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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair wishes to make an announcement to the House regarding floor practices.

Members are reminded of the unique tradition and dignity of the House that sets it apart from other institutions and workplaces.

Members should refrain from trafficking in the well when another Member, including the presiding officer, is addressing the House.

The rules establish 15 minutes as the minimum time for electronic voting in the ordinary case and 5 and 2 minutes as the minimum time in other cases when Members are already in or near the Chamber in response to an earlier vote.

As a reminder, Members should attempt to come to the floor within the 15-minute period as prescribed by the first ringing of the bells. As a point of courtesy to each of your colleagues, voting within the allotted time would help with the maintenance of this institution.

Members are further reminded that the policy is to not terminate the vote when a Member is in the well attempting to cast a vote. Other efforts to hold the vote open are not similarly protected.

Members should wear appropriate business attire during all sittings of the House, however brief their appearance on the floor may be.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. 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.

PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM CORONAVIRUS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, as the number of coronavirus cases rises, it is important that our constituents have the information they need to protect themselves, so I am going to use my 5 minutes today to walk through what doctors and health experts know and what Congress has done in response.

First, there is no vaccine to prevent coronavirus, so taking steps to protect yourself is paramount.

As much as possible, avoid contact with individuals who are already sick. If you yourself are sick, stay home. There is no need to go to work and risk getting other people sick as well.

Try to avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth.

If you have to cough or sneeze, cover your mouth with a tissue. If you don't have a tissue, use your sleeve.

Be sure that you are cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces, like doorknobs and phones.

If you feel compelled to wear a face mask, be sure that you check the CDC's recommendations. Face masks are not recommended for people who are trying to protect themselves from respiratory diseases. This includes coronavirus. However, face masks are recommended if you are showing symptoms of coronavirus or another respiratory disease.

Most importantly, the CDC recommends that you wash your hands

frequently. Do so with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. You should especially wash your hands after using the restroom; before you eat; and after you blow your nose, cough, or sneeze.

If you are unable to wash your hands but have a sanitizer available, the CDC recommends that it be alcohol-based with at least 60 percent alcohol.

As the coverage of this ongoing outbreak continues and the number of positive cases grows, it is also important that the American people know what the symptoms of coronavirus actually are.

According to the CDC, coronavirus symptoms may appear as soon as 2 days and as late as 14 days after exposure. These symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

If you are suffering from these symptoms, you should stay home. Do not rush to the emergency room, a minute clinic, or another medical facility.

While you are at home, do your best to stay away from your family or other people you may regularly encounter.

The next step is to call your doctors and let them know that you are exhibiting symptoms of coronavirus. They will tell you the next steps you should take.

If they want you to come in for a test, this call will allow your healthcare provider to take the necessary steps to keep other people from getting infected.

If you are going to the doctor or out in public with symptoms, now is the time to wear a face mask.

If your symptoms continue to worsen, call your doctor and seek prompt medical attention.

Be sure that your doctor is in contact with your local or State health department. This will make the monitoring or self-monitoring process easier for both you and health officials.

If you are instructed to self-quarantine, stay at home until you are instructed to leave. This will minimize

□ 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 risk of transmitting the disease to others.

Finally, we have an obligation to each other to do everything we can to prevent the further spread of this disease.

Again, if you do not feel well or you have any of these symptoms, do not go to work. This includes my colleagues and my staff here in the Capitol, some of whom have already made the responsible decision to self-quarantine themselves.

We have had briefings from administration officials leading the national effort to get this outbreak under control. We know how serious this is. Now is the time to lead by example.

That is why, last week, Congress approved a massive \$8.3 billion emergency appropriations package to address the scale and seriousness of the coronavirus epidemic. I was especially glad to see that this package included several key provisions that meet needs specific to my home State of Rhode Island, where we have three confirmed cases already.

This includes nearly \$1 billion for drugs, masks, lab tests, and additional resources that will be provided to State and local health agencies; \$7 billion in low-interest loans to affected small businesses, to help cushion the economic blow of this public health emergency; \$3 billion for research and development of treatments and vaccines; and \$300 million to ensure those vaccines are affordable.

Most importantly, this bill gives doctors and public health experts the resources they need to do their jobs.

We have the best doctors, scientists, and researchers in the world. Now is the time to let them do what they do best without feeling pressure from politicians, including the President.

I am pleased also that the Speaker yesterday sent a Dear Colleague letter which identifies some of the issues that remain of importance to us that we are going to focus on in sort of the second effort by the Congress: paid sick leave, enhanced unemployment insurance, food security, clear protections for frontline workers, widespread testing for the coronavirus, as well as affordable treatments for all, anti-price-gouging protections, and increasing the capacity of our medical system.

I really want to thank the Speaker for identifying those issues which remain unaddressed and which the Congress must address in a full and comprehensive response to this public health crisis.

FORGING NEW HOPE FOR ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work of the Alzheimer's Association.

This month, over 1,000 men and women will come together in Wash-

ington for the annual Alzheimer's Impact Movement Advocacy Forum. These advocates, like so many of us, have faced the pain of Alzheimer's, either through a friend, a loved one, or their own experience. By sharing their stories, we can raise awareness and, hopefully, implement policies that improve the lives of those suffering from this disease.

One of these policies, Mr. Speaker, is the Improving HOPE for Alzheimer's Act. I encourage my colleagues to join me as a cosponsor of the bill, which will provide Medicare outreach and reporting on Alzheimer's care.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Alzheimer's Association and the many advocates who will be in Washington this month for sharing their stories, especially Kanada Yazbek, a constituent of Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District.

Not only does she have family members who have been diagnosed with the disease, Kanada has Alzheimer's. Everywhere and anywhere people will listen, Kanada spreads the word about Alzheimer's and its impact on families and the urgent need to find a cure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in standing up to stop this devastating disease.

TEACHING FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR LIFE

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the McKinley Area Learning Center in Waite Park, Minnesota, for their participation in the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association's annual Capitol Hill Challenge.

This challenge, which matches teachers and students with Members of Congress, gives teams of three to five middle or high school students a hypothetical \$100,000 portfolio of stocks, mutual funds, bonds, and liquid assets. The 10 teams with the best performing portfolios win a trip to Washington.

The challenge highlights essential financial literacy, like investing. The students also work together to manage this portfolio and, in the process, learn the value of teamwork.

Good luck to the McKinley Area Learning Center students participating in the Capitol Hill Challenge. We look forward to hearing more about your progress, and good luck in the competition.

RECOGNIZING NEXT GENERATION OF ASTRONOMERS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minnesota's National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.

The Minnesota program distributes funds to sponsor student fellowships and scholarships related to space research, education, and public service. These grants can accelerate the diversity of the STEM field for future generations by supporting women and other students from underrepresented groups.

Mr. Speaker, I want to particularly highlight the work of St. Cloud State University, which is working with the

Leech Lake Tribal College to develop Native American knowledge of astronomy and model rocketry in the community and workshops for teachers across our State.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the universities and colleges across Minnesota that are contributing to the program, and I thank all the students whose work today will advance our future in space.

CONGRATULATING MARY DEGIOVANNI, CHAMPION FOR SARTELL

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Degiovanni, who announced in January that she is retiring in July after 16 years of working for the city of Sartell.

After serving as city administrator in Annandale, Mary joined the city of Sartell as finance director in 2004. Since 2013, she has served as a strong and capable city administrator.

In her tenure, Mary has overseen rapid growth in Sartell, with projects from updating facilities at Watab Park and Lake Francis Park, to building a new community center and public safety facility.

As a community leader, Mary has helped build a Sartell that is ready to welcome new generations of citizens. Rapid expansions in the area, including into industries like medical technology, presented challenges that Mary overcame.

Congratulations on your retirement, Mary. We are grateful for your service.

□ 1015

CONGRATULATING THE CHAMPION ANDOVER GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Andover High School Huskies women's hockey team, who won the class AA State championship just a couple of weeks ago. The Huskies' win is the first Minnesota State high school league championship in the history of Andover.

In the championship game at the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul, Andover upset the highly favored Edina High School Hornets by a score of 5-3. The Huskies' championship is all the more sweet considering the favored Hornets had won three straight State championships.

Congratulations to Coach Melissa Volk and the Huskies on making history for Andover.

CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a doctor and a public health expert, someone who has spent his time in Congress thinking about global health security and pandemic preparedness. I rise today because the novel coronavirus is on everyone's mind. We have to talk about it, and we have to think about how we got here, what we know, and where we are going.

First, let's think about how we got here. If you think about it, in late 2019,

we heard the first reports that there was a novel virus occurring in China. In early January, we saw China take unprecedented steps to enact containment, locking down Wuhan and large portions of their country.

We had our first briefing about 7 or 8 weeks ago. At that briefing, I identified four areas that the administration really had to focus on:

Number one, you need a command control structure. You have to identify one person who is not political and not partisan but is a public health expert who has that ability to work across the interagency process.

Number two, you had to do an emergency supplemental and get resources out to the hospitals, the public health experts, et cetera, to make sure those who were on the front line had what they needed.

Number three, we had to get our scientists and experts—we have the best in the world at the CDC and NIH—to the epicenter, to the hot zone in China. That was delayed not because we didn't want to get there, but the Chinese would not allow us direct access.

Number four, we had to be transparent with the public. We had to let people know the facts as they were occurring.

Fast-forward, 6 weeks ago, I held the first hearing in my Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation on what was going on. We focused on the first step: containment. It was evident at that hearing with the public experts that we had that you really couldn't contain this novel coronavirus now known as COVID-19. We knew, based on the public health recommendations, that we would likely be seeing community events and community spreading; that was pretty evident.

We lost time. The fact that China tried to contain things gave us a little bit of time, but the fact that we didn't develop a test and we didn't put things in place really set us behind the eight ball.

Two weeks ago, we had the first community case in my home county, Sacramento County. That patient was transferred to UC-Davis, which is my home facility. Based on that, we changed the testing criteria. We still don't have enough tests out there, but we changed the criteria to allow the health professionals, if they suspect a case of coronavirus, to be able to order that test. Now we have got a problem though. We don't have the tests that are available.

We now are moving into the second phase of coronavirus, which is mitigation. In order to do that, Congress took the first important step last week with the \$8.3 billion emergency supplemental. We have to get the resources, the protective gear, the masks, and the tests out to the community who is on the front line.

The reason why I am saying that is, yesterday, we had the first community case in my home city of Elk Grove, in

the school district. We had a grammar school child who tested positive. Both his parents have also tested positive. Elk Grove Unified School District became the first school district in northern California to shut down for a week. I don't know if that is the right move or the wrong move, but I understand, having spoken to the superintendent, the security and health of the children are paramount.

Now we have to make sure that our folks on the front line and the folks who are having to make some of these decisions have the best advice possible. That is why we have got to make sure the CDC puts out guidelines and updates those guidelines on a regular basis.

We have great personnel at the CDC: Director Redfield, Dr. Messonnier, and others. We have got to let them do their work. Even if it is not what the administration wants to hear and even if it is bad news, it is important for us to put out transparent information and guidance to the public.

Now, I also got on the phone and talked to my hospital directors and others. What is concerning to me is they are starting to get those calls, et cetera. They still don't have the testing capabilities that they need. That is of paramount urgency right now.

I applaud Vice President PENCE for allowing the commercial sector to step in here and start developing those tests. Let's remove those bureaucratic barriers and give our private sector, public health labs, and academic health centers the support that they need to get testing capabilities up and running.

Now, I think about this as a doctor. It is important for us at the local level to have good command control structures in place and good lines of communication. Let's let the doctors and the scientists do their jobs. Our job as Congress is to support those on the front line and make sure they have the resources that they need, and we will get through this.

PRECIOUS LITTLE SON

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exemplary citizen, Ms. Crystal Skidmore of West Virginia.

Between 2000 and 2001, around 127,000 children were adopted in the United States, one of whom was Crystal's son whom she gave up for a better life. That same year, only 44 percent of the 3.1 million unintended pregnancies ended in birth.

Instead of giving up hope and having an abortion, Crystal looked to Jesus and chose life for her child. To this day, she protects her son's name when she shares her story. But by the grace of God, she still has a close relationship with him and his adoptive family.

Isaiah 40:31 reads: "... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not grow faint."

She has described the miracle of her son in a poem she wrote, titled, "Precious Little Son." It goes like this:

Today's the day that you were made
A new life has been begun
Within the womb inside of me
My precious little son.
From this first day you changed me
Now through your eyes I see
Do I want your eyes to look at
The same things that I see?
I look around at this world of mine
In a way I have never done
I think . . . Is it safe here
For my precious little son?
Sadly I know
The answer is no
So I drop down to my knees
I cry as I ask Jesus
Please help you and me.
Where are the smiling faces
For your new eyes to see?
They are not here in my world
If I die, they may never be.
I can only protect you for a while
While you are safe inside of me
So I search for smiling happy faces
For your brand-new eyes to see.
Again I ask Jesus
To help me find someone
To love this life inside of me
My precious little son.
I know someone is waiting.
God has chosen them
To give you all the love you need
And make you part of them.
How I know you need them
How they have prayed for you to come
So they can share a part of their world with
Their precious little son.
I found the happy smiling faces
That I want you to see
And they can't wait to meet their son
Who lives inside of me.
Their world is so much brighter
So I share my love for you
With lots of happy smiling faces
And they will let me love you too.
I will always love you
I want you to know
You are in my heart forever
You are everywhere I go.
Now we wait on your arrival
We can't wait for you to see
How good it feels to share a love
That only through God can be.
Our happy smiling faces
Stand together now as one
To love this life inside of me
Our precious little son.

May God be with you.

ALL-FEMALE TEAM WORKING ON COVID-19

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

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the all-women team of scientists from the Novavax Vaccine Lab in Gaithersburg, Maryland, who are working to develop a vaccine for the coronavirus.

Nita Patel, the director for vaccine development and antibody discovery at Novavax, is leading the team of scientists who have been working on a

vaccine since January 10. While they still need to be tested, the team has already developed three potential vaccines.

Women's History Month is the perfect time to highlight how women have contributed in our past and continue to contribute to the world now and into the future. Today we recognize this group of scientists and emphasize the importance of having women across all industries and leadership positions around the world.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DELTA SIGMA THETA

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Montgomery County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for all of the work they have done for the community over their rich, 50-year history.

The Montgomery County Chapter was founded in March of 1970 by 28 women under past National President Lillian P. Benbow. The organization was founded to help promote the quality of life for both African Americans and the community at large in Montgomery County.

I, myself, am lucky enough to have a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in my office serving the people of Maryland's Sixth District.

Today, as a part of Women's History Month, we recognize the Montgomery County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for their 50 years of service and the positive impact they have had on the Montgomery County community.

RECOGNIZING ED HARGIS, RETIRING FREDERICK CITY POLICE CHIEF

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Frederick Police Chief Ed Hargis, who just recently retired after 4½ years of service as the top law enforcement officer in Frederick, Maryland.

Chief Hargis arrived in Frederick in 2015 with over 33 years of law enforcement experience from around the country. During his tenure as police chief, he worked with city leaders and citizens to ensure Frederick was a safe, welcoming community for everyone.

Chief Hargis showed tremendous leadership in Frederick, and we would like to commend him for his 37 years of public service to our communities.

HONORING RUBY RUBENS, EDUCATION AND HOUSING ADVOCATE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY WHO RECENTLY PASSED AWAY

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ruby Rubens, a champion for human rights and education in Montgomery County, who passed away at the end of February at the age of 86.

Ruby Rubens was a force in her community. She was a founding member of the Montgomery County Coalition for Equitable Representation in Government and worked extensively on housing rights with the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission, the U.S. Civil Service Commission, and the Social Security Administration.

She was greatly involved in the education community as a longtime volun-

teer in Montgomery County Public Schools. People were inspired to follow in her footsteps, including her son, Joe Rubens, who is the principal of John F. Kennedy High School.

For her work, she was a recipient of the Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award and was inducted into the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame.

Ruby was known throughout her community for being a constant advocate for those without a voice. Today, I would like to honor her life and contributions on the floor of the House of Representatives.

□ 1030

RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUALS FOR HELPING ATTAIN JUSTICE FOR THE CHAMORRO PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam (Mr. SAN NICOLAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a group that oftentimes doesn't get recognized. I rise to recognize this Congress of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Speaker PELOSI, Leader HOYER, Committee on Natural Resources Chairman GRIJALVA, Minority Leader MCCARTHY, Committee on Natural Resources Ranking Member, ROB BISHOP.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL, and Committee on the Judiciary Chairman GRAHAM, Senate Minority Leader SCHUMER, and Committee on the Judiciary Ranking Member FEINSTEIN.

