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No. 42

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 3, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN A. YARMUTH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

### STILL I RISE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, proud to be an American, proud to be a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

I rise today because I refuse to accept the notion that we should get back to bigotry as usual in the House of Representatives. I am one who has fought bigotry most of my life, and I will continue to fight it for the rest of my life.

Today, I want to talk about bigotry, not only within the country, but I also

want to talk about those who aid and abet bigotry in the House of Representatives. Right here in this House there are people who aid and abet bigotry.

I spoke last on the floor about a Newsday report. It concerned an investigation that took place in the State of New York. And within this investigation it was uncovered that, with reference to real estate agents, after having tested them, it was uncovered that 19 percent of the time Asian Americans were treated unequally when compared to White Americans. Thirty-nine percent of the time Hispanic Americans were treated unequally. And 49 percent of the time African Americans were treated unequally.

We sought to do something about this in the Financial Services Committee. We have a piece of legislation that will provide for testing and expand the testing that was started in this country by President Ronald Reagan.

President Reagan gave us the paradigm which we seek to enhance, which we seek to expand because that is the means by which we can eliminate this kind of invidious discrimination. It is not a question of way; it is a question of whether we have the will to challenge it and take it on.

I want to tell you that in my committee there were those who would aid and abet. They came up with specious arguments, fallacious contentions, the notion that we can do without, without saying we can do without the improvements.

I believe this kind of aiding and abetting is the reason we still have this level of invidious discrimination in this country. There are people in this Congress who aid and abet racism and discrimination. We have to call this out. We cannot continue to pretend that it does not exist right here in the Congress of the United States of America.

I plan to come back to this podium, and I am going to say more about what

happened and who caused it to happen. Those who tolerate bigotry and racism perpetuate bigotry and racism. I refuse to be among those who tolerate it.

### IMPROVING SECURITY ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, every parent's worst nightmare is to learn that their children's school may be one of the sites of mass violence. Schools should not be a place where our kids have to fear, it should be where they learn, and grow, and follow their dreams.

No child should have to be more concerned about their safety than they are about their science project, band concert, or basketball game.

That is why last year, I and many others introduced the Securing Our Schools Act in the last Congress, passed it on to the President, and it was signed into law.

I was proud that our bipartisan bill passed the House and Senate and was signed into law by the President. The new law creates a Federal grant program for local communities to improve security in their schools.

School districts and law enforcement can use these critical funds to purchase life-saving technology, panic alert systems, communications equipment, cameras, door locks, or to better train authorities when incidents of violence might occur.

Last year, \$33 million in grants were allocated to 103 school districts nationwide, making four million students safer. The application process is now open for grants for the 2021 fiscal year.

Please urge local officials, those in your district to visit [cops.doj.gov](https://cops.doj.gov) for more information on how to apply for up to \$500,000 in grants through the School Violence Prevention Program. Once again, that is [cops.doj.gov](https://cops.doj.gov).

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

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



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The application deadline for this fiscal year is April 8. Please reach out to your community, community leaders, law enforcement, and local school districts.

We have advanced safety technology in banks, office buildings, and retail locations. There is no reason we shouldn't have this technology at all of our schools to protect all of our children.

#### RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of International Women's Day on March 8 to call attention to women around the world who have risked their personal safety and freedom to speak out for the rights of all women.

I am particularly inspired by the example of three brave Saudi women who have spent nearly 2 years imprisoned or under house arrest because of their fearless advocacy.

These three women, Loujain Al-Hathloul, Nouf Abdulaziz, and Eman Al-Nafjan, are outstanding examples of the many Saudi activists who bravely fought to stop Saudi Arabia's male guardianship, fought to end its prohibition on women driving, and fought to open up female participation in elections and public office.

And although the government ostensibly granted such freedoms in 2018, these three women continue to face different injustices, including torture or threats of murder and sexual violence and limited access to family or legal representation.

Loujain has been particularly targeted for her courageous leadership within this women's movement. Her selfless commitment has paved the way for crucial social reforms, but unfortunately, the Saudi Government has attempted to undermine her contributions with politically-motivated criminal charges, a lengthy imprisonment, and inhumane abuse.

This incredible woman deserves to be honored, not jailed, which is why I recently led several colleagues in nominating Loujain for the Nobel Peace Prize and will continue to advocate for her through the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's Defending Freedoms Project.

This Congress, we have already adopted a bipartisan resolution in the House to urge for the release of these women and other activists. Today, we call on Saudi Arabia once again to free these women and to lift the threat of their continued persecution.

To maintain our international leadership, the United States has a moral obligation to uphold democratic principles. The President, the Secretary of State, and the entire Trump administration must increase its diplomatic pressure to demand the release of these

women and hold the Saudi Government accountable for its appalling disregard of human rights.

As we recognize this International Women's Day, we are reminded to look beyond our borders; to continue to bring attention to the urgent and ongoing human rights violations that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committing.

I ask that all women and their allies throughout the United States and around the world and all men join me in standing with these amazing Saudi feminists in demanding that they be freed.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March as National Nutrition Month.

A well-balanced, nutritious diet is important for all Americans, and access to fresh, quality ingredients and food shouldn't be a luxury.

Last Congress, I had the honor of serving as the chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations. During my time as chairman, and through all of my years on the House Agriculture Committee, I have met with many advocates, stakeholders, and other individuals who understand the role that nutrition plays in the lives of all Americans at every stage of life.

Nutrition plays a particularly important role in the lives of our Nation's children, however. During critical development years, children are particularly dependent on foods that are packed with nutrients. In some unfortunate cases, the meals that students receive at school may be the only time they eat during the day.

It is important that we do what we can to ensure schools have the resources that they need to provide students with delicious and nutritious options.

In January, the USDA announced two new proposals to expand nutritional options for our Nation's school children. The new rules allow schools to offer a greater variety of vegetables, options to customize school breakfasts, and the ability to purchase items a la carte.

This added flexibility will not only bolster the consumption of nutritious food in our schools, it will also help reduce food waste.

At the end of the day, it doesn't matter how nutritious school lunches are, if students aren't eating them, they are not nutritious. I am hopeful that this recent change will encourage more of our Nation's young people to make increasingly healthy, well-rounded food choices.

In addition to a greater variety of fruits and vegetables, we can help re-

store nutritious dairy options in schools. My bill, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, would allow both flavored and nonflavored milk back into our Nation's school cafeterias. Additionally, the School Milk Nutrition Act would further expand milk options for students and help reverse the decline of milk consumption in schools.

While we can all be advocates for healthy diets and good nutrition, I would like to specifically recognize the registered dietitian nutritionists who are one of our most valuable resources in the pursuit of reliable food and nutrition information.

Next week, on March 11, we celebrate Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day and thank these individuals for their role in building strong, healthy families and communities.

#### PARTICIPATION IN THE 2020 CENSUS IS IMPORTANT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of participation in the upcoming 2020 Census, and specifically the critical importance of getting a full count of Tribal Nation citizens.

Census results affect our communities every day. As the official count of how many people live in our communities, the Census determines everything from plans for highways, to funding for special education, and support for our firefighters.

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in Federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade.

Think of our local schools: Census counts help determine how money is allocated for Head Start early education programs and for grants that support college access and education programs for children with disabilities.

But that is not all. The Census determines Federal funding for SoonerCare, foster care programs, housing assistance, infrastructure investments, and so much more. We have to make sure that every Oklahoman is counted so that our communities receive the support they need.

This past week, I was proud to introduce bipartisan legislation encouraging Federal, State, local governments, and Tribal Nations to work together as partners to encourage participation in the 2020 Census among American Indians and Alaskan natives.

Today, Oklahoma is home to 39 Tribes. The Census ensures we make a strong investment in Oklahoma and provide resources to Tribal Nations that fulfill the Federal-Indian trust responsibility. Funding for critical healthcare programs, housing initiatives, and education is at stake.

For too long, Tribal Nations have been shortchanged in Federal funding

due to a Census that has historically undercounted Native American populations.

□ 1015

In the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau estimates that American Indians and Alaska Natives were undercounted by approximately 4.9 percent, more than double the undercount rate of the next closest population group.

The negative consequences of undercounting cannot be quickly corrected. The Census occurs only once every 10 years, and as a result, undercounting Tribal nations can significantly reduce Federal funding levels for important programs for an entire decade.

Over 300 Federal programs rely on data derived from the Census, and Tribal nations rely on many of them. They include Native American schools and education programs; Native American workforce programs; Tribal health programs; Tribal housing programs; water and sewage projects; and transit, infrastructure, and economic development programs.

We must ensure Native voices are heard and counted. The Census is an opportunity, not a threat.

Responses to the 2020 Census are confidential, protected by law. Personal information is never shared by the Census Bureau with any other government agencies or law enforcement, and responses cannot be used against individuals by government agencies or in court in any way.

All households will receive official Census mail by April 1, and individuals and families can respond online, by mail, by phone, or in person.

It is critically important that all Oklahomans participate in this Census.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from the Native American Caucus, including co-chairs Congressman TOM COLE from Oklahoma and Congresswoman DEB HAALAND from New Mexico, who have helped to highlight the importance of getting a full Census count among Tribal nations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and communities to work together as partners with Tribal nations to encourage participation in the 2020 Census and to inform the public that the 2020 Census is safe, easy, and important.

#### FRACKING BAN WOULD LEAD TO SOCIALISM

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, one of the most absurd and destructive plans being touted by out-of-touch socialists is a ban on fracking, also known as hydraulic fracturing, for natural gas and oil.

At home in Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, a region that on any given day produces up to 10 percent of our Nation's natural gas, it is easy to see how the energy economy

has benefited everyone. From high-paying jobs to lower energy costs, natural gas has been an economic win for the American people.

Even more, thanks to the natural gas boom, America is now energy independent. That means great things for our national security, as we are no longer beholden to energy-producing nations that hate us.

Unbelievably, these great benefits are under attack by radical socialists who seek to ban fracking and cripple America's energy economy.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the plan to end fracking would cost more than 600,000 jobs and \$261 billion in GDP by 2025, and that is just in Pennsylvania.

This is why I invited the socialists in this Congress and those running for President who want to ban fracking to come to Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District to face the families they wish to leave destitute, to face the families who have finally found success, and tell them why they want to take it away.

For these folks, a ban on fracking would lead to more government dependence, lower wages, fewer jobs, and skyrocketing energy prices.

In other words, banning fracking would pave the road for America to become a socialist country. There should be nothing scarier or more sickening than that.

#### CONGRATULATING BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a little bit of time today to congratulate Bucknell University on achieving a great recognition this week.

According to the United States Peace Corps, Bucknell University, located in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, produces the fourth most Peace Corps volunteers of all small colleges and universities nationwide.

In their 2020 report, the Peace Corps noted Bucknell produced 13 volunteers for the Peace Corps, an amazing feat for an institution whose student body is just over 3,600 students.

According to its mission statement, "Bucknell educates students for a lifetime of critical thinking and strong leadership characterized by continued intellectual exploration, creativity, and imagination."

By forming students in that mission, it is no wonder why so many Bucknell students find themselves seeking greater service to humanity through the Peace Corps.

In noting the type of schools that make up the list of robust Peace Corps volunteers, Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen said: "These schools are institutions that emphasize . . . service-minded students."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate Bucknell University and President Bravman on this great recognition and on creating service-minded students.

'Ray Bucknell.

#### CALLING FOR BIPARTISAN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address three issues of critical importance to my constituents.

The first is the urgent need to prepare for the coronavirus.

Mr. Speaker, public health officials are now reporting the first presumed positive test in my home State of New Hampshire.

As Members of Congress, our foremost responsibility is to keep our communities safe. That is why, yesterday, I joined Governor Sununu and my colleagues in the New Hampshire congressional delegation to receive an update from public health officials on our State's ongoing efforts to combat this epidemic.

The State of New Hampshire is currently ramping up testing capabilities, investigating potential cases, communicating with Federal partners, and working with individual communities on containment and mitigation.

Here in Washington, we must ensure that the emergency coronavirus spending package is responsive to the urgent needs of State and local public health officials who are on the front lines of this situation.

We can only succeed in containing the virus if States like New Hampshire can depend on the full support of the Federal Government for costs associated with the response effort.

Mr. Speaker, if there were ever a moment for a renewed spirit of bipartisanship in Congress, this is it, as our country focuses on the deadly virus outbreak.

We must communicate health information clearly. We must develop effective and affordable vaccines that are made available to all who need them. And we must ensure that State and local governments, as well as medical facilities, can sustain the arduous task of containing this outbreak in the weeks and months ahead.

The American people are looking to us for levelheaded leadership that rises above politics, and we can't let them down.

Let's pass a robust coronavirus package as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to encourage all of my constituents to follow the CDC safety guidelines and to visit the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services website for updated health information.

#### PROGRESS NEEDED ON CARE FOR VETERANS

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today in support of veterans who are seeking services in the community and the providers who care for them.

For too long, hospitals and providers in New Hampshire have been owed millions of dollars in unpaid claims for the care they provide to veterans.

The community care providers impacted include large hospital networks,

home healthcare providers, massage therapists, and acupuncturists.

I have personally met with these local providers to hear their stories, and I have convened meetings of affected stakeholders in New Hampshire and here in Washington.

Here is the bottom line: Without real progress, the MISSION Act will never fulfill its promise, and care for our veterans will be compromised.

Last week, at a hearing of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I received a promise from Secretary Wilkie that the VA will take immediate action to fix these persistent payment issues for community providers in New Hampshire and across the country. We have to hold the VA to this commitment.

My office is bringing VA leaders, veterans, providers, and third-party administrators to the table to solve these problems once and for all.

When our veterans return home, they shouldn't have to fight to receive the care that they have earned, and local providers shouldn't have to fight a stubborn bureaucracy just to get their bills paid, to keep their doors open, and to continue treating our veterans.

We can and must do better on this front.

#### EMPOWERING PARENTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mr. PAPPAS. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about empowering parents in New Hampshire to develop the skills they need to pursue the American Dream.

No parent should have to choose between caring for a child and providing a better life for their families.

That is why I am introducing the American Job Centers Family Accessibility Act, which will create a competitive grant program for job centers to provide access to childcare for individuals receiving services at their centers.

In 2018, more than 5.4 million unemployed workers, including more than 500,000 veterans, took advantage of career services at job centers in their communities. But despite clear evidence that job centers are effective, barriers to access for jobseekers still remain.

In New Hampshire, State officials tell me that the number one obstacle to job training is access to childcare. No one who works hard and wants to develop new skills should be denied that opportunity simply because they can't find quality, affordable childcare for their kids.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the American Job Centers Family Accessibility Act so that working mothers and fathers aren't unfairly denied the chance to earn a better job and a better life for their families.

#### CONGRATULATING STACIE KONVICKA

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Mrs. Stacie

Konvicka, who was this year's recipient of the Educator of the Year Award from the Wharton County Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

This award is given to a teacher who exemplifies professionalism, dedication, leadership, and enthusiasm.

Mrs. Konvicka is a fourth grade math and science teacher at Wharton Elementary School.

Having been a teacher for 22 years, she has learned the value of going above and beyond for her students in the classroom.

Wharton Elementary School is a title I campus, which means over 90 percent of the students come from economically disadvantaged homes.

Mrs. Konvicka invests so much into her students. At the end of the day, she wants to ensure that they feel cared for.

Many have benefited from her high-quality instruction as they are pushed to do their best.

American ragtime composer Scott Hayden once said: "Teachers have three loves: the love of learning, the love of learners, and the love of bringing the first two loves together."

Mrs. Stacie Konvicka has these three loves, and we, as south Texans, are thankful for her service in lovingly shaping the minds of future generations.

#### REMEMBERING MARIE JORDAN SPEER

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Marie Jordan Speer, who passed away at 98 years of age in Corpus Christi, Texas, on October 19, 2019.

Marie's kindness and compassion touched the lives of those around her, and through her various achievements, she served her community well.

In 1942, she married Mr. Edward Jordan, but 2 years later, he was drafted to fight in World War II and heroically, but tragically, died in combat.

Marie ultimately used her suffering and loss to help others. She founded the Gold Star Wives of America in order to comfort and create a community for other widows who had lost their husbands in the war.

The first meeting she organized was a lunch with other military widows from town. This lunch morphed into a small volunteer group, which, in time, grew into a national organization that today has 35 chapters throughout the United States.

The Gold Star Wives not only provide comfort and support for families who have lost loved ones; on Capitol Hill, they fight to secure victories for the spouses and children of fallen soldiers.

We owe these families a debt that we cannot repay. Their husbands and fathers have made the ultimate sacrifice in order to protect our country.

Today, and every day, we pray for God's peace for these families.

Marie continued to work on behalf of the Gold Star Wives, eventually settling in Corpus Christi, Texas, where she started three local newspapers and became heavily involved in the Coastal Bend community.

South Texas is a better place because of Marie. Her life truly is a testament to the power of sacrificial love, determination, and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Marie's family for sharing Marie with our Nation. We are sorry for their loss.

#### LEADERS DOING GREAT JOB ON CORONAVIRUS

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the coronavirus.

I want to reassure folks that since we first learned about this virus, our government has been very proactive in its response.

The President took charge and assembled a task force, headed by the Vice President, that brought together the best and the brightest doctors, scientists, and health experts that our country has to offer.

The President also took the crucial step of implementing a travel ban on China to slow down the spread of the outbreak within our borders.

While our government is appropriately handling the spread of the coronavirus, our citizens can help as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to go to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov), follow the latest developments, and learn about easy ways that you can avoid getting sick.

America must always be ahead of the game on viral threats like these, and I am proud to say that our leaders are doing a great job.

□ 1030

#### ESSENTIAL SUPPORT FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE FOR COMMUNITIES

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the essential support that faith-based organizations give to the communities around them, including during times of crisis.

During Hurricane Florence, in 2018, volunteers from Samaritan's Purse were on the ground after the hurricane had devastated thousands of homes across my State.

Lorraine Jenkins, a resident of New Bern, my mother's childhood home in North Carolina, said that she "had faith but needed a little more strength" when she returned to her home to find it flooded with 18 inches of water. Thankfully, several volunteers from Samaritan's Purse were there to pray with Lorraine to give her the strength that she needed.

During Hurricane Dorian, in 2019, the Salvation Army provided over 43,000 meals, 55,000 drinks, 25,000 snacks, and 48 full cleanup kits to victims.

Mr. Speaker, faith-based organizations also provide key support services to children, many of whom are victims of the opioid crisis. This crisis has left over 92,000 children in foster care and in need of loving homes. Faith-based adoption agencies play a pivotal role in finding homes for these children.

Sadly, despite the clear benefits faith-based organizations provide to the communities around them, there remains an ongoing push to strip them of Federal funding or to even shut them down for following their sincerely held religious beliefs. That is why, this week, I am introducing the Equal Treatment of Faith-Based Organizations Act, along with several of my colleagues.

My bill codifies into law parts of the recently proposed HHS rule to ensure equal treatment for faith-based organizations. My bill reverses the discriminatory policy from the previous administration that required faith-based providers of social services to disclose their religious affiliation and refer potential clients to other providers. My bill also allows faith-based organizations to apply for Federal funding on equal footing with secular organizations.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has no business discriminating against faith-based organizations purely on the basis of their sincerely held religious beliefs. I am proud to lead this legislation and to protect the good work that faith-based organizations do every day.

#### SENATE DEMOCRATS BLOCK PRO-LIFE VOTE

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, last week, Senate Democrats blocked a vote in the Senate on two pro-life bills: the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which would require doctors to provide medical care to a child who survives an abortion, and the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would ban abortions beginning at 20 weeks. Senate Democrats prevented a vote on both of these commonsense bills as House Democrats have already done 80 times.

I call on the Democrats on both sides of the Capitol, as Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL said last week, to take a “clear and moral stand” to protect innocent life.

#### SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this week is Severe Weather Awareness Week, and it is a good reminder to always be prepared for extreme weather events, which we too often face in Kansas.

Ready.gov—that is, r-e-a-d-y.gov—which is run by FEMA, is a great place to find resources related to flooding, thunderstorms, winter weather, or advice on building an emergency kit.

Similarly, FEMA offers a free smartphone app which provides real-time alerts, shelter locations, and other resources to help during and after a severe weather event.

But it is not enough to just communicate severe weather events to the public. We need to continue to invest in tools and encourage innovation

when it comes to weather modeling and forecasting so that we can ensure as much lead time as possible before a severe weather event occurs.

From coastal regions to the heartland, severe weather impacts us all, and the Federal Government not only needs to be working with public and private partners to improve systems, but also to encourage and incentivize innovation in the field.

Recently, the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee has taken a look at the various forecasting and modeling efforts across the country and discussed how we can better improve these systems to give people increased warning in the event of severe weather events.

Furthermore, I met with those on the front line in forecasting, such as our hardworking meteorologists back home at our National Weather Service, along with research institutions across the country, discussing the advances they are making thanks to new tools and technologies.

It is important to stay safe, informed, and prepared as we head into the severe weather season, and I hope all Americans will take advantage of the tools available to achieve these goals.

