Subcommittee on Environment, markup on H.R. 5519, the "Atmospheric Climate Intervention Research Act"; H.R. 4656, the "Background Ozone Research Act"; and H.R. 3297, the "Harmful Algal Bloom Essential Forecasting Act", 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

March 5, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Beyond Coronaviruses: Understanding the Spread of Infectious Diseases and Mobilizing Innovative Solutions", 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, March 4, Full Committee, business meeting on the Committee's Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2021, 11:15 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

March 4, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Building Blocks of Change: The Benefits of Blockchain Technology for Small Businesses", 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, March 4, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing entitled "Funding a Robust Freight and Passenger Rail Network", 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, March 5, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, hearing entitled "Getting It Right: Challenges with the Go-live of Electronic Health Record Modernization", 9 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Ways and Means, March 4, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, hearing entitled "Examining the Impact of the Tax Code on Native American Tribes", 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: March 3, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, 2 p.m., SD–G50.

March 4, Full Committee, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 10 a.m., SD–G50.
Résumé of Congressional Activity

SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Days in session</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>52</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Time in session</td>
<td>183 hrs., 42'</td>
<td>127 hrs., 15'</td>
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<td>Congressional Record:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pages of proceedings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extensions of Remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public bills enacted into law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private bills enacted into law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bills in conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures passed, total</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>164</td>
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<td>Senate bills</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>House bills</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Senate joint resolutions</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>House joint resolutions</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Senate concurrent resolutions</td>
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<td>House concurrent resolutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures reported, total</td>
<td>*29</td>
<td>43</td>
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<td>Senate bills</td>
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<td>House bills</td>
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<td>Senate joint resolutions</td>
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<td>Senate concurrent resolutions</td>
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<td>House concurrent resolutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
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<td>Special reports</td>
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<td>Conference reports</td>
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<td>Measures pending on calendar</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures introduced, total</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>621</td>
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<td>Bills</td>
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<td>Joint resolutions</td>
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<td>Concurrent resolutions</td>
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<td>Simple resolutions</td>
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<td>Yea-and-nay votes</td>
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<td>Recorded votes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bills vetoed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vetoes overridden</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 30 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 46 reports have been filed in the House.

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Civilian nominees, totaling 179 (including 87 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Civilian nominees, totaling 456 (including 1 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Force nominees, totaling 1,004, disposed of as follows:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Army nominees, totaling 2,570 (including 3 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navy nominees, totaling 161 (including 2 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Corps nominees, totaling 1,315, disposed of as follows:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary

|                | Total nominees carried over from the First Session | 93 |
|                | Total nominees received this Session                | 5,592 |
|                | Total confirmed                                    | 1,047 |
|                | Total unconfirmed                                  | 4,658 |
|                | Total withdrawn                                    | 2 |
|                | Total returned to the White House                  | 0 |
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, March 3

Senate Chamber
Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2657, Advanced Geothermal Innovation Leadership Act, post-cloture.
(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Tuesday, March 3

House Chamber
Program for Tuesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE
Brady, Kevin, Tex., E241
Chu, Judy, Calif., E242
Clyburn, James E., S.C., E245
Cuellar, Henry, Tex., E240
DeFazio, Peter A., Ore., E245
Gaetz, Matt, Fla., E249
Gomez, Jimmy, Calif., E242
Granger, Kay, Tex., E240
Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E241
Johnson, Henry C. "Hank", Jr., Ga., E249
Louz, Billy, Ms., E243
McEachin, A. Donald, Va., E244
Moore, Gwen, Wisc., E243
Morelle, Joseph D., N.Y., E240
Mullin, Markwayne, Okla., E239
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E240
Raskin, Jamie, Md., E242
Sewell, Terri A., Ala., E243
Shalala, Donna E., Fla., E241
Simpson, Michael K., Idaho, E243
Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E239, E240, E241, E241, E242, E243, E244
Tipton, Scott R., Colo., E239

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