I rise to recognize the staff of this House: Trent Bauserman, Shuwanza Goff, and Ray Salazar of Leader HOYER's office; David Watkins and Sarah Lim, leading Chairman GRIJALVA's staff on the Committee on Natural Resources; Elliot Waldman of the Senate Judiciary; Sara Zdeb of Senate Committee on the Judiciary Ranking Member FEINSTEIN's office.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise to recognize staff of the administration: Rob Howarth of the Department of the Interior; Michael DiRoma of the U.S. Treasury; and Doug Hoelscher of the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize these individuals because without them, we would not have been able to move forward as expeditiously as we have over the past 13 months with H.R. 1365, which was addressed by this House yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1365 brings closure to a long saga of suffering from the people of Guam at the hands of Imperial Japan during World War II, that finally sees closure with the recognition and compensation—as much as we can try and call it that—for the sufferings of the Chamorro people during the war.

Oftentimes, Mr. Speaker, it gets very, very difficult for us, especially as territories, to be able to find closure on longstanding issues because of the fact

that territories are underrepresented in this body by the very nature of their existence in this country. And yet, despite that, we are able to finally bring this issue to closure by the individuals I mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, I put their names in the RECORD today, because I want the Chamorro people to be able to look back and identify generations from now the individuals who made such justice possible in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I further rise to address another injustice, one that has been longstanding in territories, and one that also addresses a community that, really, in this country should never be ignored.

Mr. Speaker, supplemental security income is something that is afforded to U.S. citizens throughout this country, but once you move to a U.S. territory, you immediately become ineligible for supplemental security income.

Mr. Speaker, as we are aware, that is something that is provided to the most vulnerable in our community—those with disabilities, those who are at certain ages that require that kind of support. Mr. Speaker, for us to be neglecting our very own citizens in our territories just because of where they live, I think is something that this body very much needs to address.

Unfortunately, we run into fiscal constraints and the price tag of having to move forward something of such magnitude. And while we really shouldn't put dollars and cents to the quality of life of those most vulnerable in this country, we still face those fiscal realities as territories, and the fiscal realities that this Congress must grapple with if they were to extend supplemental security income to the territories.

Mr. Speaker, we introduced H.R. 208 in the 116th Congress. That was intended to address the fiscal constraints in a manner that all territories are willing to come to the table and work together on. And rather than having all territories at once try and pursue supplemental security income for their residents, we have decided to try and snowball this and handle it one territory at a time. And Guam has taken the lead with H.R. 208, allowing for supplemental security income in Guam that we may, for just 170,000 people, extend a critical quality of life service that this country has made available everywhere else in the United States.

After we are able to secure this for Guam, perhaps we can move this to another small territory, and to another small territory, and incrementally address this in our budget, that really on the greater picture of the cost of supplemental security income, would be a fractional rounding error for justice for those who so desperately need it in areas that are so highly affected.

Mr. Speaker, Guam, as you are aware, is thousands of miles away in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. We are closer to every Asian city than we are to Hawaii. It is very, very difficult for

people with disabilities to be able to avail themselves of service providers because they can't just drive to the next county or drive to the next State. And the thought of flying to Hawaii to be able to get those services is so exorbitant that it is actually cheaper to go from Japan to Dulles International Airport than it is to go from Guam to Hawaii.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to take the next step and pursue further justice for our territories.

I wanted to recognize those individuals who made it possible for us to finally close a chapter on war claims. May we now move on to the chapter of addressing those people who have disabilities in our country that we really should be taking care of that just so happen to be living in the U.S. territories.

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 33 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HIGGINS of New York) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Erin Keys, Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Loving and gracious God, we ask Your blessing upon all those gathered here today and upon our Nation, God, as we, along with countries all over the world, face the anxiety and fear currently surrounding the coronavirus.

Though much about how this situation will continue to unfold is unknown to us, God, we trust that it is known to You. From the beginning of time, Your spirit has hovered over the chaos of our world, bringing order and life, and so we pray that Your spirit will continue to do so now.

We pray for the safety of all people, and we pray for wisdom for our leaders as they guide us through this time.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. QUIGLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

CORONAVIRUS

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, the CDC has given the American public some simple suggestions for protecting themselves and their communities during the coronavirus outbreak: Wash your hands, cover your cough, and stay home if you feel sick.

But for millions of hardworking Americans, staying home from work when they are ill is literally not a luxury they can afford. The difference between staying home for 2 weeks to self-isolate and going to work for 2 weeks no matter how you feel is the difference between putting food on your table and watching your children go hungry. It is the difference between buying lifesaving medications and going without.

Here in Congress, Members are fortunate enough to be able to write their own doctor's notes. They can stay home and still collect their paychecks.

Shouldn't all Americans have that same option?

HONORING THE HEROISM OF LIEUTENANT ERIC VARNER AND DETECTIVE EUGENE WATLINGTON

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroism of two po-

lice officers in Forrest City, Arkansas, Lieutenant Eric Varner and Detective Eugene Watlington, who stopped a potential mass shooting in progress on February 10.

On that fateful morning, a gunman entered a Wal-Mart in Forrest City and began threatening customers. Officers Varner and Watlington responded within minutes, despite not wearing body armor, as plainclothes officers. When they confronted the suspect and tried to peacefully deescalate the situation, the gunman opened fire. Both officers were struck, but they were able to return fire and kill the shooter.

Both officers were seriously injured, and I ask that my colleagues join me in praying for a speedy and full recovery.

Lieutenant Varner and Detective Watlington saved many lives that day without regard for their own safety, and I invite Congress to join me in honoring them.

CORONAVIRUS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the coronavirus is a public health crisis in need of a strong, clear, and consistent response from Washington. The only way to stop the economic damage is to stop the spread of the virus and to keep people from getting sick and dying.

Paid sick leave should be extended to 32 million Americans who currently do not have it. A onetime Federal tax credit could offset the cost of universal paid leave to help stop the spread of the virus. Public health costs for testing and treatment at the local and State level should be assumed by the Federal Government for spending on the crisis response.

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Institute and Erie County Health Department in my community are doing that today at enormous expense and dwindling resources.

Every dollar spent on public health provides an economic boost. The time to stimulate the economy is after the virus has been controlled. Once that occurs, we need to go big on infrastructure to inject both growth and confidence in the American economy again.

COMMEMORATING 100TH BIRTHDAY OF JOHN BARFIELD OF LOUISIANA

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th birthday of Mr. John Barfield from my home State of Louisiana.

Mr. Barfield served in World War II under George S. Patton as part of the "Hell-on-Wheels" 2nd Armored Division. He was deployed to many different posts throughout Europe and northern Africa and fought in nine

major battles, including D-day and the Battle of the Bulge. During his time in service, he was wounded twice and awarded two Purple Hearts for his bravery and his sacrifice.

Please join me in wishing a happy birthday to a true American hero, Mr. John Barfield, whose courage and dedication to this country are second to none.

MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, we celebrated International Women's Day, the unique stories women share, and their power to shape our world.

Like many women in America, my story includes a struggle to get pregnant. My son, Jordan, was a miracle for me and my family. But for too many mothers in America, the miracle of pregnancy ends in tragedy.

The United States has the worst rate of maternal death in the developed world. This is unacceptable. There is no reason that, in the richest Nation on Earth, we cannot keep our mothers and our families healthy and whole.

My bill, the Social Determinants for Moms Act, will invest in our mothers and fund the access to services and critical research that we need to help save the lives of our American women.

We can solve this crisis together if we work together, Republicans and Democrats, fighting for a safer, more compassionate, and more community-focused future.

COVERING KATY NEWS

(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, the First Amendment to our Constitution says that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of the press. The strength of our First Amendment is our local independent newspapers. These papers fan the flame of American rebellion. There is no America without a free local press.

Last week, we lost a local press newspaper in Katy, Texas, Covering Katy News. They ceased operations. The owner and founder, Dennis Spellman, left radio 8 years ago to get in the field and report on stories that matter to people back home. Covering Katy News was 21st century news, online primarily.

Dennis' family put their heart and soul into this paper, Covering Katy News. He would stay awake from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m.—without a day off in 5 years.

Dennis' last article was entitled, "Time to Say Good-Bye." My dear friend, that is the wrong headline. The headline should be, "Time to Say Good Luck."

NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL, KRIS VANCAS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kris Vancas, principal at Benner Elementary School in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

Kris was recently named Pennsylvania 2019 National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals for his "collaborative leadership style, empowering his staff to create an environment where students can excel, and for his dedication to students, staff, and community."

Leaders like Kris are important to the success and well-being of our Nation's schools. Kris, however, gives all of the credit to his staff, the students, and their parents.

Kris has served as principal at Benner Elementary for approximately 7 years and is well aware of the impact teachers and administrators have on the daily lives of our Nation's young people. He said: "You don't know the kind of day they're having when they walk in, but you know you can positively affect them for the next 6 hours they're here."

I would like to thank Kris for his commitment to students in Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, and I congratulate him on this achievement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL PRESIDENT BRYAN METZGER

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Tippecanoe County Council President Bryan Metzger. Originally from Milltown, Indiana, Bryan lived a life full of love and service to his community.

Bryan first gained an appreciation for public service when he joined 4-H at just 10 years of age. Always an energetic member, Bryan knew he wanted to continue his work with 4-H. After graduating from Purdue University, Bryan accomplished just that, serving for decades with the 4-H Extension Services in White and Lawrence Counties, before settling in Tippecanoe County.

His selflessness extended to other youth organizations in his community, having worked with the Court Appointed Special Advocate Association, the Cary Home for Children in Tippecanoe County, and countless other advocacy organizations. My friend and former colleague cared immensely about the growth and development of our young people, and any number of lives are better for his time and generous spirit.

Bryan was also a devoted member of the Greater Lafayette Rotary Club, and he continued to work for his community through the Tippecanoe County Council following his retirement from the Extension Service in 2012 after 33 years of faithful service. Inexhaustible as ever, Bryan most recently served as president of the county council.

Those who were fortunate enough to have known and worked with Bryan admired and respected his endless civic engagement. Described by his peers as dedicated and focused, Bryan embodied the 4-H pledge of head, heart, hands, and health in service to others, and he will be missed dearly by his community.

Thank you for your service, Bryan.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LEVIN of Michigan). 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.

REQUIRING EVALUATION BY GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS BY MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6020) to require an evaluation by the Government Accountability Office of the social, economic, and historic contributions that Minor League Baseball has made to American life and culture, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6020

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) more than forty million fans have attended Minor League Baseball games each season for 15 consecutive years;

(2) Minor League Baseball provides wholesome affordable entertainment in 160 communities throughout the Nation;

(3) in 2018, Minor League Baseball clubs donated over \$45 million in cash and in-kind gifts to their local communities and completed over 15,000 volunteer hours;

(4) the economic stimulus and development provided by Minor League Baseball clubs extends beyond the cities and towns where it is played, to wide and diverse geographic areas comprising 80 percent of the population in the Nation;

(5) Minor League Baseball is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion through its Copa de la Diversión, MiLB Pride, FIELD Program, and Women in Baseball Leadership initiatives;

(6) Minor League Baseball is the first touchpoint of the national pastime for millions of youth and the only touchpoint for

those located in communities far from Major League cities;

(7) Congress has enacted numerous statutory exemptions and immunities to preserve and sustain a system for Minor League Baseball and its relationship with Major League Baseball;

(8) an abandonment of 42 Minor League Baseball clubs by Major League Baseball would devastate communities, bond purchasers, and other stakeholders that rely on the economic stimulus these clubs provide;

(9) Minor League Baseball clubs enrich the lives of millions of Americans each year through special economic, cultural, social, and charitable contributions; and

(10) preservation of Minor League Baseball in 160 communities is in the public interest, as it will continue to provide affordable, family friendly entertainment to those communities.

SEC. 2. GAO EVALUATION.

Following consultation with the relevant committees of Congress, the Comptroller General of the United States shall evaluate the social, economic, and historic contributions that Minor League Baseball has made to American life and culture.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

□ 1215

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6020.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Minor League Baseball has been part of the social fabric of America for over 100 years.

Today, there are 160 minor league teams across the country, including the Staten Island Yankees and the 2019 New York-Penn League Champion Brooklyn Cyclones.

This bill requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on the social, economic, and historical contributions that these teams have made to American society. Minor League Baseball provides family-friendly entertainment to millions of Americans. It is also an important economic influence in many communities, employing thousands of individuals, and often serves as an important source of charitable giving.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives LORI TRAHAN and DAVID MCKINLEY for their leadership on this bipartisan effort. I also recognize the members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform who have cosponsored this measure, Representatives COMER, HAALAND, KELLER, MILLER, and WELCH.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6020, a bill requiring a Government Accountability Office evaluation of the social, economic, and historic contributions that Minor League Baseball has made to American life and culture.

This past year, Major League Baseball proposed eliminating at least 40 minor league teams. MLB says their goal is to modernize the minor league system, but communities say the plan is misguided. Minor league teams are often found in smaller cities. I have two in my own district, and I visited with these teams.

I know they have a vested interest in our communities, and they have a positive economic impact and contribute to our diversification. I have spoken with the fans, and they tell me how the teams provide a sense of community, pride, and togetherness, and improve livability in the region.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other benefits that minor league teams provide. For example, the average cost of a major league ticket is over \$30, compared to the under \$10 for the minor's, and that cost rises exponentially when you factor in parking, concessions, and souvenirs.

Minor League Baseball also offers an affordable alternative to those families that wish to teach their kids about America's pastime.

In addition to these individual benefits, Minor League Baseball teams donated over \$40 million to local charities in 2018 alone. The minor leagues have also established initiatives providing opportunities to athletes around the world. These initiatives grow the game of baseball. Some of these initiatives include providing training and equipment to Latin-American players and expanding the sport by encouraging young girls to play.

Minor League Baseball also creates programs and hosts summer camps for kids in their local communities. These programs and camps promote a healthy lifestyle and teach teamwork and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN).

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from New York, Chairwoman MALONEY, for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would direct the GAO to evaluate the social, economic, and historic contributions that Minor League Baseball has made to American life and culture.

George Will wrote last October: "In baseball, as in the remainder of life, the most valuable rules are unwritten."

To my mind, one of the cardinal rules is: "Don't forget where you come

from." My grandmother, an immigrant from Brazil, worked in the very mill building in Lowell where I now have my Congressional office. And each day, we help people just like her. It is a constant reminder of the community Lowell is—welcoming, loyal, diverse, and proud.

Mr. Speaker, in 1996, the Spinners came to Lowell, Massachusetts. The Spinners are an affiliate of our beloved Red Sox, and they play just 30 miles away in Fenway Park. Ever since that first season, fans from across the Merrimack Valley have rallied to them each summer.

The Spinners are today as much a part of our city as the Lowell National Historical Park, UMass Lowell, and the Merrimack River. The city has invested in ensuring that LeLacheur Park, where the Spinners play, is among the best ballparks in our country.

Baseball has deep roots in communities just like Lowell across the Nation. However, fans of the Spinners and 41 other teams nationwide, had a rude awakening last fall when it was learned that a contraction proposal put their affiliations at risk. Instead, they were offered a pipe dream alternative that would almost certainly spell the end of professional baseball in these communities.

The bill before us notes that: "Preservation of Minor League Baseball in 160 communities is in the public interest, as it will continue to provide affordable, family-friendly entertainment in those communities."

Mr. Speaker, these communities deserve better than to be forgotten. They deserve better than to be considered merely in the context of a balance sheet. These communities have supported their teams through thick and thin, and they produce the talent that we all see on the baseball diamond at the major league level.

Mr. Speaker, I urge MLB: Don't forget where you come from. Baseball has always been a game rooted in communities like mine.

Mrs. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6020, and I thank the committee, both sides on this, for advancing this piece of legislation to us.

My colleague and I from Massachusetts, LORI TRAHAN, have been leading this fight around the country to preserve Minor League Baseball in 42 communities.

Baseball in these communities is threatened by this proposal by Major League Baseball to virtually eliminate minor league teams in small towns, from Massachusetts to Montana, in communities like Charleston, Bluefield, and Princeton, West Virginia.

But why is Congress involved? You have to understand: For the most part, Major League Baseball controls the destiny of minor leagues, and they should not be allowed to bully these

small communities into submission. Our goal is to level the playing field for these small towns and ensure that they have a voice in this matter.

Minor League Baseball is a point of pride in these cities and towns and brings jobs and economic development. It provides affordable, family-friendly entertainment, and brings people together for an afternoon at the ballpark and, hopefully, creating the next generation of baseball fans.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is intended to show Congress' commitment to preserving America's pastime in small parts of rural America, far removed from the bright lights of major leagues. By passing this piece of legislation, we will be sending a message that eliminating grassroots baseball in these 42 communities is an unnecessary burden on these small towns, jerking the rug out from under baseball towns in rural America.

Look, there are many things in our American culture that should matter. This particular legislation demonstrates that there are some things in our American society, in our culture, that should mean more than dollars and cents. Major League Baseball needs to think about this.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND), a member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, as the granddaughter of the founder of the first Native-American baseball team in Arizona, I rise to speak in favor of H.R. 6020 and Minor League Baseball.