#### STEPS UNITED STATES IS TAKING TO RESPOND TO CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, the spread of the coronavirus and its dominance in the news has been at the top of my mind as well as for many Kansans.

While there is no reason to panic, it is prudent for all of us to be mindful of the ongoing challenging situation. As a physician and Congressman, I feel it is important that I convey the steps the Federal Government is currently taking to best respond.

First, we must demand more transparency from the Chinese and Iranian Governments. American experts must be allowed to get access to information on the ground in both China and Iran, particularly in Wuhan—ground zero of the outbreak. Unfortunately, these countries have a long history of misinformation and coverups, and we need to know the full truth to best protect Americans.

Some in the American medical industry are concerned about a shortage of supplies which are largely manufactured in China. Currently, the FDA is not aware of any national shortages of medical products. Federal agencies have been proactively reaching out to hundreds of manufacturers to assess potential shortages and to let manufacturers know they can provide assistance. That being said, this is an excellent time to review our supply chain for both American healthcare as well as all other industries.

I personally believe President Trump and Vice President Pence are doing everything in their power to protect Americans. Consulting with the top medical experts, this administration is moving to swiftly mitigate outbreaks of coronavirus here at home.

Attempts by the national media and Democrats in Congress to place blame on the President for these outbreaks are inexcusable—they are unprofessional; they are unnecessary; and they are actually very harmful.

Anything President Trump can possibly do to expedite the development of testing, antivirals, and vaccines is already being done—and, I might add, is being accomplished in record time.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Health and Human Services have been preparing for outbreaks like this for years. We are the most prepared and the best equipped nation in the world to take on this coronavirus.

On the eve of a potentially global epidemic, this situation underscores how imperative it is for our country to be able to prevent unidentified individuals from entering this country. Border security is national security, and families in Kansas deserve a home safe from unvetted individuals who may knowingly or unknowingly be carrying contagious diseases.

I visited with the CDC over 5 weeks ago, asking what preventative measures they were taking when this virus was in the early stages of outbreak. I have been staying in close, constant contact with the White House, the CDC, and all agencies responsible for controlling the spread of this disease. The safety of Kansas is my top priority, and I will continue monitoring developments closely and communicate with officials across our State.

In the meantime, as a physician, I recommend some commonsense practices: regular handwashing, applying hand sanitizer, proper nutrition, and minimal travel outside your community. This is a time to prepare and plan, a time to make sure you have a plan for your children, for your elderly parents, perhaps, that you have a plan for your place of work and for your place of worship, wherever you might gather in your own community.

The event also underscores what an absolute disaster a government takeover of the medical system would be. America's healthcare capabilities are second to none because of competition and free market innovation. Radical socialist policies would effectively eliminate private investment in new medicines and technologies. That would be unacceptable.

#### OPPOSITION TO THE NEW WAY FORWARD ACT

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my firm opposition to the New Way Forward Act, a radical piece of legislation that would put American lives at risk in numerous ways.

Under this bill, heinous crimes committed by illegal immigrants would no longer result in immediate deportation, but, even worse, it would allow

those who have been deported to come back to the United States legally and on the taxpayer's dime—essentially allowing for the importation of violent and dangerous illegal immigrants into our country. I have yet to meet a single person who supports that idea.

The bill would also decriminalize illegal entry into the country, including for criminals who have already been deported.

This measure is a dream for those who seek to abolish ICE, throw open our national borders, and gut the rule of law in America.

I have heard from constituents who are outraged about this proposal—and rightfully so. While sponsored by nearly a fifth of the House Democratic Caucus, the legislation stands little chance of advancing past President Trump or a Republican Senate. But it is, nonetheless, important for the American people to know the priorities of some Members of this body.

I will continue to stand strong against policies like the New Way Forward Act and any other legislation which would encourage illegal immigration and cripple the safety of American citizens.

#### HONORING BAM CARNEY

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage the body to keep my dear friend, Bam Carney, of Campbellsville, Kentucky, in their thoughts and prayers as he continues to battle a serious illness.

Bam has been hospitalized for over 2 months and has a long journey ahead. However, anyone who knows Bam knows that he is the ultimate fighter.

As a father, educator, State representative, and Kentucky's house majority leader, he has always fought strongly for what he believes in. But, more importantly, he has always fought for his family and friends above all else.

Bam's community has organized "A Day of Prayer and Encouragement for Bam," where people across Kentucky are joining together to lift him up in prayer.

I ask for this body to join me in keeping my friend and golf buddy in their thoughts and prayers. He means so much to so many people. I ask everyone for their prayers as Bam continues his fight.

#### RECESS

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

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

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

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

God of mercy, thank You for giving us another day.

Quicken our spirits so that we will know the blessings of living together in unity and peace. Grant that we might know the satisfaction of sharing our common concerns and experiencing the joy of mutual accomplishment.

Bless the Members of this people's House with success in bringing fruition to all efforts to work toward common solutions to the issues facing our Nation, solutions which often seem so distant.

On a day of major electoral impact, and as our Nation faces the possible effects of the coronavirus, grace us with the assurance that You are with us in difficult times.

May we all understand that a unified nation is equally the work of each of us here we live.

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

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. COOPER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

#### TENNESSEE NEEDS EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF

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

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, very early this morning, my hometown of Nashville, Tennessee, was terribly hard hit by a tornado.

At least 19 lives have been lost. Buildings were destroyed. Many, many homes were destroyed, and countless lives have been disrupted. At least 34,000 people lost electricity.

I have been in contact with our Governor, our mayor, our entire congressional delegation, including my good friend JOHN ROSE, to do all that we can

to bring emergency relief to the area as fast as possible.

This is a genuine tragedy, and we need to praise our neighbors, friends, residents, first responders, firefighters, police, and EMTs who worked all through the night, despite fierce rains, to provide first aid.

Nashville is strong. We recovered so well after the terrible 2010 flood that many parts of America didn't even know we had been suffering.

Now is the time to beat this disaster.

#### PLEDGE FOR AID IN RESPONSE TO TENNESSEE TORNADOES

(Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today, I rise with my colleague from Tennessee, Mr. COOPER. As he has already indicated, earlier today, a devastating tornado tore through Middle Tennessee, including much of the area that I represent and call home.

While rescue workers are still in the critical phase of sorting through debris and accounting for those who are still missing, we know already that many lives have been lost and dozens of people were rushed to emergency rooms.

I, along with countless Tennesseans, are lifting those people up in prayer, and we hope that everybody will join us.

I am working diligently alongside my fellow Representatives, the administration, Governor Lee, Senators ALEXANDER and BLACKBURN, and emergency officials to get much-needed Federal aid to the affected areas.

Homes, schools, businesses, churches, farms, and other buildings and numerous communities have suffered serious and, in some cases, overwhelming damage.

I stand today with those affected by this disaster and pledge every effort will be made to give shelter to those who need it, give care to those who are hurt, and give assistance in the critical effort to recover and rebuild.

#### FUND CORONAVIRUS RESEARCH

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, this week, the House should consider legislation responding to the threat of COVID-19, called the coronavirus, that poses a significant threat to our Nation.

Since the end of December, over 3,000 people worldwide have died from the virus, and there are over 91,000 confirmed cases. Without a specific treatment protocol or vaccine, the virus is dangerous and will likely reach the level of a pandemic.

We need to fund scientific research that can quickly diagnose and provide therapies to prevent and treat the virus.

We need to give our first responders, doctors, nurses, and public health workers who are on the front lines fighting this virus the resources and support that they need.

We need to all look after each other.

Madam Speaker, I hope to support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

#### CONGRATULATING MIDWAY ELEMENTARY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this year, Midway Elementary School in Lexington, South Carolina, commemorated its 25th anniversary and celebrated international recognition of its French immersion program.

Midway Elementary is the only recipient in South Carolina, one of just five in the Southeast.

I appreciate Midway Elementary Principal Jan Fickling, Lexington County District One Superintendent Dr. Greg Little, Lexington One School Board Chair Cindy Smith, State Superintendent Molly Spearman, and all the dedicated teachers and administrators who work tirelessly to ensure student success and opportunity.

As co-chair of the French Caucus, I am grateful for our State's French heritage, our first ally.

Lexington County hosts the largest manufacturing facilities in the world for Michelin Tire Corporation, with over 2,000 appreciated employees.

We look forward to welcoming Ambassador of France Philippe Etienne to visit South Carolina next month.

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

"Je parle Francais, un tres peu." "I speak French very little."

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DAY

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Day, which is recognized around the country on March 3 each year.

This day is especially meaningful for me, as my daughter, Lauren, battled triple negative breast cancer for nearly 2 years before her death in August 2017.

Between 10 and 20 percent of breast cancer patients are triple negative, meaning they don't respond to traditional hormone therapies. They are considered more aggressive cancers, and the prognosis is poor.

My daughter was very public in her fight against breast cancer, and I know that she would want me to use today to

raise awareness and to encourage those at risk to be screened.

I am humbled to have reintroduced a resolution officially designating this day in the hopes that, together, we can bring greater awareness of triple negative breast cancer and encourage early detection and treatment.

May we resolve to fight together with the strength and courage that Lauren demonstrated each and every day to finally find a cure for this awful and dreaded disease.

#### EXTEND PAID FAMILY LEAVE TO MORE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

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

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on an issue that touches the lives of countless Ohioans because it affects everyone with loved ones and family members.

When a hardworking Federal employee gives birth to a child, has a parent is in the hospital, or needs to take leave for any medical or family-related reason, they are able to do so through paid family leave.

Sadly, thousands of Federal employees, many of whom live and work in Ohio's 12th Congressional District, were left out of the most recent reauthorization of paid family leave for Federal employees.

These TSA agents; FAA workers, including air traffic controllers at John Glenn Airport; and VA healthcare providers, such as doctors, dentists, and nurses, work hard. They deserve to take time off for medical and family reasons without affecting their pay. That is why I introduced the Value FAamily Act, which would correct this oversight and extend 12 weeks of paid family leave to these forgotten employees.

FMLA, and the lives of Federal employees, should not be compromised.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 5993, the Value FAamily Act.

#### ST. CROIX NEEDS PERMANENT DIALYSIS FACILITY

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, in 2017, due to natural disaster and lack of electricity, 200 dialysis patients were forced to evacuate the Virgin Islands.

Some never returned; some are still hoping to; and some who did may once again have to leave. Patients on St. Croix are still receiving treatment in a mobile unit that faces an uncertain future.

FEMA has slow-walked the release of funding and guidelines that will allow our hospital to build a permanent and comfortable facility on the island for lifesaving dialysis treatment.

The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, CMS, has refused to re-

certify the temporary mobile unit, instead giving the unit month-to-month extensions, citing that, by now, there should have been a more permanent structure.

Stuck between FEMA's slow-walk and CMS' decision are people, people who need stability and empathy. If these Americans are forced to make the hard decision as to whether to leave home again, these Federal agencies would have failed them.

At least 15 of the dialysis patients who were forced to leave the first time are no longer with us. They passed away before they were able to come home.

This National Kidney Month, let's work to ensure that this doesn't happen again.

□ 1215

#### SERVICEMEMBERS SHOULD NOT BE HARASSED BY DEBT COLLECTORS

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

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 5003, the Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act, sponsored by Representative DEAN, which passed the House unanimously. I am a proud cosponsor of this bill and was glad to vote for it.

As a former Army infantry officer, I have seen debt collectors harass servicemembers. This is made worse by collectors who contact servicemembers' superiors.

The U.S. military does not owe these debts; they are the debt of the servicemember. So why should debt collectors be in contact with someone who does not owe the debt?

From a readiness perspective, our commanding officers and noncommissioned officers should be focused on training our soldiers to fight and win our Nation's wars, not on keeping track of who owes what money to what debt collector.

Just as debt collectors cannot humiliate civilians by calling their bosses, neither should they be allowed to use such practices on our fighting men and women. I am glad to see that we can all agree that collection companies should abide by the same rules and restrictions for enlisted servicemembers as they do when collecting debts from private citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Senate to take up this bill immediately.

#### KEEP AMERICAN PEOPLE SAFE FROM CORONAVIRUS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, two Rhode Islanders have already tested positive for coronavirus, and dozens

more are being monitored. Across the globe, more than 90,000 are sick and 3,000 have died.

Rhode Islanders and all Americans deserve a strong, effective, and fully funded response to this health crisis. That is why the House will vote this week on an emergency appropriations bill that addresses the scale and seriousness of the coronavirus epidemic. This bill will ensure public health officials have the resources they need right now.

It is critical that the Senate send it to the President's desk as soon as the House acts, and, for his part, the President needs to stop calling this situation a hoax. This isn't about him; it is about protecting the American people. When the bill gets to his desk, he should sign it and then step aside and let the scientists, the doctors, and the public health experts do their jobs.

This is no time for politics. It is about keeping the American people safe. The House will do our job. The President should start doing his.

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#### AMERICA WILL ADAPT TO MEET CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH CORONAVIRUS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as compared to other historic viruses and outbreaks in recent years, the coronavirus, so far, is a lesser threat.

Let's compare it to H1N1, also known as the swine flu of 2009. The CDC has estimated that approximately 60 million people in the U.S. contracted H1N1 during that 2009 outbreak, leading to the death of around 12,000 Americans.

Even more alarming, during this current 2019-2020 flu season, approximately 18,000 people, unfortunately, have died as a result of the more conventional flu. Currently, in the U.S., there are 105 confirmed cases of coronavirus, resulting in the unfortunate death of six people so far. We expect these numbers will go up.

While this outbreak is, indeed, a problem, the CDC, not politicians, continue to claim that the American public are unlikely to be exposed to coronavirus.

During the Republican majority in Congress, we made several strategic investments in key health resources to prevent the spread of a virus like this one, including a 24 percent increase in CDC funding and a 70 percent increase in infectious disease response.

So, instead of sounding an alarm, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to continue to remind Americans that our country will adapt to the challenges coming.

For people, individually: Work on limiting your own risk by washing your hands frequently.

#### HONORING KATY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, with Easter around the corner, I rise to heap praise on an icon in Katy, Texas, in Fort Bend County. Her name is Deysi Crespo. She is the CEO of Katy Christian Ministries, otherwise known as KCM.

KCM has one holy mission: transforming life through God's grace and generosity of the community.

KCM has 52 member churches, partners. Deysi started there as a volunteer in the resale shop in 2007.

Deysi is a living, breathing example that the American Dream comes through faith. At 7 years old, she left rampant poverty in Central America for Katy, Texas. After a few months, she no longer hungered for food.

Deysi had a building hunger inside of her body to end poverty for others and intervene in crisis with God's love. The rest is history. Under Deysi's leadership, KCM earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator and the Hurricane Harvey Response Award from the Houston Food Bank.

If you are in Katy this March, say hola, or hello, to Deysi. She will be at the Katy Charity Bubble Run. That is set on March 28 in Katy, Texas, and Deysi guarantees the love of Christ will be waiting for all who come to the Bubble Run.

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#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 3, 2020.

HON. NANCY PELOSI,  
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 3, 2020, at 9:21 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5671.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

#### CONDEMNING CONTINUED VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS BY ARMED GROUPS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 387) condemning continued violence against civilians by armed groups in the Central African Republic and supporting efforts to achieve a lasting political solution to the conflict, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 387

Whereas the overthrow of the Government of the Central African Republic in March 2013 and subsequent violence has led to the proliferation of multiple armed groups, which have been responsible for widespread atrocities based on perceived or actual religious or ethnic identities;

Whereas the United Nations (UN) concluded in 2014 that the Central African Republic's minority Muslim community had been the target of ethnic cleansing, and multiple UN officials have warned of a risk of genocide;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, an estimated 2,900,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance, over 590,000 Central Africans are refugees in neighboring countries, and over 640,000 people are displaced, most of whom are women and children;

Whereas armed groups continue to engage in gross human rights abuses, violence, pillaging, and the illicit trafficking of natural resources such as ivory, gold, cattle, and diamonds;

Whereas armed groups have intentionally targeted personnel from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), aid workers, and journalists, making the Central African Republic one of the world's most dangerous operating environments for humanitarian actors;

Whereas the Central African Republic has made significant progress toward democracy by conducting democratic elections despite the lack of security around electoral polling stations and some irregularities, and inaugurated President Faustin-Archange Touadéra in March 2016;

Whereas the establishment of the Special Criminal Court in June 2017 and the creation of more than 1,000 peace committees across the country demonstrate a genuine commitment to justice and accountability on the part of the people of the Central African Republic; and

Whereas, since 2013, the United States has been the largest single donor to the humanitarian response in the Central African Republic, promoted peace and social cohesion, supported the deployment of MINUSCA, enacted sanctions against senior leaders of armed groups, and provided life-saving assistance to communities in the Central African Republic affected by the crisis: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that strong United States leadership and support for the stability of the Central African Republic is necessary for the security and future stability of the region;

(2) condemns violence against civilians, humanitarian workers, journalists, faith leaders, and United Nations peacekeepers by all armed actors operating within the Central African Republic;



(3) welcomes the signing of the Khartoum Peace Agreement in February 2019 and urges all parties to adhere to the terms of the agreement, including participating in efforts to disarm and demobilize combatants, to advance long-term sustainable peace for the citizens of the Central African Republic;

(4) supports continued efforts by the Government of the Central African Republic, with support from the African Union and United Nations, to combat the threat posed by armed groups;

(5) calls on the international community, including all members of the United Nations Security Council as well as neighboring countries, to support constructive efforts toward peace in the Central African Republic;

(6) calls on the Government of the Central African Republic to ensure that all state security forces adhere to civilian command, refrain from human rights abuses, and sever any and all links to armed groups except in the framework of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration under the Khartoum Agreement; and

(7) urges the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in coordination with other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to—

(A) provide life-saving humanitarian and development assistance to support vulnerable populations and build local capacity to support sustainable agricultural production in the Central African Republic;

(B) support the efforts of local communities, nongovernmental organizations, and the Government of the Central African Republic to prevent atrocities along religious and ethnic lines, including through programs that focus on peacebuilding, reconciliation, human rights, good and inclusive governance, justice, security sector reform, and the implementation of the Khartoum Agreement;

(C) work with the United Nations, African Union, and regional governments and organizations to enforce existing sanctions related to the Central African Republic and address cross-border flows of illicit arms, natural resources, and armed groups;

(D) ensure that United States assistance is well-coordinated among agencies and with other donors to maximize diplomatic, development, and defense resources to support peace, stability, and the Central African Republic's journey to self-reliance;

(E) undertake efforts to prioritize mutual interests between the United States and the Central African Republic and take steps to position the United States as a leader working with the Government of the Central African Republic in the areas of reconstruction, postconflict remediation, and institution building, as well as taking steps to combat Russian influence in the country and region;

(F) support rehabilitation and reintegration programs led by the Central African Republic Government, nongovernmental organizations, and regional government partners for children, youth, and adults that have demobilized from armed groups, including the Lord's Resistance Army;

(G) ensure that the United States Embassy in Bangui, including USAID presence, and the Department of State Africa Bureau have adequate staffing and funding to carry out their programs and objectives; and

(H) ensure that the United Nations Multi-dimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic has adequate resources, including personnel, temporary forward operating bases, and force enabling equipment, to carry out its civilian protection mandate and more effectively project the presence of the United Nations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 387.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 387 and thank my colleagues for their support of this bipartisan resolution.

As the gentleman knows, the destabilizing overthrow of the Government of the Central African Republic, or CAR, in March 2013 has led to a proliferation of armed rebel groups which have been responsible for widespread atrocities based on religious or ethnic identities during this bloody conflict. In 2014, the U.N. concluded that CAR's minority Muslim community had been the target of ethnic cleansing, and multiple U.N. officials have warned of a risk of genocide.

These armed groups continue to engage in gross human rights abuses, including violence, pillaging, and the illicit trafficking of natural resources such as ivory, gold, cattle, and diamonds.

However, despite the lack of security around electoral polling stations, CAR has made significant progress toward democracy by conducting democratic elections, ultimately inaugurating President Touadera in March of 2016. Yet, armed groups still control much of the country's territory, ethnic and religious violence occurs frequently, and the central government still struggles with basic security and governance.

Despite these challenges, the central government and armed groups signed a landmark peace deal in February of 2019 that lays out a path toward a unity government, demobilization of nonstate combatants, and the creation of interim-mixed security units comprising security forces and former rebels.

The United States has a long history supporting CAR, establishing diplomatic relations in 1960 following their independence from France. U.S. bilateral aid to CAR totaled \$34 million in fiscal year 2018, including \$18 million in food aid, \$13 million in security aid, and \$3 million in development aid.

Despite this, the United Nations estimates 2.9 million people need humanitarian assistance, and over 640,000 people have been displaced due to this conflict, most of whom are children and women.

The United States has played an important role in brokering peace in

CAR, and is currently the largest international donor, helping to strengthen the central government, increase security, and maintain peace.

Actors, such as Russia, have engaged in CAR in ways that are detrimental to American interests; therefore, it is vital that we continue to support the people of CAR in achieving peace and a democratic transition. That is why I am proud to sponsor this legislation, to reiterate that Congress and the United States Government is committed to achieving peace in CAR.