I thank Chairwoman MALONEY and Mrs. MILLER, and the Committee on Oversight and Reform staff for their wonderful efforts on this issue.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, my grandfather recognized the talent in his community and started up a baseball team to help give everyone a shot and strengthen our connection to each other. My entire family got involved. I remember collecting foul balls because my grandfather gave us 5 cents for each one we retrieved, so we could play a role as well.

As the team started winning State championships, more and more people wanted to join. My grandfather welcomed everyone, making sure that America's pastime would reflect America's diversity. Communities across the country enjoy celebrating with their community's Minor League Baseball teams, just like my community with my grandfather's team.

My home team, the Albuquerque Isotopes, filled their stands with an average of 8,000 people for each of their games last year, and sold more than half-a-million tickets. Albuquerque would be devastated to lose our team, and small businesses that have concessions at the game would suffer immensely. These games equate to jobs in my district.

Major League Baseball may not be targeting the Isotopes with this

change, but dozens of communities aren't so lucky. In incredibly unreasonable negotiations, Major League Baseball is trying to force regulations on Minor League Baseball that would shutter not only teams but also the dreams of kids from all walks of life who are inspired by the games they watch.

Minor League Baseball provides affordable entertainment and immeasurable joy for families that can't afford Major League Baseball games or are living in rural parts of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support the GAO report that will show to Major League Baseball, and everyone else in our country, just how critical Minor League Baseball has been to the social, economic, and historical development of our communities. I am excited to go back home in May and throw the first pitch for the Isotopes game and hope that Members of Congress across the country can continue to have that honor.

Go 'Topes.

Mrs. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the gentlewoman from New York aware that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, one of the great nights in Washington, D.C., throughout the whole Congressional year, is the night we do the Congressional baseball game, where Democrats play Republicans at the Washington Nationals Park. There are 5,000–10,000 people there—maybe more, depending on the year—and it actually brings everybody together in Washington, D.C., which, as many people know, is a unique night. Many of the players at that game wear their local Minor League Baseball uniform to represent their local community in Washington, D.C., at the baseball game.

I have worn the Mahoning Valley Scrappers uniform there. The Mahoning Valley Scrappers have been just outside of Youngstown, Ohio, in Niles, Ohio, right by our mall, the Eastwood Mall at Eastwood Field, for 20 years. It is where young people and families can go watch professional baseball. They can afford it. They can hang out. It is a 5- or 10-minute drive. It is an important component of our community.

So, of all the ups and downs of our economy in northeast Ohio over the last 20 years, we have had baseball. And now Major League Baseball is saying: We want to cut over 40 teams. And what we are saying here in the United States Congress is: Congressman BILL JOHNSON, Republican—who also represents part of the area—myself, and others, are coming together to try to stop this from happening.

Young people in our area have been able to go to this field and watch CC

Sabathia, Francisco Lindor, Victor Martinez, Jose Ramirez—names everybody knows in Major League Baseball, and when they were starting, they played in Niles, Ohio.

So, we want to make sure that we prevent this from happening. We want to save Minor League Baseball in communities all over the United States.

□ 1230

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan measure to draw attention to a really horrible development that could occur if, again, Congress and the public are not watching, which is a proposal by Major League Baseball to eliminate 25 percent of the minor league teams all across America.

I am here next to the logo of the Norwich Sea Unicorns, which is a Class A baseball team in Norwich, Connecticut, a franchise that goes back decades. As many of the other Members have said, it provides an affordable family venue for people to go to a professional baseball game and see the stars of the future, something that, with the price of tickets of Major League Baseball, whether it is Fenway Park, Yankee Stadium, or Citi Field in New York City, is just far beyond what a working family can afford to do.

The logic of this, in terms of economics, makes absolutely no sense. Over the last 4 years, Minor League Baseball has averaged consistently 40 million fans. The cost to Major League Baseball per franchise is about \$400,000 for the entire team for a season.

When you look at the average value of a Major League Baseball team, it is about \$1.78 billion. Again, there are, obviously, the really high-rent teams like the Yankees in my friend CAROLYN MALONEY's neighborhood, but even the smallest is worth over \$1 billion. So, the notion that Major League Baseball is in desperate financial straits just does not add up.

That is why having GAO called upon, which this bill does—this isn't just a feel-good bill. It calls on the gold standard, the neutral analysts in our country to drill down and look at what the economic impact would be. And we who represent these communities know that the impact would be devastating.

On February 3, we had a rally in Norwich, Connecticut. Hundreds of people showed up, the vendors and folks who actually benefit from the economic ripple effect of a Minor League Baseball team, but also the families and kids, the high school baseball teams that use the field.

We need to rise up and stop this development, which really goes to the heart of our country in terms of its national pastime. Again, I strongly urge all of us to come together and pass this resolution.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no further

speakers. I urge passage of H.R. 6020, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6020, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOVING OUR DEMOCRACY AND CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS TOWARDS MODERNIZATION RESOLUTION

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 756) implementing recommendations adopted by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 756

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This resolution may be cited as the “Moving Our Democracy and Congressional Operations Towards Modernization Resolution”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this resolution is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—STREAMLINING AND REORGANIZING HUMAN RESOURCES

- Sec. 101. Centralized human resources program.
- Sec. 102. Reports on operation of Office of Diversity and Inclusion.
- Sec. 103. Examining feasibility of updating staff payroll system.
- Sec. 104. Examining feasibility of adjusting the statutory limitation on number of employees of Member offices.
- Sec. 105. Employee orientation and separation processes.

TITLE II—IMPROVING ORIENTATION FOR MEMBERS-ELECT AND PROVIDING IMPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

- Sec. 201. Plan for providing for designated staff to prepare for operation of offices of new Members-elect.
- Sec. 202. Improving the orientation experience of new Members.
- Sec. 203. Exploring the feasibility of establishing a Congressional Leadership Academy.
- Sec. 204. Requiring annual cybersecurity training for Members and employees.

TITLE III—MODERNIZING AND REVITALIZING TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 301. Reforming House Information Resources.
- Sec. 302. Providing technologies to improve constituent engagement.
- Sec. 303. Streamlined approval process for outside technology vendors.

Sec. 304. Enabling early adoption of new technologies and applications by offices.

Sec. 305. Improving Member feedback regarding outside vendors and HIR services.

Sec. 306. Leveraging bulk purchasing power of the House.

Sec. 307. Requiring Congressional Research Service to provide rapid response short fact sheets.

Sec. 308. Establishing nonpartisan constituent engagement and services page on HouseNet.

TITLE IV—MAKING THE HOUSE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Sec. 401. Ensuring accessibility of House websites.

Sec. 402. Close captioning of proceedings; captioning service for videos created by House offices.

Sec. 403. Comprehensive review of accessibility.

TITLE V—IMPROVING ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Sec. 501. Adopting standardized format for legislative documents.

Sec. 502. Legislation comparison project.

Sec. 503. Database of information on expiration of authorizations of programs.

Sec. 504. Database of votes taken in committees.

Sec. 505. Assignment of unique identifiers for reports filed by registered lobbyists.

Sec. 506. Public availability of reports.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this resolution, the following definitions apply:

- (1) The term “Chief Administrative Officer” means the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.
- (2) The term “Clerk” means the Clerk of the House of Representatives.
- (3) The term “HIR” means the Office of House Information Resources.
- (4) The term “Member” means a Member of the House of Representatives and a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

TITLE I—STREAMLINING AND REORGANIZING HUMAN RESOURCES

SEC. 101. CENTRALIZED HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF PROGRAM.—In order to improve recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce, develop best human resources practices, and take steps to improve competitive compensation and benefits for employees, the Chief Administrative Officer shall establish and operate a centralized human resources program to assist Member, committee, and leadership office staff.

(b) FEATURES OF PROGRAM.—The program established under this section shall provide the following services:

(1) Developing a centralized repository of practices collected from internal and external sources that have proven to be successful in hiring, promoting, and managing staff, updated from time to time.

(2) Improving diversity recruitment by implementing and promoting best practices for actively seeking out candidates of various backgrounds, experiences, and talents, including through outreach to under-represented colleges and universities, community colleges, historically black colleges and universities, and organizations for individuals with disabilities, and compiling a list of such candidates into the House resume portal.

(3) Reevaluating current Member, committee, and leadership office employee benefits (including the evaluation of the capacity

and costs of the House child care center and student loan repayment program) and submitting to the Committee on House Administration on a regular and ongoing basis recommendations for additions or improvements to such benefits which will improve recruitment and retention, exploring options such as telework, flex schedules, returnship programs, and sabbaticals.

(4) Conducting a biennial staff survey as well as offering an optional exit survey to Member, committee, and leadership office staff.

(5) Making improvements to the House resume portal, including making such portal into a user-friendly, searchable tool for Member, committee, and leadership offices to identify talent based on unique criteria, and including ways to promote and publicize the existence and availability of such portal to internal and external users.

(6) Providing Members-elect with information on the full range of services offered to their staff in an easily understandable and organized format immediately following the certification of their election results.

(c) OPERATION OF PROGRAM.—

(1) STAFF.—The Chief Administrative Officer shall designate an employee of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer who shall be responsible for the operation of the program established under this section, using existing staff and resources of the Office.

(2) LOCATION; AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES ONLINE.—The program shall be located in a physical location which is easily accessible to the offices using the resources of the program, and shall provide an online portal through which offices may obtain these services.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations and take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 102. REPORTS ON OPERATION OF OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.

In accordance with House Resolution 6 (agreed to January 9, 2019), the Office of Diversity and Inclusion of the House of Representatives shall submit the following plans and reports:

(1) Not later than 60 days after the appointment of the Director of the Office, the Office shall submit to the Committee on House Administration an operational plan for the Office that shall include, consistent with applicable House rules, regulations, and law, a plan for appointing and establishing duties for staff of the Office which shall set forth a proposed maximum number of staff.

(2) Not later than 90 days after submitting the operational plan under paragraph (1), the Office shall submit a diversity plan to the Committee on House Administration for the Committee's review and approval, and shall include in the plan the following:

(A) Policies to direct and guide House employing offices to recruit, hire, train, develop, advance, promote, and retain a diverse workforce, consistent with applicable House rules, regulations, and law.

(B) The development of a survey, in consultation with the Committee on House Administration, to evaluate diversity in House employing offices. The Office shall develop, conduct, and report the results of the survey in a bipartisan manner.

(C) A framework for the annual diversity report required under paragraph (3).

(D) A proposal for the composition of an Advisory Council that shall, as necessary, inform the work of the Office.

(E) Any additional components as determined by the Committee on House Administration.

(3) At the end of each session of Congress, the Office shall submit a House of Representatives diversity report to the Speaker, the

Majority Leader and Minority Leader, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration, and the chair and ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch of the Committee on Appropriations. The Office shall ensure that the contents of each such report are presented in a bipartisan manner.

SEC. 103. EXAMINING FEASIBILITY OF UPDATING STAFF PAYROLL SYSTEM.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer shall submit to the Committee on House Administration a report on the feasibility of updating the employee payroll system in order to address considerations of younger and lower-paid employees, as well as issues experienced generally by some employees regarding the current monthly pay schedule.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The results of any employee surveys regarding the desirability of changing the employee payroll system or providing both a monthly or bimonthly system. The report shall present such results in a bipartisan manner.

(2) An analysis of any costs associated with making changes to the current employee payroll system, including providing additional options for the schedule of payments.

(3) An analysis of any impediments or concerns with making any changes to the current staff payroll system.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 104. EXAMINING FEASIBILITY OF ADJUSTING THE STATUTORY LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES OF MEMBER OFFICES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—The Chief Administrative Officer shall enter into a contract with an outside entity under which the entity shall work with the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare and submit a report examining the feasibility of adjusting the statutory limitation established in 1975 on the number of employees who may be employed in the office of a Member.

(b) **CONTENTS OF REPORT.**—The report described in subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Information regarding the size and demographic makeup of each congressional district, including the number and coverage area of each district office.

(2) The average number of employees for each district office, including common tasks by position.

(3) Recommendations regarding the optimal number of employees in both offices located in House office buildings and district offices to address common office workflows and constituent requests, including changes in technology that have occurred recently and are expected to occur in the near future that would have an effect on such number.

(4) Recommendations regarding employee salaries and costs, including recommendations for necessary changes to the Members' Representational Allowance that would be necessary to carry out such recommendations.

(c) **DEADLINES.**—

(1) **PROVISION OF DRAFT SOLICITATION FOR CONTRACT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer shall provide a draft of the solicitation for the contract described in subsection (a) to the Committee of House Administration.

(2) **SUBMISSION OF REPORT.**—Under the contract entered into pursuant to this section,

the entity shall submit the report not later than 180 days after the signing of the contract.

SEC. 105. EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION AND SEPARATION PROCESSES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCESSES.**—The Committee on House Administration shall design and implement—

(1) a comprehensive and uniform orientation process for new employees (including interns) of the House to complete within a designated period of time after appointment; and

(2) a comprehensive and uniform separation process for employees (including interns) of the House to complete within a designated period of time prior to termination.

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—The processes under subsection (a) shall apply only to employees and interns who have access to the House Network.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

TITLE II—IMPROVING ORIENTATION FOR MEMBERS-ELECT AND PROVIDING IMPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

SEC. 201. PLAN FOR PROVIDING FOR DESIGNATED STAFF TO PREPARE FOR OPERATION OF OFFICES OF NEW MEMBERS-ELECT.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration that contains a detailed plan for establishing a program under which, upon the recommendation of an individual by a Member-elect (other than a Member elected to fill a vacancy), the Chief Administrative Officer shall appoint the individual for a limited period of time to assist such Member-elect with administrative and other responsibilities pertaining to the preparation of the Member's congressional office for operation, and shall include in the plan a timetable for implementation, an estimate of expected costs, and the identification of any statutory or regulatory obstacles to the implementation of such a program.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 202. IMPROVING THE ORIENTATION EXPERIENCE OF NEW MEMBERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In providing orientation services for new Members, including in-person courses and sessions, the Committee on House Administration shall carry out the following:

(1) The Committee shall work to ensure that orientation services are made available to all new Members, including Members elected in a special election during a Congress.

(2) The Committee shall work to ensure that courses on the Rules of the House, decorum and debate, and other such courses on practices to promote civility and respect are made available to Members.

(3) The Committee shall work to ensure that archived audio and visual recordings of orientation sessions are made available for reference.

(4) The Committee shall work to provide a range of House training programs and support services, including courses to promote civility and encourage decorum, for new Members and the senior staff of new Members throughout the Members' first term.

(5) To the extent the Committee considers appropriate, the Committee shall examine

the feasibility of providing a “just in time” approach to orientation sessions under which information is provided at the time at which it will be most useful to the Members.

(b) **PROVIDING SERVICES IN NONPARTISAN MANNER.**—To the greatest extent practicable, the Committee on House Administration shall ensure that the orientation services provided to new Members, including in-person courses and sessions, are provided in a nonpartisan manner.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 203. EXPLORING THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY.

(a) **SURVEY OF MEMBERS.**—The Chief Administrative Officer shall conduct a survey of Members to determine the level of interest in establishing a Congressional Leadership Academy to provide online and in-person continuing education opportunities that will promote professional development and institutional training, including the feasibility of setting up a pilot program to establish such an Academy.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration on the results of the survey conducted under subsection (a), and shall include in the estimates of costs of establishing and operating a Congressional Leadership Academy as well as any impediments to establishing such an Academy, including impediments relating to technology, security, or content.

SEC. 204. REQUIRING ANNUAL CYBERSECURITY TRAINING FOR MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT FOR TRAINING.**—The Chief Administrative Officer shall carry out a cybersecurity training program under which each individual who has access to the House Network (including each Member, officer, employee, intern, and vendor of the House) annually receives an appropriate amount of cybersecurity training.

(b) **DEADLINES FOR INDIVIDUALS NOT HAVING PRIOR ACCESS TO NETWORK.**—An individual described in subsection (a) who has not previously had access to the House Network shall complete the cybersecurity training program under such subsection not later than 30 days after the individual first has access to the House Network.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

TITLE III—MODERNIZING AND REVITALIZING TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 301. REFORMING HOUSE INFORMATION RESOURCES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration on the operations of the Office of House Information Resources. Such report shall include—

(1) the identification of solutions to address the challenges HIR faces in balancing the needs between network security and making available emerging technologies in a timely manner to satisfy the operational needs of Member offices, including a detailed marketing and communications plan to address gaps and disruptions that exist in the seamless delivery of services between HIR and the offices it supports;

(2) recommendations to improve the quality of HIR services, such as web design and information technology support;

(3) recommendations for changes to HIR's mission to better align it with the needs of Member offices;

(4) methods to reduce duplicative spending on information technology services; and

(5) the identification of steps and actions necessary to ensure that HIR establishes a single point-of-contact within HIR for each office of the House so that such point-of-contact is responsible for responding to requests from the office and coordinating the delivery of products and services to the office, as well as an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of the use of a single point-of-contact for such purposes.

(b) **CONDUCTING OUTSIDE REVIEW.**—The Committee on House Administration may direct the Chief Administrative Officer to enter into a contract with an outside entity to provide the Committee with an independent review of the operations of HIR and to provide independent recommendations to the Committee regarding strategies and steps for reforming HIR's operations.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations or take any other steps as may be required to address the report submitted by the Chief Administrative Officer under subsection (a) and, if applicable, the recommendations provided by an outside entity pursuant to the contract entered into under subsection (b).

SEC. 302. PROVIDING TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE CONSTITUENT ENGAGEMENT.

The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations or take any other steps as may be required to ensure that Member offices have the necessary technology and software to improve the efficiency and operation of Member offices and to improve constituent engagement, including, as soon as practicable after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the implementation of the following:

(1) The ability of House offices to conduct video calls and video conferences.

(2) The ability of Members to sign legislation, correspondence, and constituent consent forms using electronic signatures, in accordance with guidance developed in coordination with the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

(3) The ability of Members and employees to securely and seamlessly access the House Network from any place and at any time.

(4) A plan and timetable to improve the correspondence management tools available to Member offices, including improving the ability of the constituents of a Member to upload requests for casework directly to the Member's official public website.

SEC. 303. STREAMLINED APPROVAL PROCESS FOR OUTSIDE TECHNOLOGY VENDORS.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, HIR shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration describing the steps necessary to create a streamlined process for the approval of outside technology, including a discussion of unique legal, statutory, or other considerations relating to the House environment, costs, obstacles to creating and operating such an approval process, and security or other issues relating to such a process.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 304. ENABLING EARLY ADOPTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS BY OFFICES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution,

HIR shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration on establishing a program under which Member, committee, and leadership offices may elect to participate in the early adoption of technologies or applications developed by an outside vendor prior to the final approval by the House of the use of such technology or application for such offices, and shall include in the report a description of the steps necessary to set up such a program, the operation of such program, the identification of additional costs that may be incurred by such a program, and the identification of the steps necessary to ensure security and steps necessary to protect against jeopardizing the House enterprise.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 305. IMPROVING MEMBER FEEDBACK REGARDING OUTSIDE VENDORS AND HIR SERVICES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, HIR shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration on the steps necessary to—

(1) in compliance with applicable Rules of the House of Representatives and other regulations and standards of the House, create an internal customer satisfaction portal on HouseNet that allows Members and employees to rate and review outside vendors and HIR services;

(2) annually survey district-level staff and district-specific technology concerns; and

(3) survey Members and employees on what technologies they would like to use.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 306. LEVERAGING BULK PURCHASING POWER OF THE HOUSE.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration on the steps necessary to provide a standard suite of information technology (as described in subsection (b)) for the use of offices of Members of the House, including various packages and options, and shall include in the report an analysis of alternative methods for funding the purchase of such a suite, including increasing the Members' Representational Allowances or creating additional accounts. The report shall also include a detailed marketing and communications plan, including strategies to disseminate information regarding the standard suite to Member offices.

(b) **CONTENTS OF STANDARD SUITE.**—The standard suite of information technology described in this subsection consists of the following, in such quantity and with such features as the Chief Administrative Officer determines to be appropriate to enable offices of Members of the House to quickly and effectively carry out their operations in a cost-effective manner:

(1) Desktop and portable computers, including hardware, software, and related equipment and supplies.

(2) Mobile and stationary telephones, including related equipment and supplies.

(3) Printers, including hardware, software, and related equipment and supplies.

(4) Internet products and services, including website development and administration services.

(5) Related information technology and telecommunications services, including technical support and customer service.

(6) Subscriptions and subscription services.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 307. REQUIRING CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE TO PROVIDE RAPID RESPONSE SHORT FACT SHEETS.

The Committee on House Administration shall work closely with the Congressional Research Service to ensure that the Service has the capability to rapidly provide short, nonpartisan fact sheets which may be disseminated by Member offices.

SEC. 308. ESTABLISHING NONPARTISAN CONSTITUENT ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICES PAGE ON HOUSENET.

The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations, or take any other steps as may be required, to establish a nonpartisan constituent engagement and services page on HouseNet which will better disseminate best practices and ideas regarding ways to optimize and improve constituent engagement and service.

TITLE IV—MAKING THE HOUSE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

SEC. 401. ENSURING ACCESSIBILITY OF HOUSE WEBSITES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration detailing a plan to ensure that all House websites and applications are accessible. Such report shall include—

(1) a schedule for analyzing all House websites and applications to determine the accessibility level of each such website and application;

(2) an analysis of the resources and assistance necessary to ensure all relevant systems are compatible with common programs used by major disability groups; and

(3) a plan to ensure that all updates to such websites and applications, as well as new websites and applications, are accessible.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 402. CLOSE CAPTIONING OF PROCEEDINGS; CAPTIONING SERVICE FOR VIDEOS CREATED BY HOUSE OFFICES.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer and the Clerk shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration detailing a plan to ensure that all House proceedings that are broadcast on television or streamed on the Internet provide closed caption services, and provide a free captioning service for all web videos created by Member, committee, and leadership offices, as well as the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer and the Office of the Clerk. Such report shall include—

(1) a statement of the estimated costs of providing close captioning services for all such proceedings;

(2) a statement of the estimated costs of providing captioning service for all such web videos;

(3) an estimated timeline for carrying out the plan; and

(4) a discussion of any barriers to carrying out the plan, including statutory or regulatory impediments.

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 403. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ACCESSIBILITY.

(a) REPORT ON ACCESSIBILITY OF UNITED STATES CAPITOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Architect of the Capitol, the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives, and the Executive Director of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, shall provide a joint report to the Committee on House Administration identifying areas of the Capitol buildings and the United States Capitol Grounds that are not currently accessible, the estimated costs of making such areas accessible, including a timetable and plan for making accessibility modifications, and a discussion of future challenges to ensuring full accessibility.

(b) REPORT ON ACCESSIBILITY OF PRACTICES AND PROGRAMMING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Chief Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services and the Librarian of Congress, shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration evaluating the accessibility of the practices and programming used by offices of the legislative branch to serve the needs of individuals with disabilities.

(c) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

TITLE V—IMPROVING ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

SEC. 501. ADOPTING STANDARDIZED FORMAT FOR LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Clerk shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration regarding the status of the overall implementation and adoption of a standardized format for drafting, viewing, and publishing legislation to improve transparency and efficiency throughout the lawmaking process, specifically including the status of the overall implementation of the Extensible Markup Language, or XML, schema known as United States Legislative Markup.

(b) INITIAL REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a detailed plan for completing the overall implementation and adoption of the format described in such subsection, including a timeline, a statement of the costs incurred as of the date of such report, and a statement of the expected costs anticipated to be incurred in the future.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after the last day of each calendar quarter that begins after the submission of the report under subsection (a), the Clerk shall submit to the Committee on House Administration a status report on the progress made during that quarter regarding the overall implementation and adoption of the format described in such subsection, including any updates to the timeline and to the costs incurred during that quarter and expected to be incurred in the future, and a detailed account of actions taken to implement and adopt the format during the quarter covered by the report.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in

the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 502. LEGISLATION COMPARISON PROJECT.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Clerk shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration regarding the status of the completion of the legislative comparison project required by clause 12 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) INITIAL REPORT.—The report required in under subsection (a) shall include a detailed plan for completing the legislative comparison project, including a timeline, a statement of the costs incurred as of the date of the report, and a statement of the expected costs anticipated to be incurred in the future.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after the last day of each calendar quarter that begins after the submission of the report under subsection (a), the Clerk shall submit to the Committee on House Administration a status report on the progress made during that quarter regarding the completion of the legislative comparison project, including any updates to the timeline and to the costs incurred during that quarter and expected to be incurred in the future, and a detailed account of actions taken to complete the legislative comparison project during the quarter covered by the report.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 503. DATABASE OF INFORMATION ON EXPIRATION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF PROGRAMS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Clerk shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration regarding the establishment and maintenance, on its public website, of an up-to-date database that is searchable, sortable, and downloadable of the expiration dates of all Federal programs and the primary committee of subject matter jurisdiction over each such program.

(b) INITIAL REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a detailed plan for the completion and implementation of such database, including a timeline and a statement of ongoing and expected costs of development and implementation, any necessary legal or legislative authorities, as well as any barriers or difficulties identified regarding the completion and operation of the database. Such report shall also include a discussion and recommendations on ensuring that such database—

(1) is updated on a continual and ongoing basis, including requiring that the Clerk posts all relevant all information not later than 30 days after receipt; and

(2) includes information provided by standing and select committees (except the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Ethics, the Committee on Rules, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence), as well as recommendations to ensure that such committees provide the required information on a timely and regular basis.

(c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after the last day of each calendar year that begins after the submission of the report under subsection (a), the Clerk shall submit to the Committee on House Administration a report regarding the progress made regarding the establishment and maintenance of the database described in such sub-

section, including any updates to the timeline and to the costs incurred or expected to be incurred (as required under subsection (b)), and a detailed account of actions taken to establish and maintain the database during the year covered by the report.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 504. DATABASE OF VOTES TAKEN IN COMMITTEES.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Clerk shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration regarding the establishment and maintenance, on its public website, of a separate database for the 116th Congress and each subsequent Congress of all recorded votes in committees (except for recorded votes taken by any committee in executive session or recorded votes which, under applicable rules of the committee, are not required to be made publicly available) that is sortable, up-to-date, and downloadable.

(b) INITIAL REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a detailed plan for completion and implementation of the database described in such subsection, including a timeline and a statement of the ongoing and expected costs of development and implementation, any necessary legal or legislative authorities, as well as any barriers or difficulties identified regarding the completion and operation of the database. Such report shall also include a discussion and recommendations on ensuring that such database—

(1) is updated on a continual and ongoing basis; and

(2) requires each standing and select committee to provide to the Clerk with information respecting recorded votes taken in that committee (excluding votes which are not required to be included in the database) within 72 hours of such vote, to include a brief description of the matter on which the recorded vote was taken, the name of each Member of the committee voting on that matter, whether the vote was in the affirmative or the negative, and the total tally of the votes.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after the last day of each calendar quarter that begins after the submission of the report under subsection (a), the Clerk shall submit to the Committee on House Administration a report regarding the progress made regarding the establishment and maintenance of the database described in such subsection, including any updates to the detailed timeline and to the costs incurred or expected to be incurred (as required under subsection (b)), and a detailed account of actions taken to establish and maintain the database during for the quarter covered by the report.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 505. ASSIGNMENT OF UNIQUE IDENTIFIERS FOR REPORTS FILED BY REGISTERED LOBBYISTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Clerk shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration regarding the status of assigning a unique identification number with respect to each person who files a registration statement or other report required to be filed with the Clerk

under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), to be used for all purposes under such Act (including the public availability of such statements and reports) with respect to each statement or report required to be filed by that person with the Clerk.

(b) INITIAL REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a detailed plan for assigning the unique identification numbers described in such subsection, including a timeline, a statement of the ongoing and expected costs of carrying out such plan, and a description of any obstacles to carrying out the plan (including obstacles relating to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 or other laws).

(c) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after the last day of each calendar quarter that begins after the submission of the report under subsection (a), the Clerk shall submit to the Committee on House Administration a report regarding the progress made regarding the overall implementation of the assignment of the unique identification numbers described in such subsection, including any updates to the timeline and to the costs incurred or expected to be incurred as required under subsection (b) and a detailed account of actions taken to carry out the assignment of such unique identification numbers during for the quarter covered by the report.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration may issue regulations to carry out any recommendations made in the report required under subsection (a) or take any other steps as may be required to carry out this section.

SEC. 506. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.

The Committee on House Administration shall take all steps practicable to make any report required under this resolution publicly available on the official public website of the Committee or in some other manner.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOFGREN. 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. 756.

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

There was no objection.

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

The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress was created by Speaker NANCY PELOSI on January 4, 2019, when the House adopted title II of H. Res. 6, the House Rules package.

The House voted an overwhelming 418-12 to create the committee. The Speaker was insistent that the committee's membership contains a diverse set of views, which is why its membership is evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats and is required to have two first-term Members among its ranks.

I am proud to serve on the Select Committee on the Modernization of

Congress, a committee whose guiding principle, in the words of Chairman DEREK KILMER, is to “make Congress work better so that the institution and its Members can better serve the American people.”

During its first year of work, the committee has heard from former Members, discussed making legislative information more transparent, and focused on cultivating diversity and improving retention among congressional staff. The committee has also worked to promote civility and collaboration and listened carefully to Members about the congressional schedule.

The committee is already having an effect. Shortly after a hearing on congressional mailing standards, the Franking Commission moved quickly to modernize their rules so Members could communicate with their constituents more directly.

The committee's success is the very reason that the Speaker decided to extend the life of the committee. Originally scheduled to conclude its work after the first session, the House agreed to extend its work for the balance of the 116th Congress.

I was pleased to work with the ranking member of the House Administration Committee to make sure that the select committee has the resources it needs to do its work.

H. Res. 756 incorporates the first two sets of recommendations made by the select committee. These recommendations focus on increasing transparency, improving human resources practices on the Hill, improving the onboarding process for new Members, addressing needed IT improvements, and making the proceedings and functions of the House more accessible to all Americans.

It has been a pleasure to work with Chairman KILMER, Vice Chairman GRAVES, and the ranking member on the Committee on House Administration as we have worked to translate recommendations into legislation.

Successful reform efforts in Congress are rare. For the most part, these efforts fade away and are forgotten. I am glad that this reform effort, spearheaded by the bipartisan work of the select committee, is moving forward and that we will all see tangible results in how the Congress operates as a result of this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) controls the time and is recognized.

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 756, the Moving Our Democracy and Congressional Operations Towards Modernization Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan resolution is an important one that I believe will improve the day-to-day operations of the House.

I first want to thank Chairman KILMER and Vice Chair GRAVES for their impressive leadership of the Select Committee on Modernization.

I also want to give a special moment of silence in honor of Vice Chair GRAVES' son, who was in a bad accident on a bicycle. If Members could bear with me to honor Mr. GRAVES and have a moment of silence to pray for his son's recovery.

Mr. Speaker, the tone that has been set at the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress has been a refreshing reminder that there is still a way to work in a truly bipartisan manner, respecting differing opinions across the aisle. Six Members of Congress from each party came together to work toward a common goal: to make this institution better.

Americans deserve an efficient and effective legislature. A modernized Congress will increase our ability to respond to the needs of communities; save taxpayer dollars; erase layers of bureaucracy; further professionalize the institution; and revitalize a transparent, understandable, and efficient legislative process.

H. Res. 756 is a package of 29 bipartisan recommendations from the select committee's findings on ways to improve Congress. These recommendations will increase public accessibility, modernize the information technology that offices use, streamline human resources, improve training offerings, enhance the ways we can communicate with our constituents, and create more transparency and access to public documents, among other necessary advancements.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud member of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, and as the ranking member at the Committee on House Administration, I look forward to working toward implementing these vital recommendations.

While the passage of H. Res. 756 is crucial for improving how the House operates, I know the work is not done. I look forward to being a part of moving additional pieces of legislation the select committee puts forward.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) who chairs the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chair LOFGREN and Ranking Member DAVIS for their support in bringing this resolution to the floor.

H. Res. 756, the MODCOM Resolution, is the product of a bipartisan desire to make Congress work better for the American people.

Over the past year, the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress has taken a hard look at the many challenges this institution faces. Select committee members have listened closely to what their colleagues and staff have to say about how to improve Congress and listened to the American people.

Through a collaborative, bipartisan process, the select committee has so far passed 45 recommendations to make Congress work better so that Members can better serve their constituents.

Making recommendations to improve Congress is one thing, but making sure those recommendations are carried out is quite another.

The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress is the first reform committee in recent history to turn its recommendations into legislation. The MODCOM Resolution ensures that the select committee's initial recommendations are implemented by the House of Representatives.

These recommendations cover a broad range of issues but share a common goal: making Congress work better for the American people.

Article I of the Constitution established Congress as the first among co-equal branches of government. Our Founding Fathers envisioned a strong legislative branch, but Congress' capacity to uphold its constitutional powers has been weakened. This resolution is a first step toward restoring capacity and strengthening Congress.

The resolution improves transparency so that the American people can easily access basic information about Congress, including following the bill through the process, seeing how Members vote in committee and on the floor, and tracking what bills Members sponsor.

The MODCOM Resolution also contains recommendations focused on attracting and retaining a diverse and highly qualified workforce, again, working on behalf of the American people. The resolution creates a one-stop HR shop to help Members and staff with questions about recruitment, retention, diversity, legal counsel, training, and benefits.