Specifically, this resolution condemns violence against civilians, humanitarian workers, journalists, faith leaders, and United Nations peacekeepers by all armed groups operating within the Central African Republic.

It welcomes the signing of the Khartoum Peace Agreement in February 2019 and urges all parties to adhere to the terms of the agreement.

It calls on the international community, including all members of the United Nations Security Council as well as neighboring countries, to continually reassess and implement strategies that demonstrate clear progress in achieving peace in the Central African Republic.

It calls on the Government of the Central African Republic to ensure that all state security forces adhere to civilian command, refrain from human rights abuses, and sever any and all links to armed groups, except in the framework of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration under the peace agreement.

It urges the State Department and USAID to take steps to ensure that American assistance programs support local sustainable agriculture, other development efforts to create human well-being, and peace in CAR.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution to condemn continued violence against civilians by armed groups in the Central African Republic and supporting efforts to achieve lasting peace in the country.

I want to thank my colleagues, Congressman CICILLINE and Congressman FORTENBERRY, for introducing this resolution and for their commitment to this important issue.

Since the fighting began in 2013, thousands of civilians have been killed. Over half of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance, and more than 1 million people have been displaced from their homes.

Still, today, most of the country remains under armed group control, and the democratically elected government continues to struggle to project any state authority. The humanitarian suffering is dire.

I am also deeply concerned with the rapid increase in Russian activity across the country. AFRICOM Commander General Townsend testified

last month that Russia is deploying paramilitary contractors, extracting minerals, and attempting to buy influence in the Central African Republic. This includes the notorious Wagner Group mercenaries responsible for horrible atrocities in Libya and Syria. Russian malign activity in Central African Republic is further destabilizing this fragile and war-torn country.

This resolution urges all parties to fully adhere to the terms of the February 2019 peace agreement and cease attacks on civilians. It also calls on the international community to increase engagement to support efforts to implement the peace agreement and combat Russian malign influence. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again want to thank my colleagues for their hard work to highlight the situation in the Central African Republic.

The U.S. is both the largest donor of humanitarian assistance and largest contributor to U.N. peacekeeping operations in the Central African Republic. Our assistance provides critical food and medicine to vulnerable and remote populations. However, the critical needs remain, and we must urge our partners to do more. Supporting lasting peace and efforts to stabilize the Central African Republic is in the U.S. interest.

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I once again thank the chairman and ranking member for their support and urge passage of this resolution.

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

□ 1230

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 387, 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. CICILLINE. 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.

#### MALALA YOUSAFZAI SCHOLARSHIP ACT

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4508) to expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4508

*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 “Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In late 2008, Malala Yousafzai began making the case for access to education for women and girls despite objections from the Pakistani Taliban. On October 9, 2012, Malala was shot in the head by Pakistani Taliban on her way home from school.

(2) In 2013, Malala Yousafzai and her father Ziauddin Yousafzai co-founded the Malala Fund. The Malala Fund works to secure twelve years of free, safe, and quality education for all girls. Completion of a full twelve-year cycle of primary and secondary education ensures a pipeline of girls able to pursue higher education.

(3) On July 12, 2013, Malala delivered a speech before the United Nations General Assembly calling for expanded access to education for women and girls across the globe. She said, “[L]et us wage a glorious struggle against illiteracy, poverty, and terrorism. Let us pick up our books and our pens. They are the most powerful weapons . . . Education is the only solution.”

(4) On October 10, 2014, Malala Yousafzai became the co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for her “struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education”.

(5) According to the United Nations 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report, more than 130 million girls worldwide are out of school. 15 million girls of primary-school age will never enter a classroom. As of 2016, at least 500 million adult women across the globe are illiterate.

(6) According to the World Bank, “Girls’ education is a strategic development priority. Better educated women tend to be healthier, participate more in the formal labor market, earn higher incomes, . . . marry at a later age, and enable better health care and education for their children, should they choose to become mothers. All these factors combined can help lift households, communities, and nations out of poverty.”

(7) In 2015, all United Nations Member States, including the United States, adopted quality education, including access to higher education, and gender equality as sustainable development goals to be attained by 2030. One of the education goal targets is to “ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university”.

(8) In January 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton stated, “We will open the doors of education to all citizens, but especially to girls and women . . . We are doing all of these things because we have seen that when women and girls have the tools to stay healthy and the opportunity to contribute to their families” well-being, they flourish and so do the people around them.

(9) In February 2019, the White House launched the Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative to advance women’s economic empowerment across the globe and reach more than 100,000 women.

(10) The World Economic Forum ranks Pakistan the second lowest among all countries in the world evaluated for gender equality. On educational attainment for women, Pakistan is ranked the tenth lowest.

(11) In Pakistan, the rate of higher education enrollment beyond high school for girls and women is just 9 percent as reported by the World Bank. The global rate is 40 percent. Less than 6 percent of women 25 and older in Pakistan attain a bachelor’s degree or equivalent as of 2016.

(12) Factors such as poverty, early marriage, disability, ethnicity, and religion can contribute to the lack of educational opportunities for women in marginalized communities.

(13) According to the World Bank, “Higher education benefits both individuals and society. Economic returns for college graduates are the highest in the entire educational system—an average 17 percent increase in earnings per year of schooling as compared with 10 percent for primary school.”

(14) The United States provides critical foreign assistance to Pakistan’s education sector to improve access to and the quality of basic and higher education. Since 2010, the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this Act as “USAID”) has awarded more than 6,000 scholarships for young women to receive higher education in Pakistan.

(15) The Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program administered by USAID awards scholarships to academically talented, financially needy Pakistani students from all regions, including female students from rural areas of the country, to pursue bachelor’s or master’s degrees at participating Pakistani universities.

#### SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) every individual should have the opportunity to pursue a full cycle of primary, secondary, and higher education;

(2) every individual, regardless of gender, socio-economic status, ethnicity, or religion should have the opportunity to pursue an education without fear of discrimination;

(3) educational exchanges promote institutional linkages between the United States and Pakistan; and

(4) recipients of scholarships referred to in section 4 should commit to improving their local communities.

(b) CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES IN PAKISTAN.—Congress encourages the Department of State and USAID to continue their support for initiatives led by the Government of Pakistan and civil society that promote education in Pakistan, especially education for women, in accordance with USAID’s 2018 Education Policy.

#### SEC. 4. MERIT AND NEEDS-BASED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The USAID Administrator shall award at least 50 percent of the number of scholarships under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program (referred to in this Act as the “Program”) to women for each of the calendar years 2020 through 2022.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) CRITERIA.—The scholarships available under subsection (a) may only be awarded in accordance with other scholarship eligibility criteria already established by USAID.

(2) ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES.—Scholarships authorized under subsection (a) shall be awarded for a range of disciplines to improve the employability of graduates and to meet the needs of the scholarship recipients.

(3) OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS.—The USAID Administrator shall make every effort to award 50 percent of the scholarships available under the Program to Pakistani women.

(c) LEVERAGING INVESTMENT.—The USAID Administrator shall, to the greatest extent practicable, consult with and leverage investments by the Pakistani private sector

and Pakistani diaspora communities in the United States as part of USAID's greater effort to improve the quality of, expand access to, and ensure sustainability of education programs in Pakistan.

#### SEC. 5. ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The USAID Administrator shall designate appropriate USAID officials to brief the appropriate congressional committees, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the next 3 years, on the implementation of section 4.

(b) CONTENTS.—The briefing described in subsection (a) shall include, among other relevant information, for the most recently concluded fiscal year—

(1) the total number of scholarships that were awarded through the Program, including a breakdown by gender;

(2) the disciplines of study chosen by the scholarship recipients;

(3) the percentage of the scholarships that were awarded to students seeking a bachelor's degree or a master's degree, respectively;

(4) the percentage of scholarship recipients who voluntarily dropped out of school or were involuntarily pushed out of the program for failure to meet program requirements; and

(5) the percentage of scholarship recipients who dropped out of school due to retaliation for seeking an education, to the extent that such information is available.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4508.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, when we break down the barriers holding women back, they lift up entire communities. Top economists back this up. The World Bank says that financing girls' education has the highest return on investment in the developing world. We know that the impact isn't just economic. When girls have access to education, they can inspire millions, empower their communities, and change the world.

Look at Malala Yousafzai. Malala bravely put her education to use by blogging about the brutality of Taliban rule in her hometown and advocating for girls' rights to education.

The Pakistani Taliban tried to silence her with a violent attack on her life. She survived, and she didn't back down. Malala's continued commitment to advancing women's rights and expanding access to education has resonated with millions of people and spurred action around the world.

When we look at Malala, we see an inspiring source of strength, of dedication, and of bravery. We also see what

women are capable of when they have the opportunity to go to school and use their voices. So, I am pleased that we are moving forward this bill named in Malala's honor that will strengthen the United States' investments in educational opportunities for Pakistani girls.

The Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act will require that at least 50 percent of USAID's Merit and Needs-Based Scholarships in Pakistan are awarded to women.

I want to thank my colleague and friend from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for introducing this excellent measure. I am proud to support it, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in doing so.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill which reauthorizes a USAID Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship program named after Malala Yousafzai.

Malala is a Pakistani activist who began making the case for access to education for women and girls in 2008 despite objections from the Pakistani Taliban.

In October 2012, she was shot in the head by the Taliban in an assassination attempt in retaliation for her activism. Malala, just 15 years old at the time, miraculously survived and continues to fight for access to education for every child.

I want to thank my colleagues, Congressman JEFFRIES and Congresswoman WAGNER, for introducing this bill and for their work on this issue.

Specifically, this bill authorizes for 3 years a USAID Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship program to academically talented, financially needy Pakistani students to pursue a bachelor's or master's degree at participating Pakistani universities. At least half of the number of scholarships shall go to women, and the administrator shall make every effort to award at least half of the scholarships under the program to go to Pakistani women.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I just want to, again, really speak to the importance of this resolution, because we have examples all over the world of where, when women are empowered, it lifts up an entire community; and that when women have a voice, they not only contribute to their own empowerment, their own development, and their own success, but have an enormous, positive impact on their local communities in the regions in which they live.

It has often been said that one of the best investments we can make is in education, and I think Malala's story is an example of the transformative power of education, not only in terms of economic security, but in terms of building democracy and civil society.

So this legislation will ensure that we intentionally and purposefully invest in young women and girls because of not only the impact it will have on their own lives but what it will mean to the communities they are a part of.

I want to really applaud the chief sponsor of this, my friend and colleague, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, the chair of the Democratic Caucus, who has really made this a priority in his work.

During discussions in the Foreign Affairs Committee there was bipartisan recognition of the significant investment in women and girls; that that had to be a priority, and that it would be a tool to advancing economic success, to advancing educational success, and to really help build a civil society. These are very often regions which, for a very long time, women and girls were excluded from those opportunities.

So this resolution will be really transformative and will really help to ensure that Pakistan can serve as a model for what happens when you actually invest in women and girls and the difference it can make in the societies in that country that will be an example, I think, to the rest of the world.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the words of my colleague. I would add to that just a few thoughts. My mother grew up on a farm in Dingle, Idaho. Her high school class had eight people in it, and she traveled to New York City to get a master's degree from New York University.

I am so pleased for the women in my life and in our community who have led the way, but acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, that so many people around the world don't have that same opportunity. For that, I applaud my colleagues for the work on this bill and for promoting this very important issue.

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), who is the author of this very important piece of legislation, the Democratic Caucus chair, and my friend.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island, for yielding and for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4508, a bill to expand the pipeline of women and girls in Pakistan entering higher education.

At home and abroad, women and girls face barriers to obtaining education, hindering their ability to fill their potential. Barriers include the cost of education, inadequate infrastructure, violence, cultural norms, and gender discrimination. As a result, today at least 500 million women and girls across the globe struggle with literacy.

In Pakistan, the hurdles that women and girls face when seeking education

are especially pronounced. In late 2008, Malala, whose name this bill is in honor of, began making the case for education for women and girls in Pakistan. Despite objections from the Taliban, she continued to advocate this cause at great personal risk.

On October 9, 2012, Malala was on the way home when the Taliban ambushed her bus and shot her in the head. Remarkably, she survived. Instead of stopping her efforts, she continued to speak out, to stand up, and to step out, becoming a world-renowned figure in the fight for education.

As she said before the United Nations General Assembly: “So, let us wage a glorious struggle against illiteracy, poverty, and terrorism, let us pick up our books and our pens, they are the most powerful weapons. . . . Education is the only solution.”

In October 2014, Malala became a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for her struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education.

To this day Malala continues her work in this area.

Still, despite all the progress that has been made, only 32 percent of primary school-age girls are in school in Pakistan. After primary and secondary school, the rate of higher education enrollment for girls drops down to just 9 percent. Less than 6 percent of women 25 and older attain a bachelor’s degree or equivalent in Pakistan.

The U.S. Agency For International Development’s Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship program currently funds full tuition and stipends for financially strained Pakistani youth to complete a bachelor’s or master’s degree at partner universities across Pakistan. This legislation would ensure that at least half of those scholarship recipients go to Pakistani women. Empowering girls with access to education is not just the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do for Pakistan and for the global community.

I want to thank Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL of the Foreign Affairs Committee for their leadership. I also want to thank Congresswoman ANN WAGNER for her tremendous leadership and for her partnership on this legislation to support every girl’s right to an education.

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again want to thank my colleagues for their hard work to expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under USAID’s Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program.

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to acknowledge the extraordinary work of USAID and their focus on education and how critical that is to the develop-

ment of communities all across the world and, importantly, that we fully fund USAID’s efforts, and also to recognize that this focus on education is a focus that continues to pay dividends.

I particularly want to acknowledge the leadership of Chairman JEFFRIES in recognizing the particular responsibility that we have to invest in women and girls and what a transformative difference that makes in countries. Pakistan will be able to show the world the difference that it makes when you give women and girls an opportunity to realize their full potential. This act will ensure that at least half of those scholarships go to girls. It is a very important piece of legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4508, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. CICILLINE. 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.

#### TAIWAN ALLIES INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE (TAIPEI) ACT OF 2019

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1678) to express United States support for Taiwan’s diplomatic alliances around the world, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1678

*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 “Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019”.

#### SEC. 2. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (Public Law 96-8) states that it is the policy of the United States “to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan”.

(2) The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 states that it is the policy of the United States “to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people on Taiwan”.

(3) Taiwan is a free, democratic, and prosperous nation of 23,000,000 people and an important contributor to peace and stability around the world.

(4) Since the election of President Tsai Ing-wen as President of Taiwan in 2016, the Government of the People’s Republic of China has intensified its efforts to pressure Taiwan.

(5) Since 2016, the Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, the Solomon Islands, and Kiribati have severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan in favor of diplomatic relations with China.

(6) Taiwan currently maintains full diplomatic relations with 15 nations around the world.

(7) Taiwan’s unique relationship with the United States, Australia, India, Japan, and other countries are of significant benefit in strengthening Taiwan’s economy and preserving its international space.

(8) According to President Tsai Ing-wen, the severance of diplomatic ties with Taiwan in favor of diplomatic relations with China is “part of a series of diplomatic and military acts of coercion” by China.

(9) The Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-409) states that—

(A) it is United States policy “to support the close economic, political, and security relationship between Taiwan and the United States”; and

(B) the President should—

(i) “conduct regular transfers of defense articles to Taiwan that are tailored to meet the existing and likely future threats from the People’s Republic of China, including supporting the efforts of Taiwan to develop and integrate asymmetric capabilities, as appropriate, including mobile, survivable, and cost-effective capabilities, into its military forces”; and

(ii) “encourage the travel of high-level United States officials to Taiwan, in accordance with the Taiwan Travel Act”.

#### SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States and Taiwan have built a strong economic partnership, with the United States now Taiwan’s second largest trading partner and with Taiwan the 11th largest trading partner of the United States and a key destination for United States agricultural exports;

(2) strong United States-Taiwan economic relations have been a positive factor in stimulating economic growth and job creation for the people of both the United States and Taiwan; and

(3) the United States Trade Representative should consult with Congress on opportunities for further strengthening bilateral trade and economic relations between the United States and Taiwan.

#### SEC. 4. POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES WITH REGARD TO TAIWAN’S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

It should be the policy of the United States—

(1) to advocate, as appropriate—

(A) for Taiwan’s membership in all international organizations in which statehood is not a requirement and in which the United States is also a participant; and

(B) for Taiwan to be granted observer status in other appropriate international organizations;

(2) to instruct, as appropriate, representatives of the United States Government in all organizations described in paragraph (1) to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to advocate for Taiwan’s membership or observer status in such organizations; and

(3) for the President or the President’s designees to advocate, as appropriate, for Taiwan’s membership or observer status in all

organizations described in paragraph (1) as part of any relevant bilateral engagements between the United States and the People's Republic of China, including leader summits and the U.S.-China Comprehensive Economic Dialogue.

**SEC. 5. STRENGTHENING OF TIES WITH TAIWAN.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States Government should—

(1) support Taiwan in strengthening its official diplomatic relationships as well as other partnerships with countries in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world;

(2) consider, in certain cases as appropriate and in alignment with United States interests, increasing its economic, security, and diplomatic engagement with nations that have demonstrably strengthened, enhanced, or upgraded relations with Taiwan; and

(3) consider, in certain cases as appropriate, in alignment with United States foreign policy interests and in consultation with Congress, altering its economic, security, and diplomatic engagement with nations that take serious or significant actions to undermine the security or prosperity of Taiwan.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary of State shall report to the appropriate congressional committees on the steps taken in accordance with subsection (a).

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1678.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the United States shares a special relationship with Taiwan, rooted in a wide range of shared values. Yes, Taiwan is a vibrant democracy. That is the core of our friendship. At the same time, Taiwan is a model global citizen, making extraordinary contributions to global health, aviation safety, and other areas aimed at improving people's lives. It is this spirit of generosity and commitment to building a safer, more stable world that makes Taiwan such a valuable partner.

This stands in sharp relief to the record of the People's Republic of China. It is a comparison the Chinese Government doesn't seem to like, based on the PRC's constant attempt

to restrict Taiwan's ability to operate on the global stage, including efforts by Beijing to poach Taiwan's diplomatic partners.

The Chinese Government is a bully. They want to try to isolate Taiwan, and their tactics shouldn't go unanswered.

This bill, the TAIPEI Act, would help us provide a part of that answer. It calls on the administration to examine our policies toward countries that take steps that undermine Taiwan. It calls on the administration to take additional steps to ensure that Taiwan can participate in international organizations, and supports Taiwan's efforts to build stronger partnerships with other countries around the world.

However, perhaps the most important thing that we can do for Taiwan is to push the U.S. Trade Representative to look for new ways to ramp up bilateral trade and economic ties with Taiwan. Giving Taiwan economic alternatives will be critical for Taiwan's economic future and will benefit the United States.

This is good legislation, and it sends a strong and important message to our friends in Taiwan and to the Chinese Government.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
Washington, DC, February 25, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of S. 1678, “Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative Act of 2019,” the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letter on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of S. 1678.

Sincerely,  
RICHARD E. NEAL,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, February 27, 2020.

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,  
Committee on Ways and Means,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: I am writing to you concerning S. 1678, the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019. I appreciate

your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on S. 1678 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on Ways and Means conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,  
ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
Chairman.

□ 1245

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support my bill, the TAIPEI Act, which does three important things.

First, it endorses a U.S.-Taiwan free trade agreement.

Second, it supports Taiwan's membership in international institutions.

Third, finally, this bill helps Taiwan maintain partners and allies around the world.

Mr. Speaker, when I was a young missionary living in Taiwan in 1979, I could hardly imagine that the day would come when I could stand here and help return the favor of 40 years ago of their friendship and kindness to me as a young man living amongst them. My time in the region gave me a unique understanding of the history and the culture of these great people.

The TAIPEI Act strengthens our relationship with our partner, Taiwan, and it does this without spending a single U.S. tax dollar.

I thank Senator GARDNER, the Senate sponsor, for working with me on this bill, as well as the bipartisan group of 47 Representatives who cosponsored this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again thank my colleagues for their support on the TAIPEI Act. It will make a powerful statement for us to pass this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, when China works to intimidate and isolate a partner of the United States, one that shares our values, our commitment to democracy, our vision for engagement around, we should stand by our partner's side. That is what American leadership is supposed to look like.

That is exactly what we see happening with Taiwan, and if we really support the U.S.-Taiwan partnership, we need to help our partner get out

from under China's thumb. This bill would help to do that and would send a clear signal of the importance we place on the U.S.-China relationship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill so we can send it to the President's desk, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1678, 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. CICILLINE. 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.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT THE UNITED STATES CONDEMNS ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN GLOBALLY

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 230) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States condemns all forms of violence against children globally and recognizes the harmful impacts of violence against children, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 230

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States condemns all forms of violence against children globally and recognizes the harmful impacts of violence against children.

Whereas violence against children can take many forms, including sexual violence, physical violence, emotional violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation;

Whereas, each year, more than 1,000,000,000 children worldwide are exposed to violence;

Whereas, each year, the global economic impact of physical, psychological, and sexual violence against children is estimated to be as high as \$7,000,000,000,000, which is 8 percent of global gross domestic product ("global GDP");

Whereas, around the world, an estimated 1 in 3 adolescent girls between 15 and 19 years of age, or 84,000,000 girls, have been victims of emotional, physical, or sexual violence, which is often perpetrated by individuals the girls know;

Whereas 1 in 5 girls in the developing world is said to be married before reaching 18 years of age and, of those girls, an estimated 1 in 9 is said to be married before reaching 15 years of age;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Children's Fund ("UNICEF"), if current child marriage rates continue, 120,000,000 girls, an average of 12,000,000 girls a year, will be married before their 18th birthday over the next decade;

Whereas 246,000,000 boys and girls experience school-related, gender-based violence each year;

Whereas children with disabilities reportedly are 3 to 4 times more likely to experience physical or sexual violence;

Whereas the tens of millions of children living outside of family care, including those living on the streets, working away from home, or in residential care, are particularly vulnerable to violence and abuse;

Whereas an estimated 152,000,000 children are involved in child labor and 4,300,000 children are subject to forced labor, including in situations of trafficking;

Whereas nearly half of the 68,500,000 individuals who are currently displaced by conflict and war around the world are children, and displacement exposes those children to increased risk of exploitation, violence, and abuse;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, from 2016 to 2017, verified cases of child recruitment, including forcible recruitment, and child participation in armed conflict—

(1) quadrupled in the Central African Republic;

(2) doubled in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and

(3) persisted at alarming levels in Somalia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen;

Whereas more than 10,000 children were killed or maimed in 2017 in armed conflict;

Whereas the risks of online abuse and exploitation of children is constantly growing, with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reviewing cases involving 25,000,000 child sexual abuse images in 2015, up from 450,000 in 2004;

Whereas unaddressed exposure to violence disrupts the development of critical brain architecture and other organ structures, leaving children at lifelong risk of disease and reduced potential;

Whereas studies show toxic stress relating to exposure to violent or dangerous environments becomes damaging to learning, behavior, and health across a lifespan;

Whereas violence against children can lead to negative health consequences, including injury, noncommunicable and communicable diseases, and poor maternal and child health outcomes;

Whereas all forms of violence in childhood have a significant negative impact on educational outcomes, including by reducing school attendance and increasing dropout rates, and can further limit access to the physical, mental health, psychosocial, and cognitive protections that safe educational settings provide;

Whereas decades of behavioral and social science research have demonstrated that building adaptive capacities, known as resilience, through stable and committed relationships with a supportive caregiver or other adult can lessen the harmful developmental effects of violence in children and youth;

Whereas, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United States invests 0.5 percent of official development assistance in programs that are designed to prevent and address violence against children and youth;

Whereas the United States, in coordination with public-private partnerships and other organizations, has endorsed the technical package called "INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children" (referred to in this preamble as "INSPIRE") put forth by the World Health Organization with substantial technical input from the United States Government, including from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and United States Agency for International Development;

Whereas INSPIRE contains 7 evidence-based strategies to end violence against children that include—

(1) implementing and enforcing relevant laws;

(2) addressing harmful gender and other social norms;

(3) creating and sustaining safe communities;

(4) supporting parents and caregivers;

(5) improving household economic security to reduce violence in the home;

(6) improving access to health services, social welfare, and criminal justice support; and

(7) ensuring safe school environments that provide gender-equitable education and social-emotional learning and life skills training; and

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of State, the Department of Labor, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Health and Human Services each play a critical role in preventing and responding to violence against children and youth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States—

(1) condemns all forms of violence against children and youth globally, including physical, mental, and sexual violence, neglect, abuse, maltreatment, and exploitation; and

(2) should—

(A) develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated strategy built on evidence-based practices, including the technical package called "INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children" put forth by the World Health Organization; and

(B) adopt common metrics and indicators to monitor progress across Federal agencies to prevent, address, and end violence against children and youth globally, including harmful impacts of violence on the healthy development of children and the harmful economic impact of violence against children and youth globally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 230.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure, and I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my colleague, for his hard work in bringing this resolution forward.

More than a billion children worldwide are exposed to violence each year. This can take the form of sexual violence, physical violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Adolescent girls are an especially vulnerable group. One in three girls between the ages of 15 and 17 experience violent acts and are often the victims of someone they know. Children with disabilities are reportedly three to four times

likelier to experience physical or sexual abuse.

This violence has a lifetime impact on the health and well-being of a growing child and on their community. Children who experience violence have higher rates of anxiety and depression and are at greater risk of suicide. These traumatic events have a lasting impact, from reduced neurological functions, to poorer educational outcomes, to higher rates of early and child marriage.

Children should feel safe at home, in school, and in their communities. But it is in these places that most violence against children occurs, often at the hands of people they see every day. These abuses shape their lives forever.

Violence against children can be prevented. Implementing appropriate laws, reinforcing positive norms and values, creating safe environments, and providing support to children and their caregivers can help to address the risk of violence perpetrated against children.

This resolution puts the House on record, saying the United States condemns all forms of violence—including physical, mental, and sexual violence—against children.

In addition, the resolution urges the United States to adopt evidence-based strategies to combat violence against children as part of the World Health Organization's INSPIRE program, and it urges the administration to develop indicators and evaluation tools to monitor violence against young people globally across Federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, it is a good measure. I am glad to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND  
LABOR, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 28, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: I write concerning H. Res. 230, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States condemns all forms of violence against children globally and recognizes the harmful impacts of violence against children. This resolution was primarily referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and additionally to the Committees on Foreign Affairs. As a result of Leadership and Foreign Affairs having consulted with me concerning this bill generally, I agree to forgo formal consideration of the bill so the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee on Education and Labor takes this action with our mutual understanding that by forgoing formal consideration of H. Res. 230, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and we will be appropriately consulted and involved as the resolution or similar legislation moves forward so we may address any remaining issue within our Rule X jurisdiction. I also request that you support my request to name members of the Committee on Education and Labor to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

Finally, I would appreciate a response confirming this understanding and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this mat-

ter be included in the committee report for H. Res. 230 and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Very truly yours,  
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, February 28, 2020.

Hon. BOBBY SCOTT,  
Committee on Education and Labor,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 230, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States condemns all forms of violence against children globally and recognizes the harmful impacts of violence against children. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Labor under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H. Res. 230, to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on Education and Labor conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,  
ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution to condemn all forms of violence against children around the world. I thank my colleagues, Congressman MCGOVERN and Congressman WILSON, for introducing this resolution and for their work to address this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, more than 1 billion children around the world are victims of violence each year. Violence, exploitation, and abuse take many forms and disproportionately affect children in the most vulnerable populations, including those in refugee settlements and conflict zones.

These traumatic experiences have serious and long-lasting effects on children's psychological, physical, and social development. But the negative consequences of violence against children spread far beyond individuals and families. When children are prevented from reaching their full potential, nations suffer severe political and economic setbacks.

The United States has been a global leader in prioritizing programs to support the health and well-being of children around the world through our foreign assistance programs, but we can always do more.

This resolution encourages the development of a coordinated and evidence-based U.S. strategy to prevent, address, and end this abuse.

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my friend, the author of this important resolution, a champion of human rights, and the co-chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time and for his leadership on programs that protect and address the needs of vulnerable children here at home and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be the author of this bipartisan resolution, along with Congressman JOE WILSON. And I am very proud of the 62 bipartisan cosponsors on this bill who represent the geographic and ideological diversity of this House.

I also thank the broad coalition of organizations that have worked so long in support of this resolution, in particular, ChildFund, Save the Children, World Vision, Futures Without Violence, and UNICEF USA.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter supporting this resolution from these groups and others.

JANUARY 31, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. STENY HOYER,  
Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, MAJORITY LEADER HOYER, AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: As organizations committed to the protection and health of children around the globe, we kindly request that the House of Representatives approve on suspension of the rules H. Res. 230, a Congressional Resolution to End Violence Against Children Globally. Our community is proud of the strong bipartisan support that H. Res. 230 has received in Congress since it was introduced by Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC) on March 14, 2019. It is currently cosponsored by a bipartisan group of more than 60 Members of Congress and was previously approved by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on October 30, 2019.

Half of all children—one billion—are victims of violence each year and every five minutes, a child dies as a result. Forms of violence include, but are not limited to, human trafficking, child marriage, child labor, homicide, and online exploitation and sexual abuse. Early exposure to violence can impair children's brain development and damage their circulatory, reproductive, and immune systems, causing life-long risk of disease and reduced potential. The global economic cost of violence against children has been measured to be as high as \$7 trillion dollars or 8% of the world's GDP annually.

Fortunately, the United States Government is uniquely positioned to drive efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children. Federal government agencies like USAID, the State Department and the Department of Labor are already hard at work serving the world's children. However, these efforts are done without optimal coordination between agencies or an overarching, government-wide strategy.

The Congressional Resolution to End Violence Against Children Globally (H. Res. 230/S. Res. 112) recognizes the harmful impacts of violence and calls upon Congress to develop and implement a coordinated strategy based on proven practices. The resolution highlights the INSPIRE framework—seven key evidence-based strategies to end violence against children. INSPIRE, developed in collaboration with the CDC, USAID, and others, provides common metrics and indicators which can measure and monitor progress.

Over the years, the U.S. Government has demonstrated its commitment to the health and well-being of children. Providing safety and security for vulnerable children supports U.S. efforts to address violence and mitigate its impacts, therein bolstering other anti-poverty international development efforts, including education, health, and economic well-being. Building upon the work of the U.S. Government's Strategy on Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity, passage of H. Res. 230 would enhance existing government efforts to address pervasive violence against children.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of H. Res. 230. We urge you to support these one billion children and support passage of this important resolution.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics, ChildFund International, Futures Without Violence, Save the Children, UNICEF USA, World Vision, Bethany Christian Services, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Feed the Children, Food for the Hungry, Global Campaign for Education-US, GlobalPartnersUnited, Islamic Relief USA, RESULTS, RISE Institute, SPOON Foundation.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, even though we have made great strides in identifying and addressing much of the violence that affects children and young people around the world, the sad reality is that violence against children is still pandemic.

Every 5 minutes, a child dies of violence. Half of all children—1 billion—are victims of violence. Homicide is among the top causes of death in adolescents.

That is not just a shame, Mr. Speaker. That is absolutely unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of those homicide victims are boys, and nearly one in five girls is sexually abused at least once in her life.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, violence can happen anywhere—in communities, in schools, in the home, in emergency and crisis situations, in churches, on the streets, online, and on the phone. It happens in the most idyllic-seeming neighborhood and in the midst of conflict and war.

Violence takes many forms: human trafficking, child marriage, child labor, murder, assault, beatings, psychological abuse, and online exploitation. And too much of the violence is based on gender.

We know that children who are exposed to violence at a very young age can be affected for life. Violence can impair brain development. It could damage the circulatory and immune systems.

Such violence can cause lifelong risks of being vulnerable to disease, ill-

ness, and disabilities. It can harm the ability to reproduce and engage in a full sexual life. It can severely affect the ability of a child to live up to their full potential.

Luckily, nations, healthcare providers, teachers, communities, and nongovernmental groups have come together to end violence against children. They have identified and agreed upon some solutions to ending violence against children.

We in this House should be proud that the CDC, USAID, World Health Organization, and others have developed what is called the INSPIRE package, which is a set of strategies to reduce and end violence against children everywhere.

So many of us in this Chamber are parents. I am the father of a son and a daughter. I know how we worry about our children's safety and well-being. This is true of all families everywhere. In many ways, each and every child is our child. We need to be concerned about their vulnerability, about their safety, about their care, and about their protection.

This resolution announces to the world that we are aware; that we do care; and, more importantly, that we want our health and aid agencies to take action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution, and I thank my colleagues for their support.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again thank my colleagues for their hard work on this important cause.

The exploitation, violence, and abuse experienced by so many of the world's most vulnerable children cannot be tolerated. This resolution raises awareness of this horrific reality and urges the United States Government to develop and coordinate evidence-based strategies to address this issue.

The United States must continue to use its influence on the global stage to end violence against children wherever it exists.

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Congressman MCGOVERN for his hard work on this measure. He has been a tireless advocate for children and protecting children around the world.

American leadership on this issue is absolutely vital. Ensuring the safety of our children today safeguards the future of our communities tomorrow.

Protecting children across the world must be an American foreign policy priority. We owe it to our younger generations everywhere the best shot possible at a full, healthy, and prosperous life.

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent measure. I am pleased to be a cosponsor, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 230, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

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□ 1330

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and:

Agree to H. Res. 387, and pass

H.R. 4508.

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

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#### CONDEMNING CONTINUED VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS BY ARMED GROUPS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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 agree to the resolution (H. Res. 387) condemning continued violence against civilians by armed groups in the Central African Republic and supporting efforts to achieve a lasting political solution to the conflict, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 7, not voting 44, as follows:



[Roll No. 81]

YEAS—378

Abraham Duncan Larson (CT)
Aguilar Dunn Latta
Allen Emmer Lawrence
Amodoi Engel Lawson (FL)
Armstrong Escobar Lee (CA)
Arrington Eshoo Lee (NV)
Axne Espallat Lesko
Babin Estes Levin (CA)
Bacon Evans Levin (MI)
Baird Ferguson Lieu, Ted
Balderson Finkenauer Lipinski
Banks Fitzpatrick Loeb sack
Barr Fleischmann Lofgren
Beatty Flores Long
Bera Fortenberry Loudermilk
Bergman Foster Lowenthal
Beyer Foxx (NC) Lucas
Bilirakis Frankel Luetkemeyer
Bishop (GA) Fudge Lujan
Bishop (NC) Fulcher Lujan
Bishop (UT) Gallagher Luria
Blumenauer Gallego Lynch
Blunt Rochester Garamendi Malinowski
Bonamici Garcia (TX) Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Bost Gianforte Carolyn B.
Boyle, Brendan Gibbs Maloney, Sean
F. Golden Marchant
Brindisi Gonzalez (OH) Marshall
Brooks (IN) Gonzalez (TX) Mast
Brown (MD) Gooden Matsui
Brownley (CA) Gottheimer McAdams
Buck Graves (GA) McBath
Bucshon Graves (LA) McCarthy
Budd Graves (MO) McCaul
Burchett Green (TN) McClintock
Burgess Griffith McCollum
Bustos Grothman McEachin
Butterfield Guest McGovern
Calvert Guthrie McHenry
Carbajal Haaland McKinley
Cardenas Hagedorn McNerney
Carson (IN) Hartzler Meadows
Carter (GA) Hastings Meeks
Carter (TX) Hayes Meng
Cartwright Heck Meuser
Case Hern, Kevin Miller
Casten (IL) Herrera Beutler Mitchell
Castor (FL) Hice (GA) Moolenaar
Chabot Higgins (LA) Mooney (WV)
Cheney Higgins (NY) Moore
Chu, Judy Hill (AR) Morelle
Cicilline Himes Moulton
Cisneros Holding Mucarsel-Powell
Clark (MA) Hollingsworth Mullin
Clarke (NY) Horn, Kendra S. Murphy (FL)
Clay Horsford Murphy (NC)
Cleaver Houlihan Napolitano
Cline Hoyer Neal
Cloud Hudson Neguse
Clyburn Huffman Newhouse
Cohen Huizenga Norcross
Cole Jayapal Norman
Collins (GA) Jeffries Nunes
Comer Johnson (GA) O'Halleran
Conaway Johnson (LA) Ocasio-Cortez
Connolly Johnson (OH) Olson
Cook Johnson (SD) Omar
Cooper Jordan Palazzo
Correa Joyce (OH) Pallone
Courtney Palmer Panetta
Cox (CA) Kaptur Pappas
Craig Katko Pascarell
Crawford Keating Payne
Crenshaw Keller
Crist Kelly (IL) Pence
Crow Kelly (MS) Perlmutter
Cunningham Kelly (PA) Perry
Curtis Kennedy Peters
Davids (KS) Khanna Peterson
Davidson (OH) Kildee Phillips
Davis (CA) Kilmer Pingree
Davis, Danny K. Kim Pocan
Davis, Rodney Kind Posey
Dean King (IA) Pressley
DeFazio King (NY) Price (NC)
DeGette Kinzinger Quigley
DeLauro Kirkpatrick Raskin
DelBene Krishnamoorthi Reed
Delgado Kuster (NH) Reschenthaler
Demings Kustoff (TN) Rice (NY)
DeSaulnier LaHood Rice (SC)
Deutch LaMalfa Richmond
Diaz-Balart Lamb Roby
Dingell Lamborn Rodgers (WA)
Doyle, Michael Langevin Roe, David P.
F. Larsen (WA) Rogers (AL)

Rogers (KY) Smith (NJ) Vela
Rose (NY) Smith (WA) Velazquez
Rose, John W. Smucker Visclosky
Rouda Soto Wagner
Rouzer Spano Walberg
Ruiz Speier Walden
Ruppersberger Stanton Walker
Rush Stauber Walorski
Rutherford Stefanik Waltz
Ryan Steil Wasserman
Sanchez Stevens Schultz
Sarbanes Stewart Watkins
Scalise Stivers Watson Coleman
Scanlon Suozzi Weber (TX)
Schiff Takano Webster (FL)
Schneider Taylor Welch
Lofgren Thompson (CA) Wenstrup
Schrier Thompson (MS) Westerman
Schweikert Thompson (PA) Wexton
Scott (VA) Timmons Wild
Scott, Austin Tipton Williams
Sensenbrenner Titus Wilson (FL)
Serrano Tonko Wilson (SC)
Sewell (AL) Torres Small Wittman
Shalala (NM) Wittman
Sherman Trahan Womack
Sherrill Trone Woodall
Shimkus Turner Wright
Simpson Underwood Yarmuth
Upton Yoho
Van Drew Young
Vargas Zeldin

NAYS—7

Amash Gosar Roy
Biggs Harris
Gaetz Massie
Adams Gabbard Riggelman
Aderholt Garcia (IL) Rooney (FL)
Allred Gohmert Roybal-Allard
Barragan Gomez Schakowsky
Bass Granger Scott, David
Brady Green, Al (TX) Sires
Brooks (AL) Grijalva Spanberger
Buchanan Harder (CA) Steube
Byrne Hurd (TX) Swalwell (CA)
Castro (TX) Jackson Lee Thornberry
Costa Johnson (TX) Tlaib
Cuellar Lewis Torres (CA)
DesJarlais Nadler Torrey (WV)
Doggett Porter Veasey
Fletcher Ratcliffe Waters

NOT VOTING—44

□ 1358

Messrs. GAETZ and HARRIS changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. CARTER of Georgia changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 81.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 81.

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I missed this vote due to overlapping schedules. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 81.