The select committee has heard a lot about how new Member orientation should do more to encourage civility and bipartisan collaboration. This resolution will overhaul the onboarding process for new Members and provide continuing education opportunities for all Members.

Select committee members also agree that trying to solve 21st century problems with 20th century technologies is a disservice to the American people, who rightfully expect timely action from their Representatives. This resolution will modernize House technologies and, ultimately, save taxpayer dollars.

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Modernizing Congress also means making the proceedings and functions of the House accessible to all Americans. The MODCOM resolution addresses the equal access challenges that persons with disabilities face when working for, visiting, or interacting with Congress.

The bottom line is this: All Members want Congress to work better for the American people, and the MODCOM resolution serves that goal.

I am proud to lead this effort, but I want to emphasize that this is an entirely collaborative effort. Congressman TOM GRAVES, the select committee's vice chair, has been a great partner, and I want to thank him for his leadership, his partnership, and his commitment to the committee's success.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois for wishing Tom and his family well and wishing his son a speedy recovery.

Mr. Speaker, the experience and perspective of Chair LOFGREN and of Ranking Member DAVIS they have shared with the select committee has also been invaluable. I want to thank them and the Committee on House Administration and their staff for their help and their guidance and for their work in bringing this resolution to the floor today.

I also want to thank all of my colleagues on the select committee. We serve with such thoughtful and dedicated Members, and I look forward to our continued collaboration.

The CAO's office and the House Clerk's office have also been instrumental in this effort, and I want to thank the many people in both offices who have given of their time and expertise in working through a lot of these issues with the select committee.

This is the first step in trying to make Congress function better on behalf of the American people. There is more to come. The committee has additional recommendations that we hope to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage of H. Res. 756.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), my good friend and another member of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend, Mr. DAVIS, for yielding and thank him also for all of his hard work bringing this resolution to the floor. I also want to thank him for being here in person himself to help us argue the good points of this resolution and its bipartisan nature.

Mr. Speaker, for over a year, the bipartisan Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress has worked together to discuss how Congress, as an institution, conducts business on behalf of the American people.

From broad subjects, like government transparency and congressional office payroll, to narrower topics, like formatting legislative documents, our goal is to bring Congress into the same century as the constituents whom we serve.

This resolution is a great first step in accomplishing that goal. It requires our technology offices to streamline the approval process for new and innovative technologies. It takes steps towards Housewide bulk purchasing of technology products and services and will save every Member money out of their MRAs.

Additionally, the resolution examines expanding or eliminating the cap on the number of employees for Member offices. Many Members, particularly in rural areas like my district in central Washington, have multiple district offices, and Members should be able to staff their offices as they see fit.

Empowering Members to adequately staff both district and D.C. offices can improve retention, but, more importantly, it can improve communication with our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to again thank Chairman KILMER and Ranking Member GRAVES for their leadership and their work in bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues, all Members, to support the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), another member of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my fellow colleagues on the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress in support of H. Res. 756.

Over these past many months, under the incredible leadership of Representative KILMER and Representative GRAVES, the members of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress have worked diligently to address many, many issues that we believe in a bipartisan way have negatively impacted the ability of Congress to work effectively and efficiently for all Americans.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have heard time after time many concerns from my constituents who believe that Congress has become too mired in gridlock, that our current political process has devolved into a system that rewards bitter partisan divide rather than an effective, for-the-people governance. I think my constituents would be so pleased, and all of our constituents would be so pleased, to see how this committee has worked and how we have plodded together through many difficult subjects.

In the process of creating 2½ dozen recommendations, including this resolution, I think a couple of the most important the committee is focused on are how to foster that more civil discourse, beginning with new Member orientation.

I want to applaud the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on House Administration for being so open-minded about any ideas that our committee put forward, willing to make changes to many programs, beginning with new Member orientation; also, efforts to create a congressional workforce more representative of our country's diverse population through initiatives like making permanent the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and focusing on issues such as streamlining

and reorganizing human resource services for the House of Representatives.

We often operate as 435 different offices, but we can learn so much from each other. We can find, with collaboration and with a stronger H.R. office, better expertise in communications policies and constituent services.

So it is my firm belief that the recommendations being voted on will be an integral step in moving Congress forward in a direction that not only produces a more productive workforce and workplace, but a more productive legislative branch.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. TIMMONS), our freshman Member on our side of the aisle on the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 756, legislation implementing recommendations from the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, the only truly bipartisan committee in Congress, has worked diligently since it was created to produce recommendations that will make Congress more efficient, accountable, and transparent to the American people.

This resolution includes nearly 30 of the recommendations passed out of the committee. The legislation includes reforms in five areas, which are:

Streamlining and reorganizing human resources;

Improving orientation for freshman Members;

Modernizing and revitalizing technology;

Making the House accessible to all; and

Improving access to documents and publications for the American people.

When I first arrived in Washington for new Member orientation, I remember having to get on a bus with only Republicans. I was shocked that new Members would not be briefed together, that this kind of partisanship was encouraged from the very start.

Now, I understand that a majority of the time Members will be meeting with their respective party, but to encourage this divide from the beginning was something I was not expecting—and I was really disappointed.

This contributes to the brokenness and lack of civility in Congress. This was a concern I heard from several Members from both sides of the aisle, including fellow colleagues on the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

I am proud that we are able to work together on this committee as both Republicans and Democrats to come to a solution that encourages more bipartisanship in these partisan and incredibly divided times.

I am truly thankful for Chair KILMER's and Vice Chair GRAVES' leadership on the committee, and I look forward

ward to continuing to work with them and my colleagues on the committee on other ways we can make Congress more efficient, such as addressing the House calendar and schedule, as well as the budget process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues in the House to support H. Res. 756.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, at this point, while he meanders up to the microphone, I would like to say this is our last speaker, but another valued member of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, somebody whom not only the committee is going to miss when he leaves this institution after this term, but this institution is going to miss him.

I yield as much time as he would like to consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL).

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Illinois for yielding. I have so many things that I want to say now in light of that.

The truth is, Mr. Speaker, I just came over, had to walk out on some constituents to be here.

Hunter Pruett is in town. He is advocating on behalf of the Juvenile Arthritis Foundation, and he has been meeting with me every year for the 10 years I have been in Congress.

I said: Hunter, I am sorry. I have got to go to the floor. This is our bill today. I will see you back home.

He said: I just want to tell you one thing, ROB.

He said: Whatever is going on in politics, just forget it. What I want you to do for your next 9 months in Congress is just go and do the right thing for the right reasons, and we will be with you.

That is a pretty common message that we get, but our committee process doesn't always allow that to happen, and I want to thank the chairman for leading a process that has allowed exactly that to happen.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know if it has been mentioned, but I am looking at the chairman of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress sitting beside the chairwoman of the House Administration Committee.

Now, as you look through these 30 recommendations today, you will see that a lot of them have to do with House Administration jurisdiction. I am standing right beside the ranking member of the House Administration Committee.

It is extraordinary in this institution for a chairwoman and her ranking member to allow another committee to have any sort of input on what goes on, much less delegate some of that conversation and thinking. The lack of self-interest that has gone into this committee is something I haven't gotten to see much in the 10 years I have been here.

You won't see in these recommendations, Mr. Speaker, a recommendation to turn all of the committees into the exact same bipartisan 50/50 committee

that we have had the pleasure of working on. I don't think you will see that in the next round either.

But I will tell you that one of the favorite stories I get to tell back home to folks who feel like politics has taken over this town, for folks who feel like MSNBC and FOX News run this institution these days, that think Twitter is the be-all and end-all of in-depth political thought, I have gotten a chance to work with Members who have, time after time after time, put the institution first with one goal in mind.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain it has been said already, how can we serve our constituency better, every single conversation, how can we serve our constituency better; what can we do to better serve the American people; how is the institution broken, not so that it is not serving Members, but so that Members are not serving their constituents.

I know this isn't the most glamorous of topics, modernization of Congress, but I would just say to all of my colleagues, if you are feeling down, if you are feeling beaten by a political season, if you think that this is the time of the electoral cycle where folks are fussing with each other, more likely to tear each other down than build each other up, read these 30 recommendations.

Tune in to the next Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, Mr. Speaker, because what you are going to see is exactly what every single one of us wanted to see when we ran for Congress, and that is serious men and women sitting down in a collaborative way, putting the American people first.

It couldn't happen without the leadership of our chairman. It wouldn't happen without the chairwoman of the House Administration Committee and her willingness to be such a productive partner. It couldn't happen without Ranking Member DAVIS and his willingness to be so involved and so collaborative.

There should be recommendation No. 31, Mr. Speaker, and that is, let's do this again.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I can't add anything to what my good friend ROBERT "FRANK" WOODALL said, so I am going to yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to again acknowledge the bipartisan work of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

As a body, we haven't focused on the need for internal reforms to improve our work for the American people, and the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress has enabled us to focus on reforms and improvements that are necessary to better serve our constituents.

It may be true, if you read the reports, some of this is boring. Boring is good. To get these things done in a very thoughtful, collaborative way so the system works better, so we can serve our constituents better, it has

been a pleasure to work here, both as a member of the Select Committee and certainly as chair of the House Administration Committee charged with implementing many of these recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that all of us support H. Res. 756, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as Vice Chair of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, I want to express my strong support for H. Res. 756, the Moving our Democracy and Congressional Operations Towards Modernization Resolution.

This resolution is the result of bipartisan collaboration and hard work by our committee members, who are committed to making Congress work better for the American people.

H. Res. 756 marks the first time in recent history a select committee like ours has turned recommendations into legislative action. This is a testament to the hard work of our members, and the support from our colleagues on both sides of the aisle has been instrumental throughout this process.

In the last year, the Select Committee has passed nearly four dozen recommendations crafted to make Congress more effective, efficient and transparent. Through conversations with our colleagues and listening sessions with congressional staff, we've worked to address everything from staff retention and recruitment to boosting bipartisanship and civility throughout the U.S. House of Representatives.

Today's resolution addresses five key sections of reform: streamlining and reorganizing human resources; improving orientation for Members-elect and providing improved continuing education opportunities for Members; modernizing and revitalizing technology, making the House accessible to all; and improving access to documents and publications. These sections include 29 recommendations that were unanimously passed by our committee on a rolling basis throughout last year—another first for a committee like ours.

We're committed to pushing boundaries and breaking the mold with our approach and the solutions we propose. Our chair, Rep. Derek Kilmer, has been a strong leader and bipartisan partner throughout this process. When the Select Committee first started, we chose to work together and combine our resources as one team, instead of separating the staff and office space by party line. This unique opportunity and approach has created a bond of trust unlike anything I've experienced in Congress.

We have more work to do before the year is over, and I can think of no better capstone to my career in public service than to leave Congress in better shape for the next generation of leaders. Together we are giving the House a roadmap for a brighter future.

I look forward to continuing our work as a bipartisan team and am grateful for the opportunity to help make a little history here in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 756, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. 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.

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SUPPORT FOR VETERANS IN EFFECTIVE APPRENTICESHIPS ACT OF 2019

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 760) to enable registered apprenticeship programs to better serve veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 760

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 "Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. IMPROVED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM COORDINATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The term "registered apprenticeship program" means an apprenticeship program registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (50 Stat. 664; commonly referred to as the "National Apprenticeship Act").

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Labor.

(b) ADDITIONAL REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for any program applying to become a registered apprenticeship program on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) acquire from the program sponsor a written assurance that the sponsor—

(A) is aware of the availability of educational assistance for a veteran or other individual eligible under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code, for use in connection with a registered apprenticeship program;

(B) will make a good faith effort to obtain approval for educational assistance described in subparagraph (A) for, at a minimum, each program location that employs or recruits a veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code; and

(C) will not deny the application of a qualified candidate who is a veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance described in subparagraph (A) for the purpose of avoiding making a good faith effort to obtain approval as described in subparagraph (B);

(2) in accordance with paragraphs (5) and (12) of section 29.5(b) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), require the program sponsor, to the extent practicable, to provide standards that contain provisions to grant advanced standing or credit, and provide increased wages commensurate to such standing or credit, for any veteran or other individual eligible for educational assistance under chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, United States Code, who—

(A) is enrolled in the registered apprenticeship program; and

(B)(i) has a demonstrated competence applicable to the apprenticeship occupation; or (ii) has acquired experience, training, or skills through military service that is applicable to the apprenticeship occupation; and

(3) when the Secretary approves the registered apprenticeship program, provide a copy of the program's certificate of registration to the State approving agency designated under chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, in the State where the program is located.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. WATKINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks, and insert extraneous material on S. 760, the Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act of 2019.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 760, Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act. This legislation is a commonsense approach to helping men and women who have laid their life on the line for our freedom.

So many of our veterans transition to civilian life and need to develop a skill to get good-paying jobs. Yet, many are not suited for traditional education pathways. This is where registered apprenticeship programs are so important, and this legislation takes important steps to increasing veterans' access to complete financial assistance they can use to connect to a registered apprenticeship program.

Registered apprenticeships are our Nation's most successful federally funded workforce development with a 94 percent placement rate for workers who complete a registered apprenticeship, and an average starting salary of \$70,000 a year. The bill would ensure more veterans access to these high-quality programs by:

One, requiring the Department of Labor, DOL, to ensure employers are working with their State veterans affairs agencies to obtain education benefits available for veterans;

Two, improving the coordination between the DOL and the VA, requiring the DOL to provide information to the VA on newly registered apprenticeship programs to enable the VA to be more proactive in outreach to registered apprenticeship programs not yet approved for GI bill benefits; and

Three, ensuring that employers grant advanced standing or credit, and provide increased wages commensurate to such standing or credit to veterans or

other eligible individuals who can demonstrate competencies or experience, training or skills through their military service.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation, which will take real steps to improve veterans and their families access to high-quality registered apprenticeship programs.

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

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

I rise today in support of S. 760, the Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act. This bill would provide more opportunities for service-members within apprenticeship programs that align with their skills and their background.

As a veteran, one of the hardest things I did was transitioning back to the civilian world. I spent somewhere around 8½ years in conflict environments over the course of maybe 12 or 13, and it was easier to stay in Iraq or Afghanistan than it was to come back to the United States.

Now, we have got an outstanding military. It is resilient and bright; many fought in two wars. They have excellent leadership and technical skills, skills that would be used to close the skills gap. Veterans are more likely to be underemployed than their nonveteran counterparts. This is not because they lack the appropriate skills, rather, they lack the clear path that helps them to transition from the military service to good-paying jobs.

S. 760 ensures that veterans receive advanced standings in registered apprenticeship programs for their prior experience. This bill acknowledges the unique capabilities of veterans and simplifies the process for veterans transitioning from successful careers in the military to civilian life.

We have a wealth of experience right here in our country with our veterans. Let's tap into that pool of intelligent and hardworking heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Nevada and the gentleman from Kansas for their support of this very important piece of legislation.

I rise in support of S. 760, the Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act of 2019. I was proud to introduce the House companion bill, H.R. 5314, with my colleague, Representative KATHERINE CLARK.

Our Nation's veterans deserve our support while deployed and when they return home. One of the best ways to do that is to prepare them for the workforce outside of the military.

Our servicemembers have attained incredible skills during their service, many times, quite frankly, under fire. Sadly, when they return to civilian life, finding a good-paying, family-sustaining job may be difficult.

Many States have significant inconsistencies between the number of registered apprenticeships offered and the number of programs listed as approved for veterans' benefits. These discrepancies exist despite the simple, expedited VA approval process for apprenticeship sponsors who have gone through all the steps to register their programs through the Department of Labor at either the Federal or the State level.

The VA approval process still requires additional steps that not all sponsors follow through to completion. This makes it difficult in many States for veterans to have the full list of apprenticeship programs where they can use their earned benefits and apply their learned skills and knowledge.

H.R. 5314 helps streamline the process of attaining an apprenticeship and reduces roadblocks for our veterans.

The bill ensures programs are equipped to complete the expedited VA process for registered apprenticeships and expands coordination between the Department of Labor and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Now, additionally, the bill clarifies that veterans are eligible for advanced placement and appropriate wage increases and instructs apprenticeship programs to account for a participant's competencies and prior experiences, including those gained during military service.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, if the gentleman from Kansas is, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to close.

Mr. Speaker, S. 760 would help veterans transition to the civilian workforce and address our growing skills gaps that has led to 7 million unfilled jobs. This bill is a clear win for our country, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill.

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act, S. 760, will assist our veterans and their families in accessing the high-quality pathways that registered apprenticeships provide.

As I said before, we owe it to our brave veterans to set them up for a life of self-sufficiency and dignity. This legislation does not create another bureaucratic layer that veterans must navigate, instead, it requires coordination. Coordination between the DOL and the VA that will reduce barriers for employers and veterans and accessing financial assistance they can use in connection with the registered apprenticeship program.