MALALA YOUSAFZAI SCHOLARSHIP 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. 4508) to expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program, as amend-

ed, 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 Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 374, nays 16, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 82]

YEAS—374

Abraham DeFazio Keating
Aguilar DeGette Keller
Allen DeLauro Kelly (IL)
Amodoi DelBene Kelly (MS)
Armstrong Delgado Kelly (PA)
Arrington Demings Kennedy
Axne DeSaulnier Khanna
Babin Deutch Kildee
Bacon Diaz-Balart Kilmer
Baird Dingell Kim
Balderson Doyle, Michael Kind
Banks F. King (IA)
Barr Duncan King (NY)
Beatty Dunn Kinzinger
Bera Emmer Kirkpatrick
Bergman Engel Krishnamoorthi
Beyer Escobar Kuster (NH)
Bilirakis Eshoo Kustoff (TN)
Bishop (GA) Espallat LaHood
Bishop (NC) Estes LaMalfa
Bishop (UT) Evans Lamb
Blumenauer Ferguson Lamborn
Blunt Rochester Finkenauer Langevin
Bonamici Fitzpatrick Larsen (WA)
Bost Fleischmann Larson (CT)
Boyle, Brendan Flores Latta
F. Fortenberry Lawrence
Brindisi Foster Lawson (FL)
Brooks (IN) Foxx (NC) Lee (CA)
Brown (MD) Frankel Lee (NV)
Brownley (CA) Brownley (CA) Fudge Lesko
Bucshon Fulcher Levin (CA)
Budd Gallagher Levin (MI)
Bustos Garamendi Lieu, Ted
Butterfield Garcia (TX) Lipinski
Calvert Gianforte Loeb sack
Carbajal Long Lofgren
Cardenas Golden Loudermilk
Carson (IN) Gonzalez (OH) Lowenthal
Carter (GA) Gonzalez (TX) Lowey
Carter (TX) Gooden Lucas
Cartwright Gottheimer Luetkemeyer
Case Graves (GA) Lujan
Casten (IL) Graves (LA) Lynch
Castor (FL) Graves (MO)
Chabot Green (TN) Malinowski
Cheney Griffith Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Chu, Judy Grothman Maloney, Sean
Cicilline Guest Marchant
Cisneros Guthrie Moulton
Clark (MA) Haaland Mucarsel-Powell
Clarke (NY) Hagedorn Mast
Clay Hartzler Matsui
Cleaver Hastings McAdams
Cline Hayes McBath
Cloud Heck McCarthy
Clyburn Hern, Kevin McCaul
Cohen Herrera Beutler McClintock
Cole Higgins (NY) McCollum
Collins (GA) Hill (AR) McEachin
Comer Himes McGovern
Conaway Holding McHenry
Connolly Hollingsworth McKinley
Cook Horsford McNerney
Cooper Houlihan Meadows
Correa Kildee Morelle
Courtney Hoyer Meng
Cox (CA) Kaptur Meuser
Craig Katko Miller
Crawford Keating Mullin
Crenshaw Keller Mitchell
Crist Kelly (IL) Pence Moollenaar
Crow Kelly (MS) Perlmutter Mooney (WV)
Cunningham Kelly (PA) Perry Moore
Curtis Kennedy Peters Morelle
Davids (KS) Khanna Peterson Moulton
Davidson (OH) Kildee Phillips Mucarsel-Powell
Davis (CA) Kilmer Pingree Mullin
Davis, Danny K. Kim Pocan Murphy (FL)
Davis, Rodney Kind Posey Murphy (NC)
Dean King (IA) Pressley Nadler
DeFazio King (NY) Price (NC)
DeGette Kinzinger Quigley
DeLauro Kirkpatrick Raskin
DelBene Krishnamoorthi Reed
Delgado Kuster (NH) Reschenthaler
Demings Kustoff (TN) Rice (NY)
DeSaulnier LaHood Rice (SC)
Deutch LaMalfa Richmond
Diaz-Balart Lamb Roby
Dingell Lamborn Rodgers (WA)
Doyle, Michael Langevin Roe, David P.
F. Larsen (WA) Rogers (AL)

Napolitano	Rutherford	Tipton
Neal	Ryan	Titus
Neguse	Sánchez	Tlaib
Newhouse	Sarbanes	Tonko
Norcross	Scalise	Torres Small
Nunes	Scanlon	(NM)
O'Halleran	Schakowsky	Trahan
Ocasio-Cortez	Schiff	Trone
Olson	Schneider	Turner
Omar	Schrader	Underwood
Palazzo	Schrier	Upton
Pallone	Schweikert	Van Drew
Palmer	Scott (VA)	Vargas
Panetta	Scott, Austin	Vela
Pappas	Sensenbrenner	Velázquez
Pascrell	Serrano	Visclosky
Payne	Sewell (AL)	Wagner
Pence	Shalala	Walberg
Perlmutter	Sherman	Walden
Perry	Sherrill	Walker
Peters	Shimkus	Walorski
Peterson	Simpson	Waltz
Phillips	Slotkin	Wasserman
Pingree	Smith (MO)	Schultz
Pocan	Smith (NE)	Watkins
Posey	Smith (NJ)	Watson Coleman
Pressley	Smith (WA)	Weber (TX)
Price (NC)	Smucker	Webster (FL)
Quigley	Soto	Welch
Raskin	Spanberger	Wenstrup
Reed	Spano	Westerman
Reschenthaler	Speier	Wexton
Rice (NY)	Stanton	Wild
Richmond	Staubert	Williams
Roby	Stefanik	Wilson (FL)
Rodgers (WA)	Steil	Wilson (SC)
Roe, David P.	Stevens	Wittman
Rogers (AL)	Stewart	Womack
Rogers (KY)	Stivers	Woodall
Rose (NY)	Suozzi	Wright
Rose, John W.	Takano	Yarmuth
Rouda	Taylor	Yoho
Rouzer	Thompson (CA)	Young
Ruiz	Thompson (MS)	Zeldin
Ruppersberger	Thompson (PA)	
Rush	Timmons	

**NAYS—16**

Amash	Gosar	Norman
Biggs	Harris	Rice (SC)
Buck	Hice (GA)	Roy
Burchett	Higgins (LA)	Steube
Davidson (OH)	Jordan	
Gaetz	Massie	

**NOT VOTING—39**

Adams	Doggett	Lewis
Aderholt	Fletcher	Porter
Allred	Gabbard	Ratcliffe
Barragán	Garcia (IL)	Riggleman
Bass	Gohmert	Rooney (FL)
Brady	Gomez	Roybal-Allard
Brooks (AL)	Granger	Scott, David
Buchanan	Green, Al (TX)	Sires
Byrne	Grijalva	Swalwell (CA)
Castro (TX)	Harder (CA)	Thornberry
Costa	Hurd (TX)	Torres (CA)
Cuellar	Jackson Lee	Veasey
DesJarlais	Johnson (TX)	Waters

□ 1407

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I regret to inform you that I am unable to be present for votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 81 and “yea” on rollcall No. 82.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, I missed the following votes:

1. H. Res. 387—Condemning continued violence against civilians by armed groups in the Central African Republic and supporting efforts to achieve a lasting political solution to the

conflict, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill.

2. H.R. 4508—Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on this bill.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes due to circumstances beyond my control. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 79, “yea” on rollcall No. 80, “yea” on rollcall No. 81, and “yea” on rollcall No. 82.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 I regret not being present for a vote session. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of H. Res. 387 Condemning continued violence against civilians by armed groups in the Central African Republic and supporting efforts to achieve a lasting political solution to the conflict, Roll Call vote 81, and voted in support of H.R. 4508 Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act, Roll Call Vote 82.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, due to conflicts with scheduling, I was needed at my district; my sincerest apologies. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 81 (H. Res. 387) and “yea” on rollcall No. 82 (H.R. 4508).

**BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ACCURACY AND TECHNOLOGICAL AVAILABILITY ACT**

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 1822) to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules relating to the collection of data with respect to the availability of broadband services, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House. The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1822

*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 “Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability Act” or the “Broadband DATA Act”.

**SEC. 2. BROADBAND DATA.**

The Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“TITLE VIII—BROADBAND DATA**

**“SEC. 801. DEFINITIONS.**

“In this title:

“(1) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—The term ‘broadband internet access service’ has the meaning given the term in section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

“(2) BROADBAND MAP.—The term ‘Broadband Map’ means the map created by the Commission under section 802(c)(1)(A).

“(3) CELL EDGE PROBABILITY.—The term ‘cell edge probability’ means the likelihood that the minimum threshold download and upload speeds with respect to broadband

internet access service will be met or exceeded at a distance from a base station that is intended to indicate the ultimate edge of the coverage area of a cell.

“(4) CELL LOADING.—The term ‘cell loading’ means the percentage of the available air interface resources of a base station that are used by consumers with respect to broadband internet access service.

“(5) CLUTTER.—The term ‘clutter’ means a natural or man-made surface feature that affects the propagation of a signal from a base station.

“(6) FABRIC.—The term ‘Fabric’ means the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric established under section 802(b)(1)(B).

“(7) FORM 477.—The term ‘Form 477’ means Form 477 of the Commission relating to local telephone competition and broadband reporting.

“(8) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’ has the meaning given the term ‘Indian tribe’ in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

“(9) MOBILITY FUND PHASE II.—The term ‘Mobility Fund Phase II’ means the second phase of the proceeding to provide universal service support from the Mobility Fund (WC Docket No. 10–90; WT Docket No. 10–208).

“(10) PROPAGATION MODEL.—The term ‘propagation model’ means a mathematical formulation for the characterization of radio wave propagation as a function of frequency, distance, and other conditions.

“(11) PROVIDER.—The term ‘provider’ means a provider of fixed or mobile broadband internet access service.

“(12) QUALITY OF SERVICE.—The term ‘quality of service’ means, with respect to broadband internet access service, the download and upload speeds (and, for relevant services, latency) with respect to that service, as determined by, and to the extent otherwise collected by, the Commission.

“(13) SHAPEFILE.—The term ‘shapefile’ means a digital storage format containing geospatial or location-based data and attribute information—

“(A) regarding the availability of broadband internet access service; and

“(B) that can be viewed, edited, and mapped in geographic information system software.

“(14) STANDARD BROADBAND INSTALLATION.—The term ‘standard broadband installation’—

“(A) means the initiation by a provider of fixed broadband internet access service in an area in which the provider has not previously offered that service, with no charges or delays attributable to the extension of the network of the provider; and

“(B) includes the initiation of fixed broadband internet access service through routine installation that can be completed not later than 10 business days after the date on which the service request is submitted.

**“SEC. 802. BROADBAND MAPS.**

“(a) RULES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this title, the Commission shall issue final rules that shall—

“(A) require the biannual collection and dissemination of granular data, as determined by the Commission—

“(i) relating to the availability and quality of service with respect to terrestrial fixed, fixed wireless, satellite, and mobile broadband internet access service; and

“(ii) that the Commission shall use to compile the maps created under subsection (c)(1) (referred to in this section as ‘coverage maps’), which the Commission shall make publicly available; and

“(B) establish—

“(i) processes through which the Commission can verify the accuracy of data submitted under subsection (b)(2);

“(ii) processes and procedures through which the Commission, and, as necessary, other entities or individuals submitting non-public or competitively sensitive information under this title, can protect the security, privacy, and confidentiality of that non-public or competitively sensitive information, including—

“(I) information contained in the Fabric;

“(II) the dataset created under subsection (b)(1)(A) supporting the Fabric; and

“(III) the data submitted under subsection (b)(2);

“(iii) the challenge process described in subsection (b)(5); and

“(iv) the process described in section 804(b).

“(2) OTHER DATA.—In issuing the rules under paragraph (1), the Commission shall develop a process through which the Commission can collect verified data for use in the coverage maps from—

“(A) State, local, and Tribal governmental entities that are primarily responsible for mapping or tracking broadband internet access service coverage for a State, unit of local government, or Indian Tribe, as applicable;

“(B) third parties, if the Commission determines that it is in the public interest to use such data in—

“(i) the development of the coverage maps; or

“(ii) the verification of data submitted under subsection (b); and

“(C) other Federal agencies.

“(3) UPDATES.—The Commission shall revise the rules issued under paragraph (1) to—

“(A) reflect changes in technology;

“(B) ensure the accuracy of propagation models, as further provided in subsection (b)(3); and

“(C) improve the usefulness of the coverage maps.

“(b) CONTENT OF RULES.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF A SERVICEABLE LOCATION FABRIC REGARDING FIXED BROADBAND.—

“(A) DATASET.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall create a common dataset of all locations in the United States where fixed broadband internet access service can be installed, as determined by the Commission.

“(ii) CONTRACTING.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclauses (II) and (III), the Commission may contract with an entity with expertise with respect to geographic information systems (referred to in this subsection as ‘GIS’) to create and maintain the dataset under clause (i).

“(II) APPLICATION OF THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—A contract into which the Commission enters under subclause (I) shall in all respects comply with applicable provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

“(III) LIMITATIONS.—With respect to a contract into which the Commission enters under subclause (I)—

“(aa) the entity with which the Commission enters into the contract shall be selected through a competitive bid process that is transparent and open; and

“(bb) the contract shall be for a term of not longer than 5 years, after which the Commission may enter into a new contract—

“(AA) with an entity, and for the purposes, described in clause (i); and

“(BB) that complies with the requirements under subclause (II) and this subclause; and

“(cc) the contract shall—

“(AA) prohibit the entity described in item (aa) from selling, leasing, or otherwise disclosing for monetary consideration any personally identifiable information to any other

entity other than for purposes authorized under this title; and

“(BB) require the entity described in item (aa) to include in any contract with any other entity a provision that prohibits that other entity from engaging in an action that is prohibited under subitem (AA).

“(B) FABRIC.—The rules issued by the Commission under subsection (a)(1) shall establish the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric, which shall—

“(i) contain geocoded information for each location identified under subparagraph (A)(i);

“(ii) serve as the foundation upon which all data relating to the availability of fixed broadband internet access service collected under paragraph (2)(A) shall be reported and overlaid;

“(iii) be compatible with commonly used GIS software; and

“(iv) at a minimum, be updated every 6 months by the Commission.

“(C) IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITY.—The Commission shall prioritize implementing the Fabric for rural and insular areas of the United States.

“(2) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.—The rules issued by the Commission under subsection (a)(1) shall include uniform standards for the reporting of broadband internet access service data that the Commission shall collect—

“(A) from each provider of terrestrial fixed, fixed wireless, or satellite broadband internet access service, which shall include data that—

“(i) documents the areas where the provider—

“(I) has actually built out the broadband network infrastructure of the provider such that the provider is able to provide that service; and

“(II) could provide that service, as determined by identifying where the provider is capable of performing a standard broadband installation, if applicable;

“(ii) includes information regarding download and upload speeds, at various thresholds established by the Commission, and, if applicable, latency with respect to broadband internet access service that the provider makes available;

“(iii) can be georeferenced to the GIS data in the Fabric;

“(iv) the provider shall report as—

“(I) with respect to providers of fixed wireless broadband internet access service—

“(aa) propagation maps and propagation model details that—

“(AA) satisfy standards that are similar to those applicable to providers of mobile broadband internet access service under subparagraph (B) with respect to propagation maps and propagation model details, taking into account material differences between fixed wireless and mobile broadband internet access service; and

“(BB) reflect the speeds and latency of the service provided by the provider; or

“(bb) a list of addresses or locations that constitute the service area of the provider, except that the Commission—

“(AA) may only permit, and not require, a provider to report the data using that means of reporting; and

“(BB) in the rules issued under subsection (a)(1), shall provide a method for using that means of reporting with respect to Tribal areas; and

“(II) with respect to providers of terrestrial fixed and satellite broadband internet access service—

“(aa) polygon shapefiles; or

“(bb) a list of addresses or locations that constitute the service area of the provider, except that the Commission—

“(AA) may only permit, and not require, a provider to report the data using that means of reporting; and

“(BB) in the rules issued under subsection (a)(1), shall provide a method for using that means of reporting with respect to Tribal areas; and

“(v) the Commission determines is appropriate with respect to certain technologies in order to ensure that the Broadband Map is granular and accurate; and

“(B) from each provider of mobile broadband internet access service, which shall include propagation maps and propagation model details that indicate the current (as of the date on which the information is collected) fourth generation Long-Term Evolution (commonly referred to as ‘4G LTE’) mobile broadband internet access service coverage of the provider, which shall—

“(i) take into consideration the effect of clutter; and

“(ii) satisfy—

“(I) the requirements of having—

“(aa) a download speed of not less than 5 megabits per second and an upload speed of not less than 1 megabit per second with a cell edge probability of not less than 90 percent; and

“(bb) cell loading of not less than 50 percent; and

“(II) any other parameter that the Commission determines to be necessary to create a map under subsection (c)(1)(C) that is more precise than the map produced as a result of the submissions under the Mobility Fund Phase II information collection.

“(3) UPDATE OF REPORTING STANDARDS FOR MOBILE BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—For the purposes of paragraph (2)(B), if the Commission determines that the reporting standards under that paragraph are insufficient to collect accurate propagation maps and propagation model details with respect to future generations of mobile broadband internet access service technologies, the Commission shall immediately commence a rule making to adopt new reporting standards with respect to those technologies that—

“(A) shall be the functional equivalent of the standards required under paragraph (2)(B); and

“(B) allow for the collection of propagation maps and propagation model details that are as accurate and granular as, or more accurate and granular than, the maps and model details collected by the Commission under paragraph (2)(B).

“(4) CERTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION.—With respect to a provider that submits information to the Commission under paragraph (2)—

“(A) the provider shall include in each submission a certification from a corporate officer of the provider that the officer has examined the information contained in the submission and that, to the best of the officer’s actual knowledge, information, and belief, all statements of fact contained in the submission are true and correct; and

“(B) the Commission shall verify the accuracy and reliability of the information in accordance with measures established by the Commission.

“(5) CHALLENGE PROCESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the rules issued under subsection (a), and subject to subparagraph (B), the Commission shall establish a user-friendly challenge process through which consumers, State, local, and Tribal governmental entities, and other entities or individuals may submit coverage data to the Commission to challenge the accuracy of—

“(i) the coverage maps;

“(ii) any information submitted by a provider regarding the availability of broadband internet access service; or

“(iii) the information included in the Fabric.

“(B) CONSIDERATIONS; VERIFICATION; RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES.—In establishing the challenge process required under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall—

“(i) consider—

“(I) the types of information that an entity or individual submitting a challenge should provide to the Commission in support of the challenge;

“(II) the appropriate level of granularity for the information described in subclause (I);

“(III) the need to mitigate the time and expense incurred by, and the administrative burdens placed on, entities or individuals in—

“(aa) challenging the accuracy of a coverage map; and

“(bb) responding to challenges described in item (aa);

“(IV) the costs to consumers and providers resulting from a misallocation of funds because of a reliance on outdated or otherwise inaccurate information in the coverage maps;

“(V) any lessons learned from the challenge process established under Mobility Fund Phase II, as determined from comments solicited by the Commission; and

“(VI) the need for user-friendly challenge submission formats that will promote participation in the challenge process;

“(ii) include a process for verifying the data submitted through the challenge process in order to ensure the reliability of that data;

“(iii) allow providers to respond to challenges submitted through the challenge process; and

“(iv) develop an online mechanism, which—

“(I) shall be integrated into the coverage maps;

“(II) allows for an entity described in subparagraph (A) to submit a challenge under the challenge process;

“(III) makes challenge data available in both geographic information system and non-geographic information system formats; and

“(IV) clearly identifies the areas in which broadband internet access service is available, and the upload and download speeds at which that service is available, as reported to the Commission under this section.

“(C) USE OF CHALLENGES.—The rules issued to establish the challenge process under subparagraph (A) shall include—

“(i) a process for the speedy resolution of challenges; and

“(ii) a process for the regular and expeditious updating of the coverage maps and granular data disseminated by the Commission as challenges are resolved.

“(D) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not earlier than 1 year, and not later than 18 months, after the date on which the rules issued under subsection (a)(1) take effect, the Commission shall, after an opportunity for notice and comment, submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that—

“(i) evaluates the challenge process described in subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) considers whether the Commission should commence an inquiry on the need for other tools to help—

“(I) identify potential inaccuracies in the data relating to broadband internet access service that providers report; and

“(II) improve the accuracy of the data described in subclause (I).

“(6) REFORM OF FORM 477 PROCESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the rules issued under subsection (a) take effect, the Commission shall—

“(i) reform the Form 477 broadband deployment service availability collection process of the Commission—

“(I) to achieve the purposes of this title; and

“(II) in a manner that—

“(aa) enables the comparison of data and maps produced before the implementation of this title with data and coverage maps produced after the implementation of this title; and

“(bb) maintains the public availability of data relating to the deployment of broadband internet access service; and

“(ii) harmonize reporting requirements and procedures regarding the deployment of broadband internet access service that are in effect on the day before the date on which the rules issued under subsection (a)(1) take effect with those requirements and procedures in those rules.

“(B) CONTINUED COLLECTION AND REPORTING.—On and after the date on which the Commission carries out subparagraph (A), the Commission shall continue to collect and publicly report subscription data that the Commission collected through the Form 477 broadband deployment service availability process, as in effect on July 1, 2019.

“(7) SHARING DATA WITH NTIA.—The Commission shall establish a process to make the data collected under paragraph (2) available to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

“(c) MAPS.—The Commission shall—

“(1) after consultation with the Federal Geographic Data Committee established under section 753(a) of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, create—

“(A) the Broadband Map, which shall depict—

“(i) the extent of the availability of broadband internet access service in the United States, without regard to whether that service is fixed broadband internet access service or mobile broadband internet access service, which shall be based on data collected by the Commission from all providers; and

“(ii) the areas of the United States that remain unserved by providers;

“(B) a map that depicts the availability of fixed broadband internet access service, which shall be based on data collected by the Commission from providers under subsection (b)(2)(A); and

“(C) a map that depicts the availability of mobile broadband internet access service, which shall be based on data collected by the Commission from providers under subsection (b)(2)(B);

“(2) use the maps created under paragraph (1)—

“(A) to determine the areas in which terrestrial fixed, fixed wireless, mobile, and satellite broadband internet access service is and is not available; and

“(B) when making any new award of funding with respect to the deployment of broadband internet access service;

“(3) update the maps created under paragraph (1) not less frequently than biannually using the most recent data collected from providers under subsection (b)(2);

“(4) consult with—

“(A) the Secretary of Agriculture to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to consult the maps created under paragraph (1) when considering the awarding of funds for the deployment of broadband internet access service under any program administered by the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service; and

“(B) the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to enable the Administration to consult the maps created under paragraph (1) when considering the awarding of funds for the deployment of broadband internet access service under any future program administered by the Administration;

“(5) make available to any Federal agency, upon request, the maps created under paragraph (1); and

“(6) make public at an appropriate level of granularity—

“(A) the maps created under paragraph (1); and

“(B) the data collected by the Commission with respect to the availability of broadband internet access service and the quality of service with respect to broadband internet access service.

“(d) DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE FOR QUALITY OF SERVICE RULES.—Any requirement of a rule issued under subsection (a)(1) that relates to quality of service shall take effect not earlier than the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Commission issues that rule.

**“SEC. 803. ENFORCEMENT.**

“It shall be unlawful for an entity or individual to willfully and knowingly, or recklessly, submit information or data under this title that is materially inaccurate or incomplete with respect to the availability of broadband internet access service or the quality of service with respect to broadband internet access service.

**“SEC. 804. IMPROVING DATA ACCURACY.**

“(a) AUDITS.—The Commission shall conduct regular audits of information submitted to the Commission by providers under section 802(b)(2) to ensure that the providers are complying with this title.

“(b) CROWDSOURCING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall develop a process through which entities or individuals in the United States may submit specific information about the deployment and availability of broadband internet access service in the United States on an ongoing basis so that the information may be used to verify and supplement information provided by providers of broadband internet access service for inclusion in the maps created under section 802(c)(1).

“(2) COLLABORATION.—As part of the efforts of the Commission to facilitate the ability of entities and individuals to submit information under paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

“(A) prioritize the consideration of data provided by data collection applications used by consumers that the Commission has determined—

“(i) are highly reliable; and

“(ii) have proven methodologies for determining network coverage and network performance;

“(B) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this title, conclude a process that tests the feasibility of partnering with Federal agencies that operate delivery fleet vehicles, including the United States Postal Service, to facilitate the collection and submission of information described in that paragraph; and

“(C) not later than 14 months after the date of enactment of this title, publish on the website of the Commission, and submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report regarding the testing described in subparagraph (B), which shall include—

“(i) a determination regarding whether the partnerships with Federal agencies described in that subparagraph are able to facilitate

the collection and submission of information described in paragraph (1); and

“(ii) any steps that the Commission plans to take to facilitate the partnerships described in that subparagraph.

“(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN TRIBES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Commission shall hold workshops for Tribal governments in each of the 12 Bureau of Indian Affairs regions to provide technical assistance with the collection and submission of data under section 802(a)(2).

“(2) ANNUAL REVIEW.—Each year, the Commission, in consultation with Indian Tribes, shall review the need for continued workshops required under paragraph (1).

“(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL SERVICE PROVIDERS.—The Commission shall establish a process through which a provider that has fewer than 100,000 active broadband internet access service connections may request and receive assistance from the Commission with respect to geographic information system data processing to ensure that the provider is able to comply with the requirements under section 802(b) in a timely and accurate manner.

“(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS AND CONSUMERS.—The Commission shall provide technical assistance to consumers and State, local, and Tribal governmental entities with respect to the challenge process established under section 802(b)(5), which shall include—

“(1) detailed tutorials and webinars; and  
“(2) the provision of staff of the Commission to provide assistance, as needed, throughout the entirety of the challenge process.

“(f) GAO ASSESSMENT OF FABRIC SOURCE DATA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an assessment of key data sources that are used for purposes of the Fabric to identify and geocode locations where fixed broadband internet access service can be installed in order for the Comptroller General to develop recommendations for how the quality and completeness of those data sources can be improved as data sources for the Fabric.

“(2) SOURCES INCLUDED.—For the purposes of the assessment conducted under paragraph (1), the key data sources described in that paragraph shall include—

“(A) any relevant sources of Federal data, including the National Address Database administered by the Department of Transportation;

“(B) State- and county-level digitized parcel data; and

“(C) property tax attribute recording.

“(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this title, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that contains the recommendations developed under paragraph (1).

“SEC. 805. COST.

“(a) USF.—The Commission may not use funds from the universal service programs of the Commission established under section 254, and the regulations issued under that section, to pay for any costs associated with this title.

“(b) OTHER FUNDS.—The Commission may recover costs associated with this title under section 9 to the extent provided for in an appropriation Act, as required under subsection (a) of that section.

“SEC. 806. OTHER PROVISIONS.

“(a) OMB.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the initial rule making re-

quired under section 802(a)(1) shall be exempt from review by the Office of Management and Budget.

“(b) PRA.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction Act’) shall not apply to the initial rule making required under section 802(a)(1).

“(c) EXECUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES.—Except as provided in section 802(b)(1)(A)(ii), the Commission—

“(1) including the offices of the Commission, shall carry out the responsibilities assigned to the Commission under this title; and

“(2) may not delegate any of the responsibilities assigned to the Commission under this title to any third party, including the Universal Service Administrative Company.

“(d) REPORTING.—Each fiscal year, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that summarizes the implementation of this title and associated enforcement activities conducted during the previous fiscal year.

“(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—If the Commission, before the date of enactment of this title, has taken an action that, in whole or in part, implements this title, the Commission shall not be required to revisit such action to the extent that such action is consistent with this title.”

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. PALLONE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Mr. PALLONE

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability Act” or the “Broadband DATA Act”.

**SEC. 2. BROADBAND DATA.**

The Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

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“In this title:

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“(3) CELL EDGE PROBABILITY.—The term ‘cell edge probability’ means the likelihood that the minimum threshold download and upload speeds with respect to broadband internet access service will be met or exceeded at a distance from a base station that is intended to indicate the ultimate edge of the coverage area of a cell.

“(4) CELL LOADING.—The term ‘cell loading’ means the percentage of the available air interface resources of a base station that are used by consumers with respect to broadband internet access service.

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“(6) FABRIC.—The term ‘Fabric’ means the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric established under section 802(b)(1)(B).

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“(9) MOBILITY FUND PHASE II.—The term ‘Mobility Fund Phase II’ means the second phase of the proceeding to provide universal service support from the Mobility Fund (WC Docket No. 10-90; WT Docket No. 10-208).

“(10) PROPAGATION MODEL.—The term ‘propagation model’ means a mathematical formulation for the characterization of radio wave propagation as a function of frequency, distance, and other conditions.

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“(12) QUALITY OF SERVICE.—The term ‘quality of service’ means, with respect to broadband internet access service, the download and upload speeds (and, for relevant services, latency) with respect to that service, as determined by, and to the extent otherwise collected by, the Commission.

“(13) SHAPEFILE.—The term ‘shapefile’ means a digital storage format containing geospatial or location-based data and attribute information—

“(A) regarding the availability of broadband internet access service; and

“(B) that can be viewed, edited, and mapped in geographic information system software.

“(14) STANDARD BROADBAND INSTALLATION.—The term ‘standard broadband installation’—

“(A) means the initiation by a provider of fixed broadband internet access service in an area in which the provider has not previously offered that service, with no charges or delays attributable to the extension of the network of the provider; and

“(B) includes the initiation of fixed broadband internet access service through routine installation that can be completed not later than 10 business days after the date on which the service request is submitted.

**“SEC. 802. BROADBAND MAPS.**

“(a) RULES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this title, the Commission shall issue final rules that shall—

“(A) require the biannual collection and dissemination of granular data, as determined by the Commission—

“(i) relating to the availability and quality of service with respect to terrestrial fixed, fixed wireless, satellite, and mobile broadband internet access service; and

“(ii) that the Commission shall use to compile the maps created under subsection (c)(1) (referred to in this section as ‘coverage maps’), which the Commission shall make publicly available; and

“(B) establish—

“(i) processes through which the Commission can verify the accuracy of data submitted under subsection (b)(2);

“(ii) processes and procedures through which the Commission, and, as necessary, other entities or individuals submitting non-public or competitively sensitive information under this title, can protect the security, privacy, and confidentiality of that non-public or competitively sensitive information, including—

“(I) information contained in the Fabric;

“(II) the dataset created under subsection (b)(1)(A) supporting the Fabric; and

“(III) the data submitted under subsection (b)(2);

“(iii) the challenge process described in subsection (b)(5); and

“(iv) the process described in section 804(b).

“(2) OTHER DATA.—In issuing the rules under paragraph (1), the Commission shall develop a process through which the Commission can collect verified data for use in the coverage maps from—

“(A) State, local, and Tribal governmental entities that are primarily responsible for mapping

or tracking broadband internet access service coverage for a State, unit of local government, or Indian Tribe, as applicable;

“(B) third parties, if the Commission determines that it is in the public interest to use such data in—

“(i) the development of the coverage maps; or  
“(ii) the verification of data submitted under subsection (b); and

“(C) other Federal agencies.

“(3) UPDATES.—The Commission shall revise the rules issued under paragraph (1) to—

“(A) reflect changes in technology;  
“(B) ensure the accuracy of propagation models, as further provided in subsection (b)(3); and  
“(C) improve the usefulness of the coverage maps.

“(b) CONTENT OF RULES.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF A SERVICEABLE LOCATION FABRIC REGARDING FIXED BROADBAND.—

“(A) DATASET.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall create a common dataset of all locations in the United States where fixed broadband internet access service can be installed, as determined by the Commission.

“(ii) CONTRACTING.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclauses (II) and (III), the Commission may contract with an entity with expertise with respect to geographic information systems (referred to in this subsection as ‘GIS’) to create and maintain the dataset under clause (i).

“(II) APPLICATION OF THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—A contract into which the Commission enters under subclause (I) shall in all respects comply with applicable provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

“(III) LIMITATIONS.—With respect to a contract into which the Commission enters under subclause (I)—

“(aa) the entity with which the Commission enters into the contract shall be selected through a competitive bid process that is transparent and open; and

“(bb) the contract shall be for a term of not longer than 5 years, after which the Commission may enter into a new contract—

“(AA) with an entity, and for the purposes, described in clause (i); and

“(BB) that complies with the requirements under subclause (II) and this subclause; and

“(cc) the contract shall—

“(AA) prohibit the entity described in item (aa) from selling, leasing, or otherwise disclosing for monetary consideration any personally identifiable information to any other entity other than for purposes authorized under this title; and

“(BB) require the entity described in item (aa) to include in any contract with any other entity a provision that prohibits that other entity from engaging in an action that is prohibited under subitem (AA).

“(B) FABRIC.—The rules issued by the Commission under subsection (a)(1) shall establish the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric, which shall—

“(i) contain geocoded information for each location identified under subparagraph (A)(i);

“(ii) serve as the foundation upon which all data relating to the availability of fixed broadband internet access service collected under paragraph (2)(A) shall be reported and overlaid;

“(iii) be compatible with commonly used GIS software; and

“(iv) at a minimum, be updated every 6 months by the Commission.

“(C) IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITY.—The Commission shall prioritize implementing the Fabric for rural and insular areas of the United States.

“(2) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.—The rules issued by the Commission under subsection (a)(1) shall include uniform standards for the reporting of broadband internet access service data that the Commission shall collect—

“(A) from each provider of terrestrial fixed, fixed wireless, or satellite broadband internet access service, which shall include data that—

“(i) documents the areas where the provider—  
“(I) has actually built out the broadband network infrastructure of the provider such that the provider is able to provide that service; and  
“(II) could provide that service, as determined by identifying where the provider is capable of performing a standard broadband installation, if applicable;

“(ii) includes information regarding download and upload speeds, at various thresholds established by the Commission, and, if applicable, latency with respect to broadband internet access service that the provider makes available;

“(iii) can be georeferenced to the GIS data in the Fabric;

“(iv) the provider shall report as—

“(I) with respect to providers of fixed wireless broadband internet access service—

“(aa) propagation maps and propagation model details that—

“(AA) satisfy standards that are similar to those applicable to providers of mobile broadband internet access service under subparagraph (B) with respect to propagation maps and propagation model details, taking into account material differences between fixed wireless and mobile broadband internet access service; and

“(BB) reflect the speeds and latency of the service provided by the provider; or

“(bb) a list of addresses or locations that constitute the service area of the provider, except that the Commission—

“(AA) may only permit, and not require, a provider to report the data using that means of reporting; and

“(BB) in the rules issued under subsection (a)(1), shall provide a method for using that means of reporting with respect to Tribal areas; and

“(II) with respect to providers of terrestrial fixed and satellite broadband internet access service—

“(aa) polygon shapefiles; or

“(bb) a list of addresses or locations that constitute the service area of the provider, except that the Commission—

“(AA) may only permit, and not require, a provider to report the data using that means of reporting; and

“(BB) in the rules issued under subsection (a)(1), shall provide a method for using that means of reporting with respect to Tribal areas; and

“(v) the Commission determines is appropriate with respect to certain technologies in order to ensure that the Broadband Map is granular and accurate; and

“(B) from each provider of mobile broadband internet access service, which shall include propagation maps and propagation model details that indicate the current (as of the date on which the information is collected) fourth generation Long-Term Evolution (commonly referred to as ‘4G LTE’) mobile broadband internet access service coverage of the provider, which shall—

“(i) take into consideration the effect of clutter; and

“(ii) satisfy—

“(I) the requirements of having—

“(aa) a download speed of not less than 5 megabits per second and an upload speed of not less than 1 megabit per second with a cell edge probability of not less than 90 percent; and

“(bb) cell loading of not less than 50 percent; and

“(II) any other parameter that the Commission determines to be necessary to create a map under subsection (c)(1)(C) that is more precise than the map produced as a result of the submissions under the Mobility Fund Phase II information collection.

“(3) UPDATE OF REPORTING STANDARDS FOR MOBILE BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—For the purposes of paragraph (2)(B), if the Commission determines that the reporting standards under that paragraph are insufficient to

collect accurate propagation maps and propagation model details with respect to future generations of mobile broadband internet access service technologies, the Commission shall immediately commence a rule making to adopt new reporting standards with respect to those technologies that—

“(A) shall be the functional equivalent of the standards required under paragraph (2)(B); and

“(B) allow for the collection of propagation maps and propagation model details that are as accurate and granular as, or more accurate and granular than, the maps and model details collected by the Commission under paragraph (2)(B).

“(4) CERTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION.—With respect to a provider that submits information to the Commission under paragraph (2)—

“(A) the provider shall include in each submission a certification from a corporate officer of the provider that the officer has examined the information contained in the submission and that, to the best of the officer’s actual knowledge, information, and belief, all statements of fact contained in the submission are true and correct; and

“(B) the Commission shall verify the accuracy and reliability of the information in accordance with measures established by the Commission.

“(5) CHALLENGE PROCESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the rules issued under subsection (a), and subject to subparagraph (B), the Commission shall establish a user-friendly challenge process through which consumers, State, local, and Tribal governmental entities, and other entities or individuals may submit coverage data to the Commission to challenge the accuracy of—

“(i) the coverage maps;

“(ii) any information submitted by a provider regarding the availability of broadband internet access service; or

“(iii) the information included in the Fabric.

“(B) CONSIDERATIONS; VERIFICATION; RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES.—In establishing the challenge process required under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall—

“(i) consider—

“(I) the types of information that an entity or individual submitting a challenge should provide to the Commission in support of the challenge;

“(II) the appropriate level of granularity for the information described in subclause (I);

“(III) the need to mitigate the time and expense incurred by, and the administrative burdens placed on, entities or individuals in—

“(aa) challenging the accuracy of a coverage map; and

“(bb) responding to challenges described in item (aa);

“(IV) the costs to consumers and providers resulting from a misallocation of funds because of a reliance on outdated or otherwise inaccurate information in the coverage maps;

“(V) any lessons learned from the challenge process established under Mobility Fund Phase II, as determined from comments solicited by the Commission; and

“(VI) the need for user-friendly challenge submission formats that will promote participation in the challenge process;

“(ii) include a process for verifying the data submitted through the challenge process in order to ensure the reliability of that data;

“(iii) allow providers to respond to challenges submitted through the challenge process; and

“(iv) develop an online mechanism, which—

“(I) shall be integrated into the coverage maps;

“(II) allows for an entity described in subparagraph (A) to submit a challenge under the challenge process;

“(III) makes challenge data available in both geographic information system and non-geographic information system formats; and

“(IV) clearly identifies the areas in which broadband internet access service is available,

and the upload and download speeds at which that service is available, as reported to the Commission under this section.

“(C) USE OF CHALLENGES.—The rules issued to establish the challenge process under subparagraph (A) shall include—

“(i) a process for the speedy resolution of challenges; and

“(ii) a process for the regular and expeditious updating of the coverage maps and granular data disseminated by the Commission as challenges are resolved.

“(D) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not earlier than 1 year, and not later than 18 months, after the date on which the rules issued under subsection (a)(1) take effect, the Commission shall, after an opportunity for notice and comment, submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that—

“(i) evaluates the challenge process described in subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) considers whether the Commission should commence an inquiry on the need for other tools to help—

“(I) identify potential inaccuracies in the data relating to broadband internet access service that providers report; and

“(II) improve the accuracy of the data described in subclause (I).

“(6) REFORM OF FORM 477 PROCESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the rules issued under subsection (a) take effect, the Commission shall—

“(i) reform the Form 477 broadband deployment service availability collection process of the Commission—

“(I) to achieve the purposes of this title; and

“(II) in a manner that—

“(aa) enables the comparison of data and maps produced before the implementation of this title with data and coverage maps produced after the implementation of this title; and

“(bb) maintains the public availability of data relating to the deployment of broadband internet access service; and

“(ii) harmonize reporting requirements and procedures regarding the deployment of broadband internet access service that are in effect on the day before the date on which the rules issued under subsection (a)(1) take effect with those requirements and procedures in those rules.

“(B) CONTINUED COLLECTION AND REPORTING.—On and after the date on which the Commission carries out subparagraph (A), the Commission shall continue to collect and publicly report subscription data that the Commission collected through the Form 477 broadband deployment service availability process, as in effect on July 1, 2019.

“(7) SHARING DATA WITH NTIA.—The Commission shall establish a process to make the data collected under paragraph (2) available to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

“(c) MAPS.—The Commission shall—

“(1) after consultation with the Federal Geographic Data Committee established under section 753(a) of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, create—

“(A) the Broadband Map, which shall depict—

“(i) the extent of the availability of broadband internet access service in the United States, without regard to whether that service is fixed broadband internet access service or mobile broadband internet access service, which shall be based on data collected by the Commission from all providers; and

“(ii) the areas of the United States that remain unserved by providers;

“(B) a map that depicts the availability of fixed broadband internet access service, which shall be based on data collected by the Commission from providers under subsection (b)(2)(A); and

“(C) a map that depicts the availability of mobile broadband internet access service, which shall be based on data collected by the Commission from providers under subsection (b)(2)(B);

“(2) after creating the maps under paragraph (1), use such maps—

“(A) to determine the areas in which terrestrial fixed, fixed wireless, mobile, and satellite broadband internet access service is and is not available; and

“(B) when making any new award of funding with respect to the deployment of broadband internet access service intended for use by residential and mobile customers;

“(3) update the maps created under paragraph (1) not less frequently than biannually using the most recent data collected from providers under subsection (b)(2);

“(4) consult with—

“(A) the Secretary of Agriculture to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to consult the maps created under paragraph (1) when considering the awarding of funds for the deployment of broadband internet access service under any program administered by the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service; and

“(B) the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to enable the Administration to consult the maps created under paragraph (1) when considering the awarding of funds for the deployment of broadband internet access service under any future program administered by the Administration;

“(5) make available to any Federal agency, upon request, the maps created under paragraph (1); and

“(6) make public at an appropriate level of granularity—

“(A) the maps created under paragraph (1); and

“(B) the data collected by the Commission with respect to the availability of broadband internet access service and the quality of service with respect to broadband internet access service.

“(d) DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE FOR QUALITY OF SERVICE RULES.—Any requirement of a rule issued under subsection (a)(1) that relates to quality of service shall take effect not earlier than the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Commission issues that rule.

“SEC. 803. ENFORCEMENT.

“It shall be unlawful for an entity or individual to willfully and knowingly, or recklessly, submit information or data under this title that is materially inaccurate or incomplete with respect to the availability of broadband internet access service or the quality of service with respect to broadband internet access service.

“SEC. 804. IMPROVING DATA ACCURACY.

“(a) AUDITS.—The Commission shall conduct regular audits of information submitted to the Commission by providers under section 802(b)(2) to ensure that the providers are complying with this title.

“(b) CROWDSOURCING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall develop a process through which entities or individuals in the United States may submit specific information about the deployment and availability of broadband internet access service in the United States on an ongoing basis so that the information may be used to verify and supplement information provided by providers of broadband internet access service for inclusion in the maps created under section 802(c)(1).

“(2) COLLABORATION.—As part of the efforts of the Commission to facilitate the ability of entities and individuals to submit information under paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

“(A) prioritize the consideration of data provided by data collection applications used by consumers that the Commission has determined—

“(i) are highly reliable; and

“(ii) have proven methodologies for determining network coverage and network performance;

“(B) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this title, conclude a process that tests the feasibility of partnering with Federal agencies that operate delivery fleet vehicles, including the United States Postal Service, to facilitate the collection and submission of information described in that paragraph; and

“(C) not later than 14 months after the date of enactment of this title, publish on the website of the Commission, and submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report regarding the testing described in subparagraph (B), which shall include—

“(i) a determination regarding whether the partnerships with Federal agencies described in that subparagraph are able to facilitate the collection and submission of information described in paragraph (1); and

“(ii) any steps that the Commission plans to take to facilitate the partnerships described in that subparagraph.

“(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN TRIBES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Commission shall hold workshops for Tribal Governments in each of the 12 Bureau of Indian Affairs regions to provide technical assistance with the collection and submission of data under section 802(a)(2).