We have all heard stories of veterans having to navigate complex requirements to access benefits that, quite honestly, they have earned and de-

serve. This legislation proves that this Congress has heard our veterans, and we are taking concrete steps to reduce barriers by cutting red tape.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know why anyone would be opposed to that, which is why I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 760.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. 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.

FEDERALLY REQUIRING EARNED EDUCATION-DEBT DISCHARGES FOR VETS ACT

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3598) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to automatically discharge the loans of certain veteran borrowers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3598

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 "Federally Requiring Earned Education-debt Discharges for Vets Act" or the "FREED Vets Act".

SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC LOAN DISCHARGE FOR CERTAIN VETERAN BORROWERS.

Section 437(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **DISABILITY DETERMINATIONS.**—With respect to a borrower who has been identified under clause (1) or (ii) of paragraph (4)(A), the Secretary shall—

“(A) consider the borrower permanently and totally disabled for the purpose of discharging the loans of the borrower under this subsection;

“(B)(i) notify the borrower of the intent of the Secretary to discharge the loans of the borrower under this subsection; and

“(ii) only if section 108(f)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 does not apply to such a loan discharge for the calendar year, include as part of such notice a statement informing the borrower that such loan discharge may be includible in the gross income of the borrower for purposes of such Code;

“(C) provide the borrower with an opportunity to opt-out of such loan discharge during the 60 day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary transmits the notice required under subparagraph (B) to the borrower; and

“(D) after the expiration of such period, discharge the loans of the borrower under this subsection, without any further action by the borrower (except that this subparagraph shall not apply to a borrower who opts

out of such discharge under subparagraph (C)."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) MATCHING PROGRAM.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less than twice per year, the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a computer matching program under which the Secretary of Education identifies a borrower—

"(i) who has been assigned a rating of total disability by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a service-connected disability (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code); or

"(ii) who has been determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to be unemployed due to a service-connected condition.

"(B) MINOR DISCREPANCIES.—With respect to each borrower who would have been identified under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) but for a minor discrepancy between the information of the borrower maintained by the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (such as a name discrepancy post-marriage, a missing hyphen, a transposed number or letter, or other typo), the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall work together to correct such minor discrepancy of such borrower.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. WATKINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 3598, the FREED Vets Act.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 3598, the Federally Requiring Earned Education-Debt Discharges for Vets Act or FREED Vets Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, CONOR LAMB, BRIAN FITZPATRICK, and all the other coleads for their work to ensure that those who have served our Nation, and are now totally and permanently disabled, do not face additional burden to get relief from their student loan debt.

This legislation will improve the lives of nearly 40,000 veterans who have a service-related disability by requiring the Secretary of Education to automatically discharge their Federal student loan debt.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 requires the Secretary of Education to discharge the Federal student loans of individuals who are totally and permanently disabled but does not establish a process. For too long, veterans with a service-connected disability have fallen through the cracks. Because of that, they have been forced to navigate a complicated and confusing system, while being straddled with debt. We

owe our disabled veterans a better option.

So, in 2018, the Department of Education launched a data-sharing initiative with the Department of Veterans Affairs to identify borrowers eligible for relief from their student loan debt.

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In 2019, the Department of Education started to automatize loan discharge for these veterans, but it has been stalled. This bill will require the Secretary to continue matching borrowers with data from Veterans Affairs to identify and automatically discharge the debt of matched individuals, eliminating burden on our veterans.

These brave individuals who served our country and are now totally and permanently disabled should not have to carry the burden of their debt, especially when we have the information and the ability to eliminate all sorts of bureaucratic and, quite frankly, unnecessary red tape.

I am proud to support this legislation which creates a clear process for disabled veterans to receive the relief they are entitled to under the law.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3598, the Federally Requiring Earned Education-debt Discharges for Vets Act, or the FREED Vets Act. This bill would cancel student loan debt for some eligible veterans.

H.R. 3598 would remove administrative obstacles preventing veterans from receiving student loan discharges. It modernizes the administration of Federal student loans, and it is a wonderful way to honor veterans.

Most debate about student loans is highly contentious and very partisan, but this bill here and now is an example of Democrats and Republicans coming together for the benefit of American heroes.

Last year, President Trump signed an executive order eliminating a process for disabled veterans to become eligible for loan forgiveness. Today, we are here to ensure that this effort becomes permanent.

I am a veteran, and I have countless veteran friends, many of them disabled. I know this bill will matter. Our veterans could use this break after selfless service, most of whom fought in not one war, but two—or many, at least.

The FREED Act is just one example of this body's commitment and America's commitment to our Nation's bravest.

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the FREED Vets Act, a bipartisan measure led by my friend CONOR LAMB from Pennsylvania and BRIAN FITZPATRICK, Republican,

from Pennsylvania, that will automatically discharge Federal student loan debt for eligible permanently disabled veterans.

Mr. Speaker, there is about a trillion dollars of student loan debt overhanging the U.S. economy, and we have worked on the Education and Labor Committee to pass the College Affordability Act that would open a pathway for people who serve in public service to get that debt discharged after 10 years.

This bill is, in my opinion, a great example of bipartisan agreement that there is one population that should get immediate relief, which is the men and women who have worn the uniform of this country and who have suffered grievous injury, whether it is visible or invisible, and who are 100 percent disabled.

As again has been stated, the Education Department got off to a start in terms of trying to implement this type of approach. This bill just will again strengthen and support that effort to make sure that the minute the VA has identified an individual who is permanently disabled who served our Nation, that notice will go to the Education Department and the discharge will be automatic. No application process, no matching process, again, it will just happen by operation of law.

The statistics show that this is a real problem. There are 42,000 veterans with student loan debt who, again, are permanently disabled, and 25,000 of those are in default. Getting this bill passed, getting this in operation as soon as possible is the most powerful way this country can say thank you, to eliminate one additional burden on people who have just shown their commitment and patriotism to our country.

I congratulate the bipartisan sponsors of this bill, Mr. LAMB and Mr. FITZPATRICK, and urge all of us to come together and get this bill passed today, as soon as possible.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. LAMB), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. LAMB. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding. I thank my colleague from Kansas for his excellent support and work on this bill, as well.

People often ask me when I go home to western Pennsylvania whether we ever knock off all the fighting down here and do some actual work and work across the aisle between Congress and the White House to actually get things done. What you are seeing here in this Chamber today is an example of the fact that there are many of us down here who are very serious about making that happen and making it happen more often as we go forward.

The FREED Act responded to a very specific set of circumstances, which is that it has long been true that, if you are a 100 percent disabled veteran, you have your Federal student loans forgiven. But we all know there is a big difference between putting something

down on paper and making it happen in real life, and we were seeing huge numbers of disabled veterans not take advantage of this program either because they didn't know about it or because the process of applying for it was just too burdensome, there was too much paperwork, or it took too long.

If you have a 100 percent disability rating, there is a lot in your life you have to worry about besides doing paperwork; so Congressman WATKINS, Congressman FITZPATRICK and another great western Pennsylvanian, Congressman GUY RESCHENTHALER, and I were all looking at the same set of facts and said: We know what we need to do here. We already know these people have a 100 percent disability rating. Let's just make the loan forgiveness automatic. That was the genesis for this bill.

I want to acknowledge that the administration and President Trump did the right thing here. They noticed this same problem last year, and they began to automatically forgive these loans by executive order. The problem was that there was some legal uncertainty about exactly who had the authority to forgive the loans how fast and when.

Our understanding is that some disputes developed between OMB and the Department of Education, and it was slowing down the ability of veterans to take advantage of this thing that they are already entitled to by virtue of how much they have given to this country. So our bill was necessary to make sure that everybody involved knew they have the legal authority to forgive these loans.

By this time next year, assuming we are able to get this through the Senate and to the President's desk for his signature, that number you heard from Congressman COURTNEY of 25,000 veterans whose loans are in default and an even higher number of tens of thousands more who haven't taken advantage of that should be zero.

We are making an unequivocal statement today that, if you have given so much to this country that you have a 100 percent disability rating, you do not need to worry about your Federal student loans any longer.

It is our job to remove obstacles from the paths of people who have given so much to this country. We all believe that there is much to be done on the subject of student loans, but what we want to make sure is that these brave Americans are first in line when we do that, and that is what our bill does.

It is very common in America these days to hear people spot a veteran and say, "Thank you for your service." I think the important thing about this bill is that it is Republicans and Democrats, Congress and the President all working together to say, "Thank you for your service"—not only in words, but in actions. That is what this bill means.

I am so grateful to have had the support of so many hardworking Members

who look forward to seeing this bill pass today, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the FREED Vets Act mandates that the Department of Education automatically discharge Federal student loan debt for eligible permanently disabled veterans. The staggering student loan debt crisis harms the financial security of many Americans, including the women and men who have honorably served our Nation.

Our Nation's veterans have sacrificed immensely for our freedom and our way of life, and it is unacceptable that many disabled veterans continue to be saddled with high levels of student debt. The least we can do for them, Mr. Speaker, is to forgive the Federal student loans for those who have served our country.

The VA established a program in 2018 to forgive veteran student debt, but the barrier of going through the processes meant that only 20 percent of those eligible veterans received the assistance they deserved. This strong bipartisan bill makes student loan forgiveness for these vets automatic.

I thank my friend, Congressman LAMB from Pennsylvania, for leading this bill, and I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with our veterans today and vote for H.R. 3598.

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

I thank the President for all he has done for our veterans. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. LAMB) as well as the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for all of their hard work in making this piece of legislation a reality.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3598.

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As my colleagues have heard today, this legislation would require the Department to continue ensuring that veterans who are totally and permanently disabled can have their student loan debt discharged without unnecessary complexity.

Think about it, without unnecessary complexity.

All this legislation does is streamline a process so those who have been totally and permanently disabled can have peace of mind and economic freedom. We owe it to those who have served our country to make this process as simple as possible, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COURTNEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) that the House sus-

pend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3598, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DEMINGS) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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:

Suspending the rules and:

Agreeing to H. Res. 756; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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.

MOVING OUR DEMOCRACY AND CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS TOWARDS MODERNIZATION RESOLUTION

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. 756) implementing recommendations adopted by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 13, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 93]

YEAS—395

Abraham	Amodei	Balderson
Adams	Armstrong	Banks
Aderholt	Arrington	Barr
Aguilar	Axne	Barragán
Allen	Babin	Bass
Allred	Bacon	Beatty
Amash	Baird	Bera

Bergman	Flores	Lowenthal	Schweikert	Suozi	Walden	Courtney	King (IA)	Ruppersberger
Beyer	Foster	Lowey	Scott (VA)	Swalwell (CA)	Walker	Cox (CA)	Kinzing	Rutherford
Bilirakis	Fox (NC)	Lucas	Scott, Austin	Takano	Walorski	Crist	Kirkpatrick	Sánchez
Bishop (GA)	Frankel	Luetkemeyer	Scott, David	Taylor	Waltz	Davids (KS)	Krishnamoorthi	Sarbanes
Bishop (NC)	Fulcher	Lujan	Serrano	Thompson (CA)	Wasserman	Davidson (OH)	Kuster (NH)	Scanlon
Bishop (UT)	Gabbard	Luria	Sewell (AL)	Thompson (PA)	Schultz	Davis (CA)	Lamb	Schakowsky
Blumenauer	Gallagher	Lynch	Shalala	Thornberry	Waters	Davis, Danny K.	Langevin	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Gallego	Malinowski	Sherman	Timmons	Watkins	Dean	Larsen (WA)	Schneider
Bonamici	Garamendi	Maloney,	Sherrill	Tipton	Watson Coleman	DeFazio	Larson (CT)	Schrier
Bost	Garcia (IL)	Carolyn B.	Shimkus	Titus	Weber (TX)	DeGette	Lawrence	Schweikert
Boyle, Brendan	Garcia (TX)	Maloney, Sean	Simpson	Tlaib	Webster (FL)	DeLauro	Lawson (FL)	Scott (VA)
F.	Gianforte	Marchant	Sires	Tonko	Welch	DelBene	Lee (CA)	Scott, David
Brady	Gibbs	Marshall	Slotkin	Torres (CA)	Wenstrup	Delgado	Lesko	Serrano
Brindisi	Golden	Matsui	Smith (MO)	Torres Small	Westerman	Demings	Levin (CA)	Shalala
Brooks (IN)	Gomez	McAdams	Smith (NE)	(NM)	Wexton	DeSaulnier	Levin (MI)	Sherman
Brown (MD)	Gonzalez (OH)	McBath	Smith (NJ)	Trahan	Wild	Dingell	Lipinski	Simpson
Buchanan	Gonzalez (TX)	McCarthy	Smith (WA)	Trone	Williams	Doggett	Loeb sack	Sires
Bucshon	Gooden	McCaul	Smucker	Turner	Wilson (FL)	Doyle, Michael	Lofgren	Slotkin
Budd	Gottheimer	McClintock	Soto	Underwood	Wilson (SC)	F.	Lowenthal	Smith (NJ)
Burchett	Granger	McCollum	Spanberger	Upton	Wittman	Engel	Lowey	Smith (WA)
Burgess	Graves (LA)	McEachin	Spano	Van Drew	Womack	Escobar	Luetkemeyer	Soto
Bustos	Graves (MO)	McGovern	Stanton	Vargas	Woodall	Eshoo	Lujan	Stanton
Butterfield	Green (TN)	McHenry	Stauber	Veasey	Wright	Espallat	Luria	Staubert
Byrne	Green, Al (TX)	McKinley	Stefanik	Vela	Yarmuth	Evans	Lynch	Stefanik
Calvert	Grijalva	McNerney	Steil	Velázquez	Young	Fletcher	Malinowski	Steil
Carbajal	Guest	Meeks	Steube	Visclosky	Zeldin	Foster	Carolyn B.	Stewart
Cárdenas	Guthrie	Meng	Stevens	Wagner		Frankel	McBath	Suozi
Carson (IN)	Haaland	Meuser	Stewart	Walberg		Gabbard	McClintock	Takano
Carter (GA)	Hagedorn	Miller				Gallego	McCollum	Taylor
Carter (TX)	Harder (CA)	Mitchell				Garamendi	McEachin	Thornberry
Cartwright	Harris	Moolenaar				Garcia (IL)	McGovern	Titus
Case	Hartzler	Mooney (WV)				Garcia (TX)	McNerney	Tlaib
Casten (IL)	Hastings	Moore				Gomez	Meeks	Torres (CA)
Castor (FL)	Hayes	Morrell				Gonzalez (OH)	Moolenaar	Torres Small
Castro (TX)	Heck	Moulton				Granger	Moore	(NM)
Chabot	Hern, Kevin	Mucarsel-Powell				Green, Al (TX)	Morelle	Trahan
Cheney	Herrera Beutler	Murphy (FL)				Haaland	Murphy (FL)	Trone
Chu, Judy	Hice (GA)	Murphy (NC)				Hastings	Nadler	Turner
Cicilline	Higgins (LA)	Nadler				Hayes	Napolitano	Underwood
Cisneros	Higgins (NY)	Napolitano				Heck	Neal	Van Drew
Clark (MA)	Hill (AR)	Neal				Herrera Beutler	Neguse	Vargas
Clarke (NY)	Hill (AR)	Neguse				Neal	Norcross	Veasey
Clay	Holding	Newhouse				Higgins (NY)	O'Halleran	Velázquez
Cleaver	Hollingsworth	Norcross				Hill (AR)	Ocasio-Cortez	Visclosky
Cline	Horn, Kendra S.	Nunes				Hollingsworth	Omar	Wagner
Cloud	Horsford	O'Halleran				Horsford	Pallone	Walden
Cohen	Houlihan	Ocasio-Cortez				Houlahan	Pascarell	Waltz
Cole	Hoyer	Olson				Hoyer	Payne	Wasserman
Comer	Hudson	Omar				Huffman	Perlmutter	Schultz
Conaway	Huffman	Pallone				Jackson Lee	Pingree	Waters
Connolly	Huizenga	Palmer				Jeffries	Pocan	Watson Coleman
Cook	Hurd (TX)	Panetta				Johnson (GA)	Posey	Webster (FL)
Cooper	Jackson Lee	Pappas				Johnson (SD)	Pressley	Welch
Correa	Jeffries	Pascarell				Johnson (TX)	Price (NC)	Westerman
Costa	Johnson (GA)	Payne				Katko	Quigley	Wild
Courtney	Johnson (LA)	Pence				Keller	Raskin	Wilson (FL)
Cox (CA)	Johnson (OH)	Perlmutter				Kelly (IL)	Richmond	Wilson (SC)
Craig	Johnson (SD)	Perry				Kelly (PA)	Rodgers (WA)	Yarmuth
Crawford	Johnson (TX)	Peters				Kennedy	Ruiz	
Crenshaw	Jordan	Peterson				Khanna		
Crist	Joyce (OH)	Phillips				Kildee		
Crow	Joyce (PA)	Pingree						
Cuellar	Katko	Pocan						
Cunningham	Keating	Porter				Abraham	Cooper	Harder (CA)
Curtis	Keller	Posey				Aderholt	Correa	Hartzler
Davids (KS)	Kelly (IL)	Pressley				Aguilar	Craig	Hern, Kevin
Davidson (OH)	Kelly (MS)	Price (NC)				Allred	Crawford	Hice (GA)
Davis (CA)	Kelly (PA)	Quigley				Amash	Crenshaw	Higgins (LA)
Davis, Danny K.	Kennedy	Raskin				Axne	Crow	Himes
Davis, Rodney	Khanna	Ratcliffe				Babin	Cuellar	Holding
Dean	Kildee	Reed				Baird	Cunningham	Horn, Kendra S.
DeFazio	Kilmer	Reschenthaler				Balderson	Curtis	Hudson
DeGette	Kim	Rice (NY)				Barr	Davis, Rodney	Huizenga
DeLauro	Kind	Rice (SC)				Bergman	Diaz-Balart	Hurd (TX)
DelBene	King (NY)	Richmond				Biggs	Duncan	Johnson (LA)
Delgado	Kinzing	Roby				Bishop (NC)	Dunn	Johnson (OH)
Demings	Kirkpatrick	Rodgers (WA)				Bishop (UT)	Emmer	Jordan
DeSaulnier	Krishnamoorthi	Roe, David P.				Brady	Estes	Joyce (OH)
DesJarlais	Kuster (NH)	Rogers (AL)				Brindisi	Ferguson	Joyce (PA)
Deutch	Kustoff (TN)	Rogers (KY)				Brooks (AL)	Finkenauer	Keating
Diaz-Balart	LaHood	Rose (NY)				Brooks (IN)	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (MS)
Dingell	LaMalfa	Rose, John W.				Buchanan	Fleischmann	Kilmer
Doggett	Lamb	Rouda				Buck	Flores	Kim
Doyle, Michael	Lamborn	Rouzer				Budd	Fox (NC)	Kind
F.	Langevin	Roybal-Allard				Burchett	Fulcher	King (NY)
Duncan	Larsen (WA)	Ruiz				Burgess	Gallagher	Kustoff (TN)
Dunn	Larson (CT)	Ruppersberger				Byrne	Gianforte	LaHood
Emmer	Latta	Rush				Calvert	Gibbs	LaMalfa
Engel	Lawrence	Rutherford				Carson (IN)	Golden	Lamborn
Escobar	Lawson (FL)	Ryan				Carter (GA)	Gonzalez (TX)	Latta
Eshoo	Lee (CA)	Sánchez				Carter (TX)	Gooden	Lee (NV)
Espallat	Lee (NV)	Sarbanes				Chabot	Gottheimer	Long
Estes	Lesko	Scalise				Cheney	Graves (LA)	Loudermilk
Evans	Levin (CA)	Scanlon				Cisneros	Graves (MO)	Lucas
Ferguson	Levin (MI)	Schakowsky				Cline	Green (TN)	Maloney, Sean
Finkenauer	Lipinski	Schiff				Cloud	Griffith	Marchant
Fitzpatrick	Loeb sack	Schneider				Cole	Grothman	Marshall
Fleischmann	Lofgren	Schrader				Cole	Guest	Massie
Fletcher	Long	Schrier				Conaway	Guthrie	Mast
						Connolly	Hagedorn	Matsui