“(2) ANNUAL REVIEW.—Each year, the Commission, in consultation with Indian Tribes, shall review the need for continued workshops required under paragraph (1).

“(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL SERVICE PROVIDERS.—The Commission shall establish a process through which a provider that has fewer than 100,000 active broadband internet access service connections may request and receive assistance from the Commission with respect to geographic information system data processing to ensure that the provider is able to comply with the requirements under section 802(b) in a timely and accurate manner.

“(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS AND CONSUMERS.—The Commission shall provide technical assistance to consumers and State, local, and Tribal governmental entities with respect to the challenge process established under section 802(b)(5), which shall include—

“(1) detailed tutorials and webinars; and

“(2) the provision of staff of the Commission to provide assistance, as needed, throughout the entirety of the challenge process.

“(f) GAO ASSESSMENT OF FABRIC SOURCE DATA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an assessment of key data sources that are used for purposes of the Fabric to identify and geocode locations where fixed broadband internet access service can be installed in order for the Comptroller General to develop recommendations for how the quality and completeness of those data sources can be improved as data sources for the Fabric.

“(2) SOURCES INCLUDED.—For the purposes of the assessment conducted under paragraph (1), the key data sources described in that paragraph shall include—

“(A) any relevant sources of Federal data, including the National Address Database administered by the Department of Transportation;

“(B) State- and county-level digitized parcel data; and

“(C) property tax attribute recording.

“(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this title, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that contains the recommendations developed under paragraph (1).

“SEC. 805. COST.

“(a) USF.—The Commission may not use funds from the universal service programs of the

Commission established under section 254, and the regulations issued under that section, to pay for any costs associated with this title.

“(b) OTHER FUNDS.—The Commission may recover costs associated with this title under section 9 to the extent provided for in an appropriation Act, as required under subsection (a) of that section.

**“SEC. 806. OTHER PROVISIONS.**

“(a) OMB.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the initial rule making required under section 802(a)(1) shall be exempt from review by the Office of Management and Budget.

“(b) PRA.—Subchapter 1 of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction Act’) shall not apply to the initial rule making required under section 802(a)(1).

“(c) EXECUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES.—Except, with respect to an entity that is not the Universal Service Administrative Company, as provided in section 802(a)(2)(B), section 802(b)(1)(A)(ii), and subsections (c), (d), and (e) of section 804, the Commission—

“(1) including the offices of the Commission, shall carry out the responsibilities assigned to the Commission under this title; and

“(2) may not delegate any of the responsibilities assigned to the Commission under this title to any third party, including the Universal Service Administrative Company.

“(d) REPORTING.—Each fiscal year, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that summarizes the implementation of this title and associated enforcement activities conducted during the previous fiscal year.

“(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—If the Commission, before the date of enactment of this title, has taken an action that, in whole or in part, implements this title, the Commission shall not be required to revisit such action to the extent that such action is consistent with this title.”.

Mr. PALLONE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**HONORING DENISE WILKERSON**

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great public servant from my district, Denise Wilkerson.

Ms. Wilkerson is the council president for the city of Roselle, New Jersey, but her dedication to her community extends far beyond her city council work. She also is the president of the Union County National Organization for Women. She served as second vice president of the National Council of Negro Women in Roselle, as well.

She is actively involved in her local NAACP chapter, and, in addition, she is the executive director of Abounding Women Community Outreach. This nonprofit is dedicated to empowering

women through their community events and professional skills training.

She is a vibrant part of my community, and I am glad to commend her from the floor of the United States House of Representatives on this day. She deserves all the accolades we can give her and much more.

□ 1415

**REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF SAMI NATOUR**

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Sami Natour, a respected member of the Knoxville community who recently passed away at the age of 86.

Sami lived the American Dream. He was born in Palestine in 1933 and later immigrated to America in 1953. He returned to Palestine in 1956 to marry his wife, Abla, before they permanently settled in the United States and became American citizens. The Natours lived in Arlington, Virginia, before making east Tennessee their home.

In 1972, Sami opened the Copper Kettle Restaurant in Knoxville with his brothers, Samir and Naji. Sami worked extremely hard to make the Copper Kettle a success. Sami's son, Peter, remembers his father's work ethic and how he would often work from 6 in the morning until midnight.

Sami's dedication to his business clearly left an impression on his sons: all three of them own and operate restaurants in the Knoxville area. Peter runs Pete's Coffee Shop—one of my favorite places—Basel runs Rami's Cafe, and Bassam runs Sami's Cafe.

Sami will be greatly missed. His life story serves as a reminder that anyone willing to work hard can follow their dreams and be successful in our great Nation.

**OPPOSING TEXAS' MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAM**

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to oppose the Healthy Texas Women Medicaid waiver program, which is nothing more than a reckless attack on reproductive rights.

The ironically titled Healthy Texas Women program blocks Medicaid beneficiaries from getting care at providers that offer abortion services, like Planned Parenthood. This does nothing to expand access to family planning care. It will harm low-income women who rely on Medicaid for their healthcare.

When Texas excluded Planned Parenthood from State funding 7 years ago, 45,000 fewer women accessed care. We cannot stand for that. This waiver program will hurt women of color the

most, who already experience health disparities and barriers to access.

Mr. Speaker, I will not stop fighting to protect a woman's right to make her own decisions about her healthcare, and I urge the Congress to do the same.

**RECOGNIZING HEAD COACH ULYSSES HAWTHORNE**

(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 Alfred E. Beach High School Head Football Coach, Ulysses Hawthorne, who is retiring from the Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools system after 21 seasons.

Coach Hawthorne is a stalwart in the Savannah athletics scene. At the time of his retirement he was the dean of all the coaches in the area, but, most importantly, he has always been an exceptional role model to his players. Players he coached remember that he pushed them to become leaders on and off the field. Many of his players are now playing at the next level in college.

As a unit, his teams were successful against schools from across the State of Georgia. In 2011, Coach Hawthorne took Alfred E. Beach High School to its first appearance in the State playoffs since 1993. During his tenure at Beach, he accumulated 76 wins.

I am so proud to have someone like Coach Hawthorne in the First Congressional District of Georgia shaping the lives of young people.

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

(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 highlight the great work of the Special Olympics.

Recently, I had the pleasure of visiting with Special Olympics athletes from Souderton Area High School, a Unified Sports school.

Schools that participate in Unified Sports pair students with and without disabilities to promote inclusion through a shared love of sports. Athlete Kevin Lezynski and his unified partner Jon Booz stopped by my office recently to share their experiences with the Pennsylvania Special Olympics.

The Special Olympics is a fantastic organization representing more than 5 million athletes that teaches the value of good sportsmanship. Because of the Special Olympics, individuals with intellectual disabilities are given opportunities to not only strengthen their physical fitness, but to strengthen the lifelong friendships made with fellow athletes along the way.

I would like to wish Kevin and Jon the best of luck in their future competitions, and to all of the other brave



Pennsylvania Special Olympics athletes and their Unified Sports partners.

#### STATE OF FLORIDA'S BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the great State of Florida.

On this day in 1845, Florida became the 27th State to join our Union and has had a strong impact on our Nation ever since.

From producing 70 percent of our Nation's citrus, to ranking number 2 in vegetables harvested, Florida, as an agricultural powerhouse, has long been critical in feeding hungry Americans. Our State's importance to our national security also can't be understated.

Florida is home to 3 of 11 unified combatant commands—Central Command, Southern Command, and Special Operations Command. I am so honored to represent a district home to 57,000 veterans, part of the 1.5 million who call the Sunshine State home.

Florida is also a major tourism destination as millions from around the world flock to our shores to enjoy our beaches, food, culture, and theme parks.

I am grateful to have been born and raised in Florida and to represent the 15th District. I look forward to working with the Florida delegation to continue bettering the lives of all our State residents for generations to come.

#### THE BACHARACH GIANTS OF ATLANTIC CITY

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4104, the Negro Leagues Baseball Centennial Commemorative Coin Act.

In New Jersey's Second District we were home to the Bacharach Giants in Atlantic City. The team was a top contender in the league and won two pennants in 1926 and 1927.

The Giants were lucky enough to host players such as John Henry "Pop" Lloyd, a player whom Babe Ruth himself once called the greatest ballplayer of all time, anywhere, ever.

Pop Lloyd would end up retiring and coaching youth baseball in Atlantic City until the day he died, and he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1977.

Players like Pop Lloyd would lay the foundation for future stars such as Jackie Robinson and Hank Aaron, who would change the game forever. Yet, players like Lloyd, and the leagues they played in, are slowly becoming forgotten to the annals of history.

We cannot let that happen. I thank the gentleman from Missouri for intro-

ducing this important legislation to commemorate and honor those players and the role they played in shaping America's very favorite pastime.

May God bless him.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Chamber about one of the most important issues that the Nation faces, and that issue has only been underscored by the issue of the coronavirus, and also by the issue of inequality that exists today in this great country of ours, the wealthiest nation in the history of the world.

I am pleased to announce the number of people who have risen and come to support Social Security 2100. It is called Social Security 2100 because we address the needs of Social Security into the next century so that Social Security will be solvent beyond 75 years and address the vital concerns of each and every American.

In 2019, 64 million Americans received Social Security benefits totaling over \$1 trillion. For nearly one-third of our elderly beneficiaries, Social Security benefits are 90 percent of their total income. Two-thirds rely on Social Security for the majority of their income. The average benefit in 2019 per American was \$17,600 for retired workers, and that works out to be about \$18,000 for men and \$14,000 for women—not enough for most to live on.

Mr. Speaker, 178 million Americans are covered by Social Security today; 10,000, baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security.

Social Security helps lower and middle-income Americans the most. More than 90 percent of benefits go to beneficiaries earning less than \$50,000. Let me repeat that again: more than 90 percent of all the benefits of Social Security go to people earning less than \$50,000 a year.

That is why the following individuals have supported the Social Security 2100 Act, including: Social Security Works, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the AFL-CIO, the Alliance for Retired Americans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, VoteVets, the American Federation of Government Employees, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Latinos for a Secure Retirement, the National Organization for Women, SAGE, the National Education Association, The Arc of the United States, International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers representing the Administrative Law Judges, Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities Social Security Task Force, Justice in Aging, the Association of University Centers on

Disabilities, Senior Citizens League, the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives, the EPI Policy Center, the National Retiree Legislative Network, Public Citizen, CREDO Action, Progress America, Other 98, the Daily Kos, People's Action, the Diverse Elders Coalition, the National Employment Law Project, Freedom to Prosper, MoveOn, Union Veterans Council of the AFL-CIO, just to name a few, Madam Speaker.

I want to start today by talking about having Secretary Mnuchin before the Ways and Means Committee this morning.

I reminded Secretary Mnuchin and complimented the President for saying in his last two State of the Union messages how he was committed to protecting Social Security. While he is committed to protecting Social Security, his budgets have not reflected that, which was a point of concern we raised with Secretary Mnuchin especially since—to give President Trump credit here—that during the campaign of 2016 when faced with 16 other Republicans who tried to force him to say that Social Security is an entitlement, President Trump, to his credit, said: No, Social Security is an earned benefit.

I asked Secretary Mnuchin if he believed that Social Security was an earned benefit, and he said: Yes, it was.

I also asked then, if that is the case, and it is an earned benefit, it debunks a longstanding concern raised by the other side that Social Security is somehow an entitlement program when, in fact, every American citizen knows, because of FICA, exactly what Social Security is.

FICA stands for the Federal Insurance Contribution Act, but anyone can go to their pay stub and look at it. Federal Insurance Contribution—whose contribution?

Your contribution; every American citizen's contribution. It is not a tax. The tax that is paid by an employer to your benefit is fully deductible. The employer gets to deduct it. The benefit for your contribution goes directly to the employee, and they get that in the way of pension guarantee, disability protection, spousal and dependent coverage, and a death benefit.

□ 1430

The wisdom of Franklin Delano Roosevelt is also prescient because they realized back in 1929, after the Great Depression, in this great capitalistic and entrepreneurial society that we live in, that sometimes, through no fault of your own, when something as disastrous as a stock market crash or an unanticipated virus takes place, that disaster can prevail, and all of a sudden, you would find yourself in a situation where you had not the means.

Thus, Congress, because of President Roosevelt, adopted the Social Security Act and paid for it through the Federal insurance contribution. So this contribution, every citizen knows that it is their contribution that they make.

I commended President Trump for having said that, debating his other Republican opponents. But to date, the administration has not produced a plan that will protect Social Security, that will, in fact, expand Social Security the way it needs to be.

In fact, the last time Social Security was expanded, there was a Republican President, a Republican Senate, and a Democratic House. The Democratic Speaker was Tip O'Neill. He led that effort. The leader of the Social Security movement was Robert Dole. The Senate majority leader was Howard Baker. And the President was Ronald Reagan.

They understood, bipartisanly, that this is the American people's number one insurance program, the number one antipoverty program.

You know what? We don't even have to go back to 1929 to understand the impact and the need for Social Security. History and historians are replete with the stories of the great crash. We have to go back only as far as 2008 because, in 2008, this country experienced the Great Recession.

Since that recession, many Americans saw their 401(k)'s become 101(k)'s, and 90 percent of the American people have not recovered their wealth and assets that they lost in the recession of 2008. Let me repeat that, Madam Speaker: 90 percent of Americans have not recovered their wealth and assets from 2008.

During that time, when many lost everything, and companies turned away from defined benefit contributions and were getting out of the pension business, during that same time period, Social Security never missed a payment. Social Security never missed a pension payment, never missed a disability payment, never missed a spousal or dependent coverage payment, because it is the full faith and credit of the United States Government and the Nation's number one insurance plan and the Nation's number one antipoverty plan.

Most recently, our dear colleague JOHN LEWIS reminded us—and in June 2019 he rolled out, along with DANNY DAVIS, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, TERRI SEWELL, GWEN MOORE, JIMMY GOMEZ, and other members of the Committee on Ways and Means—the fact that Social Security is a civil rights issue as well, a civil rights issue that has long gone unaddressed.

It has been more than 37 years since Social Security was last fixed, and that was under Tip O'Neill, Ronald Reagan, and Howard Baker. It has been more than 50 years since Social Security was enhanced. Do you think things have changed for people in 37 years and in 50 years?

Every American listening to this understands that that is the case. They have faithfully paid into this earned benefit and have gotten, in return, a benefit, but one that needs to be changed and modified in a way that is sustainably solvent into the next century and enhanced in the following

ways that people like DANNY DAVIS have advocated.

Here are the four ways that we enhance Social Security.

Number one, we make sure that no one can retire into poverty. In the wealthiest nation in the world today, fellow American citizens who have paid all their quarters into Social Security, who have worked all their lives, receive a Social Security check that is below the poverty level. Most of them happen to be women, and most of them happen to be women of color.

It is the shame of this country that in the midst of the great prosperity and wealth and, frankly, in the midst of handing out a \$2 trillion tax cut of which 83 percent went to the Nation's wealthiest 1 percent, that we could not find the will and the way to help out those who have worked all their lives and paid into the program.

This is no handout. This is someone who, by the sweat of their brow and their work, earned a benefit that hasn't actuarially kept pace, because, in 1983, they didn't index it the way they should have. No one who has paid in their quarters should suffer for a mistake made by Congress.

Congress needs to correct that so now the new floor for Social Security will become 125 percent of what the poverty level is so that no one who works their whole life and pays in their quarters can retire into poverty.

The second thing we do is make sure that there is a 2 percent across-the-board increase. Nobody gets wealthy on Social Security. On average, a male earns approximately \$18,000 in Social Security payments and a female \$14,000. Nobody is getting wealthy on Social Security. It is the subsistence amount of money necessitated to make ends meet. So, a modest 2 percent increase will be spent right back into the very communities that they live in.

On average, every congressional district has 145,000 people who receive Social Security. In each one of our 435 districts, 145,000 people will be spending money back in those communities.

Recognize that this is an economic stimulus bill. In fact, most recently, Jason Furman, coming before the Committee on Ways and Means, talked about this as an economic stimulus, as has Larry Summers and other economists who have taken a look at the ways we need to stimulate our economy by making sure that those amongst us who need the money most and who spend that money directly back in the community on the necessities of life—like heating and cooling their homes, providing the fuel that allows them to operate their automobiles, making sure that they have food and nutrition and physical therapy, and paying for doctor visits and also prescriptions—this is what we are doing to expand this bill with a 2 percent increase and then also making sure that there is a COLA that reflects the actual costs that people incur.

How so? A COLA, which the AARP calls CPIE, with "E" standing for el-

derly, but I would also say standing for the essential benefits that the elderly need. Again, heating and cooling your home, prescription drugs, doctor visits, physical therapy, the very food that you put on your table, these are essential for life. That is what should go into figuring out what your COLA is, and that is what this bill reflects.

The bill also reflects the idea that a lot of people continue to work beyond retirement age. But most people don't realize that if you are single and making more than \$24,000, your Social Security is taxed. If you are a married couple and making more than \$32,000, your Social Security is taxed. Again, back in 1983, they didn't index this. We changed that. We indexed Social Security. Now, 12 million Americans will get a tax break because of that.

Making sure that no one can retire into poverty, having a modest 2 percent across-the-board increase, having a COLA that reflects your actual expenses, and providing a tax break is at the core of this bill.

In the new and added improvements of the bill, including those led by DANNY DAVIS to make sure that grandmothers and grandparents, to make sure that students, to make sure that widows are getting extra money to raise the children that they are responsible for was also included in this legislation, as well as introducing an earned income tax credit so that nobody earning \$50,000 and below will have to pay an increase in taxes and in contributions, to make sure that the money is going where it is needed the most, to help people at the lower end of the pay scale to get the kind of benefits that the Social Security 2100 Act provides.

□ 1445

And with that, Madam Speaker, I am going to yield to the gentleman from the great State of Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), as I like to refer to him—as I have heard no better voice in Congress—the voice of God.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Well, thank you, sir. I want to thank you indeed. As a matter of fact, as I was listening, I was saying to myself, after a good sermon, all that you really say is "Amen." And I want to say "Amen" to you.

And I say that in all seriousness, because the number one advocate for an expanded Social Security in this House of Representatives is none other than Representative JOHN LARSON. I thank you for your diligence, for the consistency.

When you walk in my office, there is a photograph of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and that photograph has been there ever since I have been here. I had that photograph before I came here, because the work and the leadership, the vision that Franklin Delano Roosevelt had, has been transformed and passed on to people like yourself and to you. I am so proud to be able to say that I serve with you in this House of Representatives, on the Ways and Means

Committee, and that you chair the Social Security Subcommittee and the Social Security effort.

The only other thing that I really would need to say and would want to say, I have always been told that you can measure the effectiveness of a society, that you make an assessment by how well it treats its young, how well it treats its old, and how well it treats those who have difficulty caring for themselves.

I couldn't help but think of my father, as I listened to you, who was 92 years old when he died. But he had a good life. As a matter of fact, he spent the last 5 years living with me on the weekends whenever I came home.

He always wanted to pay for things. You know, we would stop for dinner, and he would say to my wife: Vera, I am going to treat you for dinner.

His Social Security check was \$500—something a month, which obviously would not have been enough if he had to live alone and care for himself and all of that. But I would go ahead and let him pay. I would say: Okay. Well, if you want to pay for dinner, go right ahead—and he would pay.

When I stopped to get gasoline, as the tank was being filled, he would say: Here, let me pay for it.

He would reach and get his money. We were getting gas. At the time, gasoline was very high. It went up to \$40, \$50, \$60, \$70. He would say: I guess you better go ahead and pay for it. You don't have to worry.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. He is a smart man.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. But, again, we have got to expand it. We have got to keep it. We have got to make sure that it provides for the individuals it is designed to provide for.

It is not a gift. It is not a giveaway. It is an entitlement that people work for. And so I am proud to join with you in saying that we have got to make Social Security everything that it ought to be.

Where you lead, I will follow, and we will help make it happen. So, thank you very much. I am going to conclude, and this just about ends my day.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Well, first of all, thank you very much. I deeply appreciate your efforts, Mr. DAVIS.

And I love the story about your father, because that just demonstrates the dignity and the worth of a lifetime of work. But, still, he wanted to pay, he wanted to continue to contribute, because he knew how important it was.

And it wasn't any handout. He worked for it all of his life. He contributed into it.

Now we are faced with a decision in Congress on our watch, not sometime down in the future, but now.

For you up there listening in the audience, as we speak, this year, Social Security will start paying out more money than it is taking in. It hasn't been adjusted in 37 years.

There is nothing that you can leave untouched that requires actuarial at-

tention—and, specifically, the attention of Congress—that, left untouched, will continue to flourish. And yet Social Security has never missed a payment, not for disability, not for spousal or dependent coverage, and not for a pension. It is America's insurance plan. It is our number one antipoverty program as well.

That is why I am so grateful that Danny and others have pointed this out as a civil rights issue, as well, because of the way, for so long, people of color, especially Black males, have been discriminated against.

Also, when you look at women and you understand that, for women of color, they are receiving 56 cents for every dollar their White male counterparts were—80 cents for White women, 53 cents for Hispanic women—that is simply unfair.

In this day and age, we can correct that, and we can do it simply by doing what Roosevelt asked us to do: Make a contribution.

What does that contribution go towards? It goes towards a pension, a disability payment, dependent coverage, and a spousal benefit.

That is a pretty good deal. You can't buy that anywhere in the private sector.

I come from one of the insurance capitals of the world, where, when you went to insurance school, they taught you about the three legs on the stool; and the most important leg on that stool was Social Security, because that was the floor, that was the safety net which nothing could fall through.

We don't ever want to see another crash like 1929. But, again, understand, since 2008, 90 percent of Americans are struggling because they haven't recovered their wealth and assets. Sixty-eight percent of all millennials, who will need Social Security more than baby boomers, have only Social Security to rely on. They have no pension or 401(k).

While we should do everything to make that more possible, the plausible reality and what government can do is at hand: First and foremost, make Social Security solvent; and then, secondly, make sure it is solvent for more than 75 years and addresses baby boomers and millennials and future generations, and does so with modest benefits that end the inequality that exists but also provides basic economic sustenance so that our economies can thrive.

Both Jason Furman and Larry Summers, and, I think, Secretary Mnuchin would even agree with this today. They were talking about, in the face of the coronavirus—which, by the way, is age-related and will impact the elderly and people in the age groups of 60 to 70 and 70 to 80 far more than it will impact any other generation, and it will do so in a way that they better have the wherewithal—they were talking about means to stimulate the economy.

The number one way to stimulate the economy is to give those modest bene-

fits to the very people—145,000, on average, in every congressional district—so those modest benefits are spent directly right back into the communities that they live in for the necessities of life that are needed to sustain their existence.

Would you agree, Dan?

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. I agree wholeheartedly.

As a matter of fact, if you really want to touch and move the economy, it is to make sure that those individuals at the very bottom are able to contribute.

You see, I always say that money to a community is like blood to the body. No matter how sophisticated we are in terms of medicine and health, if all the blood leaves your body, in all likelihood, you are going to die.

In communities that are considered low income, senior citizen villages, places where people live in senior housing, unless those individuals have resources to plow back into the environment, then those will always be low income, no money, no resources, no business, no opportunities, no hope.

So, if we really want to make America be the America that we dream about, talk about, hope about, but has never been, then Social Security is the way to do it. Every person who works, who reaches a certain age, you know, retirement can be a good thing.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Exactly.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. You have got enough resources to retire without wondering if you are going to have to cut your pills in half or not pay the light bill or pay the rent or have enough money to purchase the food that you want, where you are not scraping and looking for coupons and looking for special sales and special opportunities.

That is what happens to many of our senior citizens. They have to look and see if there is an item on sale so that they will be able to acquire it. So, if we make sure that there are sufficient resources for people to live on, then, at my church, they would say that you are doing the work of the Master.

So there is no better way to do it, no more effective, no more efficient way. I am just pleased that we have this opportunity to do this, and do it now.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. We do, and it is on our watch.

I can't emphasize this enough. For every Member of Congress and every person out there in America who is listening to C-SPAN right now or to this program: It is on our watch. It is our responsibility. We cannot continue to kick the can down the road.

Doing nothing means a 20 percent cut to people's benefits.

Let me repeat that again. Doing nothing means a 20 percent cut to people's benefits.

Now, there are some who are fine with that, but most, on both sides of the aisle, are not in favor of that.

Here is what the polling data shows. It shows that Social Security is bipartisan. Seventy-seven percent of Americans—84 percent of Democrats, 69 percent of Republicans, 76 percent of Independents—said that they would be willing to pay a little more to make sure that their benefits are not cut and that they are protected and expanded.

Also, 91 percent of workers and 94 percent of retirees would feel betrayed—that is 91 percent of workers, 94 percent of retirees would feel betrayed—if the money they paid into Social Security was not available to them.

A Gallup poll found, this most recent one, that Social Security ranked fourth amongst the things that keep people up at night and worried with respect to their security, fourth in importance after education, healthcare, and their financial security—and they often lump financial security and Social Security together.

□ 1500

I would just like to close.

I mentioned Jason Furman, who was the former Obama National Economic Council Adviser, and Larry Summers, the former Clinton Treasury Secretary—both were serving up at Harvard—who have written extensively about the importance of making sure, as an economic stimulus and out of necessity, that we make the improvements that should have been made 37 years ago but desperately need to be taken up today, not only for current generations and baby boomers retiring, but for millennials and future generations.

Alicia Munnell, the current Director for the Center for Retirement Research, former member of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, former Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy, and former senior vice president at the Federal Reserve in Boston, said we have to protect Social Security: Policymakers should fix Social Security by raising, incrementally, over time, the money necessitated to do it. It doesn't come from heaven.

We need to maintain benefits. People don't have anything else other than their 401(k)s, and a specific portion of the population doesn't even have those. Social Security is the forced savings plan that people have paid into and have counted on, and, as I have said before, it has never missed a payment.

Monique Morrissey, economist from the Economic Policy Institute: "Expanding Social Security . . . ensures steady contributions; it keeps costs low and prevents leakage; and it pools longevity risk. Moreover, Social Security's pay-as-you-go financing . . . provides an internal rate of return tied to economic growth . . . but without the gyrations."

Dean Baker, senior economist for the Center for Economic and Policy Research, if Social Security 2100 becomes law, "it would both improve the pro-

gram's benefit structure and its financial picture. . . . After adjusting for prices, wages have risen 1.5 percent annually over the last 5 years." Social Security 2100 would only be a small impact on the pay increase of a new FICA tax.

This was in Economy for All on November 12, 2019. The Congressional Budget Office also reports this.

This will be the only bill that we will be able to vote on this year that both reduces the national debt by \$525 billion and expands and improves Social Security.

Let me repeat that again.

CBO has said that Social Security 2100 is both PAYGO compliant and, because the program is fully paid for, reduces the national debt by \$525 billion over time and enhances the existence of Social Security, making it solvent for future generations beyond 75 years.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), if he has a final word.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, the final word is only to make sure that Social Security is in your plans, and be ready to accept it when we get it.

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

#### CRISIS AT THE BORDER

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, first of all, I will let you know, so we break the suspense, I will probably be more like 5 minutes, so it is easier for everybody.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk one more time about the crisis at the border.

One more week has gone by, and for 1 more week, Donald Trump is out there alone fighting to preserve the integrity of our border and who the future citizens of the United States of America are.

Donald Trump is a fan of immigration, that is why, on his watch, we are now up to around 750,000 people being sworn in legally in this country every year, and there has been no effort made to really substantially reduce that number.

Nevertheless, we do want to pick our immigrants. We want our immigrants to be people who have come here legally and are appropriately vetted, and Donald Trump is doing what he can—without any help from Congress, I might add—to make sure that that happens.

The first thing that Congress has to do is to make permanent the Public Charge rule. Donald Trump has correctly said, even for legal immigrants, we are not going to take people in this country if we expect they would be per-

manently, or close to permanently, taking advantage of the programs our government has to offer.

Right now, 63 percent of the noncitizens, compared to 35 percent of the native-born, are on some sort of government program. We have a hard enough time at this time of trillion-dollar deficits taking care of our own citizens who have fallen on hard times without taking the people who are on hard times from all around the world.

Donald Trump is putting his finger in the spigot, but we know the day will come when we have a different President. When we have a different President, I am scared to death the new President will go back to the old method of anybody can come here, and, if they come to our country for free Pell grants, if they come to our country for free food, if they come to our country for free medical care, if they come to our country for free housing, we will let them back in.

Madam Speaker, I wish President Trump would always be able to prevent that, and I am sure he is going to continue to prevent that as long as he is President; but, if you look at the other people running for the job, I wouldn't bet that even by this time next year, and certainly within 5 years, we won't be back to the days of being the welfare magnet for the Western Hemisphere or the entire world.

Madam Speaker, I call on Congress to step up and pass legislation that a future President cannot undue, stating that we are not going to have more people here as a public charge.

Secondly, a couple weeks ago, I went down to the border one more time and had a chance to talk to local law enforcement, some of the citizens on the border, as well as the Border Patrol. They are appreciative of the things that the current administration is doing.

I saw 12 miles of wall being built at the Arizona border. I saw that, while it might be possible to get around the wall, it would be very difficult. I don't think most people could climb a 30-foot wall, much less get over the concertina wire on top, much less get down the other side.

But, again, those are actions from President Trump. I wish, in the future appropriations bill, Congress would fully fund that wall like the Border Patrol, who sees what is going on every day, wishes they had.

President Trump has reached an agreement with the Mexican Government so that people coming here seeking asylum pending their hearing can be held in Mexico rather than coming across, living in this country, having children with birthright citizenship, and taking advantage of laws that law-abiding people from other countries don't have.

Again, President Trump has reached an agreement with Mexico, and that is why we have gone from 80,000 or 90,000 people, at least, coming in the border in May of last year to under 2,000, we

believe, more recently. But, again, that is another victory that could be short-lived.

We heard again, currently, it could easily be over 90 percent of the fentanyl, of the meth and heroin come across the border. This should be a national crisis. More people are dying on an annual basis from this scourge than died in the entire Vietnam war.

Nevertheless, it is still treated as no big deal, and Congress is not going out of its way to do anywhere near what it should to prevent these drugs from coming across the border, which are killing our citizens.

Furthermore, the drug cartels who control that border are breaking up families and taking advantage of young people, 14-, 15-year-olds, to smuggle across the border.

Why do they do it? Because they know, in the United States, we are not going to incarcerate people who are 15 years old for sneaking drugs across the border.

It amazes Border Patrol that, a few times, some potential immigrant commits a crime and they are separated from their children; meanwhile, the drug cartels have thousands of people separated from their parents to do their dirty work and barely a peep from the average American Congressman who is so worried about things otherwise.

We also had a chance to look at the Nogales border and see what is going on there and the possibility that people are going over the wall. We heard, again, we could use more dogs on the southern border, not only to detect drugs coming across one way, but to detect cash coming across the other way—something else that, if this Congress really cared about our border, they would do something about.

We heard, again, about the dangers of having the drug cartels control our southern border rather than our Border Patrol, wealthy drug cartels that may be paying off some American citizens who live on the border and may be paying off Mexican military, maybe Mexican police. When they sneak people over the border, it is not unusual to have these people dehydrate in the Arizona desert. It is not unusual to have these people drown in the Rio Grande River.

The fault is the inactivity of the American Congress to really secure these borders so we don't continue to empower the Mexican drug cartels that are not only causing people to die coming here, but are also corrupting the Mexican Government, resulting in the high homicide rates that we see south of the border.

Madam Speaker, I call upon Congress to act to immediately hire more Border Patrol, to hire more dogs, to make sure we have enough funding for the wall, to permanently cause people trying to come into this country to have to stay south of the border pending their asylum hearing, to change the asylum laws so that anybody can't just

say "I am in danger in my home country" and come here, and, above all, to change the public benefits rule so that our future immigrants are uniformly hardworking people who are going to be an asset to America rather than the current situation in which they are apparently disproportionately the type of people who come on the government.

We are all willing to take care of the people in the United States who have fallen on hard times, but the idea of going back to the days in which people all around the world know that the United States of America is the welfare magnet for anyone is ruining our country, and it is hard to imagine people who don't take these actions as anything other than people who want to permanently change our country.

Madam Speaker, I call on Congress to take action that President Trump would suggest so that, if, God forbid, anything happened to him, we still are in a position to protect our border and save our great country.

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

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4998. An act to prohibit certain Federal subsidies from being used to purchase communications equipment or services posing national security risks, to provide for the establishment of a reimbursement program for the replacement of communications equipment or services posing such risks, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

3990. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Second Limited Maintenance Plans for 1997 Ozone NAAQS [EPA-R05-OAR-2019-0467; FRL-10006-00-Region 5] received March 2, 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.

3991. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Chrysodeixis includens Nucleopolydiovirus isolate #460; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0571; FRL-10003-94] received March 2, 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.

3992. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Solvent Extraction for Vegetable Oil Production Residual Risk and Technology Review [EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0208; FRL-10006-06-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AU17) received March 2, 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.

3993. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Penoxsulam; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0061; FRL-10004-86] received March 2, 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.

3994. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Trifloxystrobin; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0130; FRL-10004-08] received March 2, 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.

3995. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question, covering the period August 1 to September 30, 2019, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2373(d); Public Law 87-195, Sec. 620C(d); (92 Stat. 739); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3996. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's determination and certification under Sec. 490(b)(1)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2291j(b)(1)(A); Public Law 87-195, Sec. 490(b)(1)(A) (as added by Public Law 102-583, Sec. 5(a)); (106 Stat. 4924); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3997. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule Temporary General License: Extension of Validity [Docket No.: 200211-0051] (RIN: 0694-AH79) 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 Foreign Affairs.

3998. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 19-076, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3999. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 19-083, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4000. A letter from the Director, Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's FY 2019 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

4001. A letter from the Board of Trustees, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, transmitting the Trust's Annual Management Report for Fiscal Year 2019, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231n(j)(5)(E)(ii); Aug. 29, 1935,

ch. 812, Sec. 15 (as amended by Public Law 107-90, Sec.105; (115 Stat. 886); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

4002. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Vice Chairman, Executive Director, Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting the Conference's notice — Adoption of Recommendations 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 the Judiciary.

4003. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0063; Product Identifier 2020-NE-01-AD; Amendment 39-19838; AD 2020-01-55] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 28, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4004. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting the Sec. 1209(d) and CTEF Consolidated Quarterly Reports — FY 2019 A4, pursuant to Public Law 115-232, Sec. 1231(d); (132 Stat. 2034) and Public Law 113-291, Sec. 1209(d); (128 Stat. 3542); jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs.

4005. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's National Security Education Program (NSEP) 2019 Annual Report, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1906(a); jointly to the Committees on Education and Labor and Intelligence (Permanent Select).

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 6061. A bill to amend the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 to provide technical assistance and training to State and local courts to improve the constitutional and equitable enforcement of fines, fees, and monetary bail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mr. HICE of Georgia, and Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY):

H.R. 6062. A bill to amend certain provisions in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act relating to the discontinuance or interruption in the production of life-saving drugs so as to apply such provisions with respect to life-saving devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 6063. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a task force on pilot manual reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 6064. A bill to require the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish a premise plumbing research laboratory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself, Mr. NEGUSE, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 6065. A bill to block the implementation of a recent presidential proclamation restricting individuals from certain countries from entering the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HECK (for himself, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. AMODEI):

H.R. 6066. A bill to require the Federal Railroad Administration and Amtrak to implement and carry out certain National Transportation Safety Board recommendations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 6067. A bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to provide for the establishment of a trust for the benefit of unpaid cash sellers of livestock, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 6068. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study on the health outcomes of the use of e-cigarettes during pregnancy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. GALLEGRO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KIND, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 6069. A bill to establish a competitive program to make grants to States to provide child care to individuals receiving services at American Job Centers; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico (for herself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. VELA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. HAALAND, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 6070. A bill to establish grant programs to improve the health of border area residents and for all hazards preparedness in the border area including bioterrorism, infectious disease, and noncommunicable emerging threats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MORELLE:

H. Res. 883. A resolution expressing support for designation of March 3, 2020, as National Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. ROSE of New York (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SIREN, Mr. PHILIPS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. MALINOWSKI, and Ms. SHERRILL):

H. Res. 884. A resolution recognizing the global threat transnational white supremacist extremism presents to America and its interests; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

## 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. NADLER:

H.R. 6061.

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

Article I, Section 8, clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 6062.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:

H.R. 6063.

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

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 6064.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California:

H.R. 6065.

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

Article I, Section XIII of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. HECK:

H.R. 6066.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MARSHALL:

H.R. 6067.

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

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 6068.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 6069.

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

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 9, clause 7 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico:

H.R. 6070.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 93: Ms. ESHOO.

- H.R. 444: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. CICILLINE.
- H.R. 463: Mr. COLE and Mr. COURTNEY.
- H.R. 613: Ms. CRAIG.
- H.R. 879: Mr. HARDER of California.
- H.R. 913: Mr. KENNEDY.
- H.R. 1128: Mr. COX of California.
- H.R. 1174: Mrs. BUSTOS.
- H.R. 1325: Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. KELLER, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. MARSHALL.
- H.R. 1366: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 1444: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
- H.R. 1461: Mr. CRENSHAW.
- H.R. 1554: Ms. MOORE.
- H.R. 1629: Mr. KINZINGER.
- H.R. 1713: Mr. ROUDA.
- H.R. 1735: Ms. MENG.
- H.R. 1762: Mr. NUNES and Mr. KATKO.
- H.R. 1948: Mr. WOODALL, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. KEATING.
- H.R. 1970: Ms. CRAIG.
- H.R. 2164: Mr. TRONE and Ms. DELBENE.
- H.R. 2166: Mr. KEATING and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
- H.R. 2305: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
- H.R. 2311: Mr. KIM.
- H.R. 2350: Ms. TITUS, Mr. ROUDA, and Mr. LOUDERMILK.
- H.R. 2438: Ms. SCANLON.
- H.R. 2449: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
- H.R. 2457: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
- H.R. 2466: Mr. LUJÁN.
- H.R. 2501: Mr. MALINOWSKI and Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 2662: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
- H.R. 2847: Ms. WILD.
- H.R. 3010: Mr. ZELDIN.
- H.R. 3019: Mr. STAUBER.
- H.R. 3077: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
- H.R. 3182: Mr. ROUDA and Mr. CRENSHAW.
- H.R. 3414: Mr. RUSH, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
- H.R. 3441: Mr. HURD of Texas and Mr. DOGETT.
- H.R. 3497: Mrs. MCBATH.
- H.R. 3522: Mr. WRIGHT.
- H.R. 3545: Mr. BACON and Ms. LOFGREN.
- H.R. 3561: Mr. LUCAS.
- H.R. 3609: Mr. MCADAMS.
- H.R. 3929: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
- H.R. 3957: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
- H.R. 3969: Ms. HOULAHAN and Mr. RASKIN.
- H.R. 3975: Mr. SMUCKER.
- H.R. 4104: Mr. TRONE, Mr. BERA, Mr. LOEBSSACK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. SCHRIER.
- H.R. 4138: Mr. LOEBSSACK.
- H.R. 4154: Mr. ZELDIN.
- H.R. 4221: Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 4348: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois and Mr. CICILLINE.
- H.R. 4393: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WILD, and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
- H.R. 4492: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
- H.R. 4591: Mr. CARBAJAL.
- H.R. 4681: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. COOK, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. ROUDA.
- H.R. 4705: Mr. LONG.
- H.R. 4936: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
- H.R. 5041: Mr. CLEAVER.
- H.R. 5052: Mr. KIM.
- H.R. 5076: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
- H.R. 5170: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire and Ms. OMAR.
- H.R. 5178: Mr. ROUDA.
- H.R. 5200: Ms. MATSUI.
- H.R. 5265: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.
- H.R. 5306: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
- H.R. 5309: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.
- H.R. 5321: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
- H.R. 5419: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
- H.R. 5534: Mr. COOPER.
- H.R. 5544: Mr. REED and Mr. RUSH.
- H.R. 5552: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Ms. DELBENE.
- H.R. 5576: Mr. ALLEN.
- H.R. 5596: Mr. WRIGHT.
- H.R. 5599: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
- H.R. 5602: Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
- H.R. 5605: Ms. MENG, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
- H.R. 5661: Mr. CLINE.
- H.R. 5664: Ms. WILD.
- H.R. 5690: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Mr. HECK, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
- H.R. 5702: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.
- H.R. 5719: Mr. GAETZ and Mr. BALDERSON.
- H.R. 5739: Mr. CICILLINE.
- H.R. 5763: Mr. KELLER.
- H.R. 5764: Ms. HAALAND.
- H.R. 5775: Mr. NADLER and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
- H.R. 5808: Mr. GOHMERT.
- H.R. 5826: Mrs. LURIA.
- H.R. 5879: Ms. TLAB.
- H.R. 5885: Mr. KATKO, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. BACON, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
- H.R. 5913: Mr. CLOUD and Mr. OLSON.
- H.R. 5915: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H.R. 5929: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
- H.R. 5935: Mr. HARRIS and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
- H.R. 5952: Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. DEFazio.
- H.R. 5965: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.
- H.R. 5973: Mr. HARDER of California.
- H.R. 5983: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. COX of California.
- H.R. 5984: Ms. SCANLON.
- H.R. 5995: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
- H.R. 6014: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.
- H.R. 6020: Mr. ROY.
- H.R. 6024: Ms. HOULAHAN.
- H. Res. 54: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
- H. Res. 114: Ms. LOFGREN.
- H. Res. 452: Ms. PORTER.
- H. Res. 512: Mr. CRENSHAW.
- H. Res. 536: Mr. BANKS.
- H. Res. 698: Mr. BEYER.
- H. RES. 720: Mr. TRONE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. WILD, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. TED LIEU of CALIFORNIA, Ms. BASS, and Mr. CICILLINE.
- H. Res. 846: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
- H. Res. 861: Mr. SUOZZI.
- H. Res. 868: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. STEUBE.