NAYS—13

Biggs
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Gohmert
Griffith

NOT VOTING—21

Brownley (CA)
Clyburn
Collins (GA)
Fortenberry
Fudge
Gaetz
Gosar

□ 1558

Messrs. BIGGS and YOHOO changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. STEVENS, Mr. OLSON, and Ms. HOULAHAN changed their 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.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUIGLEY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 212, nays 185, answered “present” 2, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 94]

YEAS—212

Adams
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Bacon
Banks
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)

Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Comer
Cook
Costa

NAYS—185

Cooper
Correa
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Curtis
Davis, Rodney
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fox (NC)
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Golden
Gonzalez (TX)
Gooden
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn

Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Himes
Holding
Horn, Kendra S.
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (NY)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lee (NV)
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
Matsui

McAdams	Porter	Spano
McCarthy	Ratcliffe	Steube
McCaul	Reed	Stevens
McHenry	Reschenthaler	Swalwell (CA)
McKinley	Rice (NY)	Thompson (CA)
Meng	Roby	Thompson (PA)
Meuser	Roe, David P.	Timmons
Miller	Rogers (AL)	Tipton
Mitchell	Rogers (KY)	Upton
Mooney (WV)	Rose (NY)	Vela
Moulton	Rose, John W.	Walberg
Mucarsel-Powell	Rouda	Walker
Murphy (NC)	Rouzer	Walorski
Newhouse	Roy	Watkins
Norman	Scalise	Weber (TX)
Nunes	Schrader	Wenstrup
Olson	Scott, Austin	Williams
Palmer	Sensenbrenner	Wittman
Panetta	Sewell (AL)	Womack
Pappas	Sherrill	Woodall
Pence	Shimkus	Wright
Perry	Smith (MO)	Yoho
Peters	Smith (NE)	Young
Peterson	Smucker	Zeldin
Phillips	Spanberger	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Rice (SC)
Tonko

NOT VOTING—30

Bost	Gosar	Palazzo
Brownley (CA)	Graves (GA)	Riggleman
Clyburn	Grijalva	Rooney (FL)
Collins (GA)	Harris	Roybal-Allard
DesJarlais	Jayapal	Rush
Deutch	Kaptur	Ryan
Fortenberry	Lewis	Speier
Fudge	Lieu, Ted	Stivers
Gaetz	Meadows	Thompson (MS)
Gohmert	Mullin	Wexton

□ 1609

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

RECOGNIZING 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, this month marks the 10-year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, which expanded healthcare coverage to millions of Americans, including those with pre-existing conditions.

However, the ACA has also been attacked and undermined over the last decade, with the latest attempt originating from my home State of Texas. Texas, which has refused to expand Medicaid even though the State has the highest uninsured rate in the Nation, and the Trump administration argue that the entire law should be dismantled.

With the Supreme Court announcing they will hear the case this fall, over 44,000 El Pasoans are again living with the threat of having their healthcare coverage taken away from them. If the Supreme Court does invalidate the ACA, nearly 20 million Americans will lose their coverage.

At a time when we are confronting a public health emergency because of the coronavirus, a pandemic, we should be looking for ways to bolster healthcare coverage and protect community clinics and healthcare providers, not tear it away from El Pasoans and other communities around the Nation that need it the most.

ENSURING DEMAND FOR U.S. ENERGY

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, with Saudi Arabia and Russia going through absurd measures to drive the United States out of the energy market, this is a prime opportunity to ensure we have demand for American energy made right here at home.

That is why I am saddened to see Pennsylvania's Governor publicly oppose legislation that will incentivize the potential creation of two new petrochemical facilities in Pennsylvania.

The United States, generally, and Pennsylvania, in particular, have benefited from homegrown energy production. The natural gas industry in Pennsylvania has invested in local communities, improved educational opportunities, lowered energy costs, and boosted our national security through energy independence.

But we cannot allow foreign countries, especially those who do not share our values, to drive us out of the energy market.

By supporting an energy and fertilizer manufacturing tax credit, and bringing jobs, investment, and local demand for local gas, Pennsylvania could invest in our country's future and our national security by ensuring a local market for local energy resources.

□ 1615

RESTORING THE VOICES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, 1 year ago, almost to the day, this House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, the For the People Act, a transformative anticorruption and clean elections bill that would give people their voice back in their own democracy.

It would fix gerrymandering; it would fix voting; it would fix ethics; it would protect the ballot box; it would push back against foreign interference and foreign disinformation coming into our campaigns; and it would lift up the voices of average Americans in competing with big money and lobbyists here in Washington.

It would change the status quo so every American would feel that their voice counts here, that their opinion matters, and that that is how we make policy.

Unfortunately, MITCH MCCONNELL, the majority leader in the United States Senate, has refused to bring H.R. 1 to the floor of the United States Senate. One whole year of folding his arms at the gates of our democracy and saying to the American people: You shall not pass.

Madam Speaker, we are not going to be deterred; we are not going to be

diverted; and we are not going to be defeated. We are going to keep pressing on to pass H.R. 1 for the people and restore the voices of the American people.

REMEMBERING DOROTHY MAE BURNS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Ms. Dorothy Burns, who passed away on Sunday, February 16, at the age of 84.

Throughout her life, Ms. Burns was a trailblazing woman who was heavily involved in Georgia government, advocating for candidates she thought were best for our State.

Within the State, she served as the very first vice chair of the Georgia Republican Party. Ms. Burns held leadership roles on countless successful campaigns, including Georgia Senators JOHNNY ISAKSON, Mack Mattingly, and Paul Coverdell and Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. Additionally, she served numerous times as a delegate to national political conventions and as a Presidential elector.

But her dedication did not stop with politics. In Gainesville, Georgia, Ms. Burns taught the speech and hearing impaired how to read braille. She founded the K-12 school, Lakeview Academy, which continues to thrive today.

Ms. Burns is leaving our State much better than she found it and will be deeply missed. Her family and friends are in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

HONORING THE WEST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate, again, some exceptional young people from my district, the cheerleaders from West Orange High School. Known as the Mountaineers, they fought their way to the 2020 Universal Cheerleading Association's National Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, Florida. They survived a tough regional in Pennsylvania to get there.

In Orlando, they faced the best high school cheerleading squads in the country. During their first UCA competition, they won their semifinal for the large varsity non-tumbling division and earned a trip to the finals.

Before they left, I said to them I hoped that they would bring the trophy home to West Orange, and that is exactly what they did. The Mountaineers earned a trophy for finishing eighth out of 32 squads, and I am extremely proud of them. They may not have

earned the top trophy, but they are champions to me and their entire 10th District of New Jersey.

CONGRATULATING MARK MEADOWS

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my friend, colleague, and fellow Brandon High School alum, Congressman MARK MEADOWS, on his appointment to be the next White House Chief of Staff.

Like myself, Congressman MEADOWS grew up in Brandon, Florida, and also, like me, spent time at Florida State University and also is an alum of the University of South Florida. Go Bulls.

As a longtime Representative from North Carolina, he has boldly served his State and country with pride and honor. There is no doubt that his constituents have been fortunate to have him as their voice in Congress.

His legacy will be one of relentlessly fighting for the American people and the American Dream while working tirelessly to pass and strengthen conservative policies.

Representative MEADOWS' resilience, passion, humor, and patriotism will be missed in committee hearings and on the House floor. However, I am confident that he will continue to display the same character and fight for these same values at the White House and always provide our President his best counsel.

Again, congratulations on your new position, Mark. I know you will continue to make our Nation proud.

EFFECTIVE APPRENTICESHIPS FOR VETERANS

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act. I am so proud to be cosponsoring this bipartisan bill with Representative CLARK, and I want to, in particular, thank Senator GARY PETERS from the great State of Michigan for his leadership in driving this legislation through the Senate.

When we make the decision to send men and women to fight for our country, we make that decision to support them for the rest of their lives. That means veterans should have every opportunity to enroll in an apprenticeship that connects them with good-paying jobs.

The bill before us today expands the number of programs veterans can access with their GI benefits. GI benefits can cover things like housing and living expenses when they are going through their apprenticeship.

This bill came straight from concerns raised by veterans in the district. In

particular, I want to thank Rick Donovan, a veteran from Oakland County, who brought this idea to our attention.

Just last month, I visited Lansing Community College with Senator PETERS, which has some amazing apprenticeship programs.

This bill has already passed the Senate with bipartisan support. It is a great example of what can happen when we work together on issues that matter to all of us across Chambers and across parties.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this bill and send it to the President's desk.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNUAL WOMEN BUILD EVENT

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the 10th annual Women Build event held by the Salem County Habitat for Humanity. The event and the building took place in Penns Grove, south Jersey. The three homes that were built in Penns Grove will be dedicated on March 30 of this year.

Across the country and around the world, about 6,000 women will unite in more than 235 communities to build and improve 540 homes. The Women Build event also raises awareness about housing issues facing women and facing their families.

Madam Speaker, I thank all of the volunteers who helped at the event. They are changing lives for the better and making our community thrive. I thank them for what they do.

I would specifically like to recognize Stephanie Williams. Stephanie has put her tools to great use to help families in her community.

It inspires me to see such great work happening in our own backyard, and I thank them for all of their dedicated service, their kind hearts, and their hard work in changing the lives of those who are very much in need.

NATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

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

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, today is National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

In the United States, 235,000 women and girls are living with HIV, and they make up one in four new diagnoses, with Hispanic and African-American women disproportionately impacted.

Although, nationwide, new HIV cases are declining, in Miami-Dade County they are, sadly, on the rise, making today so important for my district.

Let's remember, also, that this disease yet has no cure. Awareness is critical to reduce transmission. Knowing your status is crucial.

But the reality is that one in nine women with HIV are unaware that they have it. That is why testing and preventive medication like PrEP need to be accessible and affordable. We must also be aware that some women living with HIV postpone care because of fears of rejection by loved ones or violence from a partner.

It is on us to do our part to spread awareness, reduce stigma, and support women and girls living with HIV and AIDS.

CONGRATULATING JILLIAN LARRABEE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jillian Larrabee from Durham High School in northern California for winning the giant slalom race during the California-Nevada Interscholastic Ski and Snowboard Federation championships.

As a resident of Durham, Jillian lived on her family's farm during the week and drove to Lake Tahoe on the weekends to train and pursue her dream of professional skiing.

Her high school never had a ski and snowboard team, so Jillian petitioned the Durham Unified School Board in hopes of bringing a team to her school. Earlier this year, the board approved her request for the 2020 season.

Jillian was the lone competitor to make the championship from Durham High during their inaugural year. She finished her first run in 1 minute and 13 seconds and then narrowed that time by clocking a run of 1 minute and 9.6 seconds, which finished a full second faster than the second-place skier in the giant slalom.

As a result of her outstanding performance, Jillian was named to the all-State team, the only member from the Butte County area.

From hard work and persistence comes great success for her and her school. Congratulations, Jillian.

CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I have always said that the role of the Federal Government is an umbrella on a rainy or stormy day. The Nation now faces the storm of coronavirus, and we should be the umbrella and be prepared and not panic. It is imperative that we provide widespread information on just the basics of how Americans can care for themselves.

I have organized a bipartisan task force on the coronavirus that includes an emergency doctor with experience, Dr. RUIZ from California, and our colleague, Congressman FITZPATRICK from Pennsylvania. We want to emphasize

an opportunity for Members to talk about the issues within their congressional districts and try to ensure that the American people are well taken care of.

Unfortunately, the administration got a very slow start. In a hearing that we just had, one State had the ability to test only 472 people; another State had the ability to test only 350. Obviously, we need to be able to ramp up the number of test kits to help the American people, and we need the equipment to protect our medical professionals.

Madam Speaker, I end by saying, as hospitals face a crisis and clinics face a crisis, the American people must look to the Federal Government to do their job correctly.

□ 1630

SUPPORTING JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF SANCTUARY CITIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TLAIB). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks, to include extraneous materials on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I am joined by my colleagues today to discuss how sanctuary city policies threaten the safety of American citizens.

Before I dive in, I want to commend the Trump administration for its crack-down on sanctuary cities, and I applaud the recent Second Circuit Court of Appeals' decision allowing the Department of Justice to withhold funding from sanctuary cities.

Now, back in June, Immigration and Customs Enforcement released a list of criminal illegal aliens that were allowed back into their sanctuary communities by local officials. One such criminal is Rosalio Ramos-Ramos, he is a Honduran citizen who was deported four times before authorities arrested him in Washington State in October of 2017.

Once notified of Rosalio's arrest, ICE issued a written detainer request, asking the local authorities to imprison him for an additional 48 hours so that they could decide whether or not to begin deportation proceedings.

Instead, local authorities ignored the detainer request and released Rosalio back into the community. In January of 2018, he murdered his cousin, and then he hid the body in a dumpster.

In another instance, in 2015, Garcia Zarate, an illegal immigrant from Mex-

ico shot and killed 32-year-old Kate Steinle, a very well-known case, and a tragedy, while she was walking with her father and her friend on Pier 14 in San Francisco.

Prior to the shooting, Garcia Zarate had been deported five times, and was supposed to be deported for a sixth time. He had been transferred to San Francisco's jail to serve a sentence for selling marijuana, but local authorities released him a few days later, despite a detainer request from Federal law enforcement.

Situations like these are more common than they should be in our country, and many local officials protect illegal immigrants and ignore Federal immigration laws up to the point of leaving dangerous individuals in their communities.

As you can see from these horrific examples, refusing to honor detainer requests and frustrating local law enforcement has dire consequences. Not only does it make our Nation less safe, it leaves no room for the victims of these offenders to obtain justice.

That is why I introduced the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act, along with my colleague, Representative BRADLEY BYRNE, here in the House, and my fellow North Carolinian, THOM TILLIS, over in the Senate.

This legislation would allow anyone who is a victim of murder, rape, or any felony, to file a lawsuit and bring civil action against the State or the sanctuary city if that city failed to honor a lawful immigration detainer request from the Department of Homeland Security. Any individual who is injured or harmed by an illegal immigrant, who benefited from a sanctuary city's policy, will be able to sue the sanctuary city or State.

My bill also requires sanctuary cities to waive a criminal's immunity as a condition of receiving certain Federal grants. If the jurisdiction doesn't agree to waive immunity, it will not be eligible for grants for public works, grant planning, and administrative expenses, and grants for training, research, and technical assistance.

I am extremely proud that President Trump endorsed our bill during his 2020 State of the Union address. It is time for Congress to force sanctuary cities to comply with Federal law enforcement, and to stop them from letting dangerous criminals remain on our streets. It is finally time to give victims of sanctuary city policies a legal pathway to justice.

During my trip to the southern border last year, I witnessed the humanitarian and security crisis up close and personal. I saw the sorry state of some areas of our border. I saw places that were only defended by thin, barbed-wire fences. These weak defenses allow practically anyone to break into our country, and that includes dangerous members of drug cartels who fuel our country's devastating opioid crisis.

I will continue to support policies that crack down on sanctuary cities across the United States.

Madam Speaker, with that, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN), my dear friend, someone who has been a staunch advocate for securing our border.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman BUDD, and I appreciate this bill.

I rise in strong support of the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act. It is high time the United States Congress address the dangers of sanctuary city policies.

I think it comes at a very important time, as we are suffering or could suffer from a pandemic that we are facing. To have open borders and let anybody in doesn't make sense now, nor does it make sense in the future. I commend my colleagues, Representatives TED BUDD and BRADLEY BYRNE, for their leadership in holding sanctuary cities accountable to the law.

Make no mistake, sanctuary cities kill by offering safe havens to some of the most violent and reckless criminals residing in this country. Sanctuary cities put American lives at risk every single day.

Only a few months ago, an illegal alien, Nemias Perez-Severiano killed a 67-year-old Vietnam war veteran, U.S. Marine, Samuel W. Jackson, inside a sanctuary county in Pennsylvania.

Jackson risked his life to defend a country that now refuses to protect his life. Counties like Montgomery in Pennsylvania are an insult to patriots like Jackson.

My district has no sanctuary cities, but that does not guarantee our safety. In Lancaster, South Carolina, just a few miles from where I live, Charlie Byrdic, an innocent and law-abiding citizen, was killed by an illegal immigrant who had hidden from authorities for years. Without the cooperation of sanctuary cities with law enforcement agencies, more families will lose their loved ones because criminals are allowed to roam our Nation without consequences. That is why we need this legislation.

This bill will offer a measure of justice to the victims of those violent crimes by allowing victims and their families to sue the cities that house these assailants.

Enough is enough. No American should lose his or her life, liberty, or property, because the government refuses to act against known criminals, immigrants or not.

The choice is ours; do we want to be the kind of country that protects the victims of crime or the perpetrators of crime? I know where I stand. It is time to fight against this thing that is plaguing our country of opening up our borders to anyone.

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. NORMAN.

Madam Speaker, at this point, I would yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE), a friend and colleague who led the effort with me to introduce the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act.

Like all of us here tonight, he is tired of hearing stories about illegal immigrants in sanctuary cities committing horrific crimes against American citizens. I want to thank him for spearheading the effort against this dangerous sanctuary city policy.

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, when our Founding Fathers began this great experiment called the United States of America, they did so with the fresh but unpleasant memories of a tyrannical and repressive monarchy. They set out to create a new system of government that served American citizens, while ensuring their rights and liberties and protecting the powers of the individual States.

To protect this system of Federalism, certain powers were required to be vested with the Federal Government. In our Constitution, our Founders gave, or enumerated in their language, specific powers to our Federal Government necessary to provide for a common defense, establish the rules for naturalizing new citizens, and ensure the integrity of our international borders. Controlling immigration into our country is essential for the rule of law. The integrity of our system requires a cooperation, though sometimes a tense one, between the Federal and lower governments.

Sadly, a growing movement across many cities and jurisdictions has undermined our constitutional order and the rule of law which protects it. The result of these dangerous and misguided policies is so-called sanctuary cities.

These sanctuary cities do not cooperate, and even undermine, Federal law enforcement from apprehending criminal aliens. The irony is that sanctuary cities become more unsafe and inhospitable to law-abiding Americans, those my colleagues and I have sworn a duty to protect.

These reckless policies are a danger not just to people in sanctuary cities but beyond. When dangerous criminals are allowed quarter in one location, it is only a matter of time before they move to another location to continue their criminal activity. Sadly, many American citizens have been victimized, even murdered.

That is why last year Congressman BUDD and I introduced the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act. Our bill will provide for individuals to sue sanctuary cities and jurisdictions if they are harmed in a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant. If jurisdictions refuse to be sued, they will lose out on Federal grant money.

As President Trump said about our bill, it will "give American victims the right to sue sanctuary cities and hold them accountable for the thousands of lives they have shattered." This will disincentivize sanctuary policies that fuel even more illegal immigration and harm the safety and security of Americans.

I have been to our southern border. I have spoken directly with ICE, CBP,

and other law enforcement agents there, the crisis is real.

We have thousands of miles of border and coastline. Border security cannot stop at the border. Those who manage to sneak in, especially those with criminal histories, cannot be given a free pass once they make it across. Sanctuary cities that undermine our laws must be held accountable.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining with me today to speak out on this problem and call for action on the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act.

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. BYRNE for his friendship and leadership on this.

Madam Speaker, at this point, I would like to yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP).

I want to thank him for his leadership on the Immigration Detainer Enforcement Act. This bill makes it easier for local law enforcement to comply with lawful detainer requests from the Department of Homeland Security.

I also want to thank him for his steadfast leadership on the Committee for Homeland Security.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and fellow North Carolinian, Mr. BUDD.

From San Francisco to my district in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, cities across the country are declaring themselves sanctuary cities. The term sounds peaceful, but the results are exactly the opposite.

For example, North Carolina sheriffs in a few urban counties released over 500 illegal aliens last year, who were convicted or accused of serious crimes, including domestic violence, indecency with a child, even rape, and murder.

Rather than hand over these vicious criminals to the Federal authorities, sanctuary cities and counties release them into your community to prey on you and your family.

What is the purpose of this policy? Clearly, it is not public safety. Nor is it for the protection of immigrant communities; indeed, they are the most victimized by these predators. Rather, it is meant to serve a national liberal agenda that prizes open borders over community safety.

Across the Nation, we were horrified to learn last year about a 92-year-old woman brutally raped and murdered at the hands of an individual who should have never been released—whom ICE asked to hold.

So, the increasing breakdown in the relationship between Federal and local authorities isn't just theoretically dangerous.

Further, sanctuary policies put dedicated law enforcement officers at risk. When criminals are released, despite an ICE detainer, ICE has a statutory responsibility to collect them. Rather than have a secure transfer, ICE must go into the community to track down the individual for an uncontrolled arrest.

Ironically, if the situation turns violent, the very local police who arrested

the alien the first time will be there to back up ICE.

To hold these jurisdictions to account, I was proud to sign on to the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act, which would allow victims of crimes committed by individuals released under sanctuary city policies, or their survivors, to sue sanctuary jurisdictions.

For example, in the New York City case, the woman's family would be able to sue the local government for allowing the release of her killer, who should have been safely in ICE custody.

Often, cities and towns claim immunity from being sued like this, denying victims' rights. This bill would allow communities to maintain that practice, but not at the expense of American taxpayers.

I have heard across the aisle that sanctuary cities only release individuals who pose no community harm. If you believe that, you should have no issue with this bill because those who are released won't endanger the community, and no one would ever be enabled to sue.

I, however, believe we must take this threat seriously and impose concrete costs to communities who refuse to follow the law.

I am proud to support this bill introduced by my friend, Congressman BUDD, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

□ 1645

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN). I thank Mr. BABIN for his leadership as co-chair of the House Border Security Caucus and for fighting to make America safe.

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. BUDD for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act introduced by my good friend from North Carolina, Representative TED BUDD.

Since we are supposed to be a Nation of laws, this is a bill that really should not have even needed to have been written. But sadly, because of the recklessness and lunacy of sanctuary cities, States, and jurisdictions run by rogue local officials, we have to fight tooth and nail just to enforce our laws and to put the safety of our citizens first.

The Democrats baselessly like to shout that the President is not above the law, yet they praise sanctuary jurisdictions for doing exactly what they claim to fight against. Apparently, being in direct opposition to the rule of law is okay as long as you are doing it under the name of sanctuary.

Earlier this year, we witnessed a violent attack on a 92-year-old woman named Maria Fuertes, who was sexually assaulted and left to die on the sidewalk of New York. This woman's life was taken by a 21-year-old illegal criminal alien who ICE had issued a detainer for months earlier, an individual who had already been arrested for assaulting his father and for criminal

possession of a weapon. This is who New York chose to protect under its sanctuary policies rather than Maria Fuenes.

The worst part is that this tragedy could have been prevented. It is quite simple: If Governor Cuomo had allowed this monster to be deported, he wouldn't have been able to do this to Mrs. Fuenes.

Frighteningly, this is not an isolated incident. This is happening every single day across America, and nobody is being held accountable for it. These policies not only pose a great risk to the safety and wellbeing of Americans but also to the sovereignty of our great Nation.

Do my colleagues on the left not care that the drug cartels control those who illegally cross our borders and that they are abusing our laws for profit?

Do they not care that these same cartels are allowing women and children to be violated and abused on their journey up to the United States?

Do they not care that thousands of Americans have been assaulted, injured, raped, or—worse—killed by illegal aliens, all being preventable crimes?

Facts are stubborn things, as President Reagan used to say. Unfortunately, Washington Democrats don't seem to care about the facts. They are happy to trade them for political advantage through emotion—in violation of our Nation's laws.

I stand with President Trump and my colleagues here today in the effort to end these criminal hotbeds.

At the end of the day, this isn't about statistics; it is about people. It is time that we stood up for the American people who have suffered at the hands of those who shouldn't even be here in the first place.

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN). I appreciate his steadfast leadership on highlighting the danger that sanctuary cities pose to cities across America.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank Congressman TED BUDD for calling this Special Order and for introducing the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act.

One of my top priorities is to secure our border and restore the rule of law in our immigration system. We are one of the most blessed nations on the face of the Earth, and we have one of the best and most generous legal immigration systems out there.

We allow more than a million people to come through the system legally each year. On top of that, we have almost a million students here on student visas, studying in our colleges and universities.

We are a Nation of laws, and just as every American citizen is held accountable under the law for the crimes they commit, so should every alien who comes across that border illegally. That is why I am proud to be a cospon-

sor of the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act.

This bill holds illegal aliens in sanctuary cities accountable for the heinous crimes they commit on American soil. Specifically, this bill allows victims to sue the sanctuary city where the crime took place.

It is alarming that we shield illegal aliens from the consequences of violating Federal law, yet an American citizen who commits a crime is held accountable under the law. This must end, and we must give the victims of these horrific crimes the justice they deserve.

To further end the harmful practices of sanctuary cities, I am also a proud cosponsor of the Ending Sanctuary Cities Act. This bill prohibits Federal grant funding to any city or county that violates Federal immigration law.

I am proud to support two critical bills that take steps toward preventing future violent and unprovoked crimes by illegal immigrants.

I thank President Trump for his leadership in fighting against the cruelty of sanctuary cities by stating his support for the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act during his State of the Union Address.

This should not be a partisan issue, as no one is above the law.

I stand with my colleagues and President Trump. We must fix our broken immigration system, continue building the wall, and strengthen our immigration laws for the safety and security of the American people.

I will continue fighting against sanctuary cities and their abuse of our great Nation.

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), a great capitalist and a great baseball coach.

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

The greatest commitment I make to my constituents in Texas' 25th District is to keep them and their families safe. Unfortunately, some State and local governments are choosing to put politics over public safety by passing sanctuary immigration laws that prevent local law enforcement from cooperating with Federal immigration officers.

Sanctuary laws not only release dangerous criminals back onto our streets, but they also are a slap in the face to the millions of immigrants who went through the legal process to enter the United States and comply with our laws.

I believe that individuals who enter our country illegally should never be afforded the same privileges as law-abiding Texans.

I support President Trump's decisive and necessary actions to withhold Federal grants from sanctuary jurisdictions that proactively make immigration officers' jobs more challenging by refusing to follow the law.

Congress must take additional action to follow in the footsteps of the Trump

administration. For that reason, today, I am proud to speak in support of the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act.

This important bill holds State and local governments accountable if they choose to put the public at risk by not following immigration laws. It allows for the victims to sue sanctuary jurisdictions if a crime was committed by an individual who was released back into the public instead of being turned over to Federal immigration enforcement officers.

A report by the Texas Department of Public Safety found that 214,000 illegal aliens were charged with over 340,000 crimes between 2011 and February 2020. Many were serious offenses that put the public at risk. There were over 600 homicides, 37,000 assaults, and 3,400 weapons charges, just to name a few.

The victims of these crimes deserve to have an avenue to fight back against sanctuary policies. This bill would force State and local governments to choose whether they will change their dangerous policies and get in line with Federal immigration laws or risk being sued when there is a serious crime committed by an illegal immigrant.

The Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act is the first step to holding rogue State and local governments accountable for exploiting our broken immigration system.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to put the safety of their constituents first by supporting our efforts to get this bill across the finish line.

In God we trust.

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. WATKINS). I appreciate his support on this bill.

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and also for his leadership.

I rise today in support of the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act.

In June of last year, ICE released a list of criminal illegal aliens that were allowed back into their sanctuary communities by local officials. One was deported four times before being arrested.

How common is it for a criminal illegal alien released by the sanctuary jurisdiction to go on and commit further crimes? It is 40 to 80 percent.

This is so wrong. We are a people of laws. This is unacceptable.

My own district, the community of Lawrence, Kansas, is considering adopting a sanctuary city policy.

Quite simply, these policies put our communities at risk. The Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act would help victims of murder, rape, and all other sorts of felonies.

I stand with those victims. I stand with the President. I stand with my colleagues. I stand for all law-abiding citizens. And I stand for justice.

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE). I thank the gentleman for his history of being a strong proponent of Federal immigration enforcement at

the State level and for his time in the Florida Legislature, and I appreciate his support here, as well.

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. BUDD for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to stand for justice with the victims of sanctuary cities.

It is completely offensive to me as an American that we have cities and, in some cases, entire States declaring themselves sanctuaries for illegal immigrants who are mercilessly committing crimes in our Nation.

American citizens are being assaulted, raped, and murdered at the hands of illegal immigrants who should have been deported by ICE, but due to the blatant disregard of Federal law, cities are giving sanctuary to criminals and rapists while actual American citizens can do absolutely nothing about it.

Just last year, two illegal immigrants committed a horrific gang-related murder in the Seattle area. One took a baseball bat to the head and body of a high school student, killing him. Another took a machete to the teen, chopping off an arm and a leg and hacking at his neck.

This followed another gang-related murder in King County, Washington, that also involved an illegal immigrant that local authorities refused to turn over to ICE for deportation.

In the wake of the killings, King County officials have defended their policies and complained that ICE is harassing the county. Apparently, officials in King County, Washington, would rather have Americans be murdered by machete-wielding illegal immigrants than deport noncitizens who pose a risk to those who actually call America home.

Ken Cuccinelli, Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, stated at the time: "You're talking about literally crimes that never should have happened in this country because they're people who, upon their first interaction with the justice system, should have been deported."

Therefore, if cities are going to blatantly ignore the law of the land and provide sanctuary to illegal immigrants that commit crimes in our country, then those cities should be held financially accountable to the families of the victims, and those cities should be stripped of Federal funding until they comply with Federal law.

I will take a step further. It should be a criminal offense for elected officials to blatantly ignore Federal immigration law, and they should be held accountable for denying ICE the ability to protect our country.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), a great friend of mine and a hardworking Member.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. BUDD for yielding and for

working on this issue even though he is not from a State that has as much of it as California.

Indeed, I have seen so much happen to my population at home that many are giving up for a host of reasons, but this is one right near the top of the list for leaving our State, to go to others that don't have sanctuary cities or sanctuary State policies.

If you go back in time, what really was at the front of this issue that put it on a lot of people's radar around the country was the Kate Steinle tragedy that happened in San Francisco. An illegal immigrant was here, having been deported many times over, and still had this opportunity for whatever the circumstances that took the life of Kate Steinle.

Time and time again, in my home State, people are fed up. I had a chance to sit down with some members of ICE here the other day. They are just trying to do their job. They are just trying to uphold the law.

Indeed, what some of my colleagues have talked about here this evening is that we have people actually causing the law to be broken that are elected officials—people that swore an oath to the Constitution, to the laws of this country, and to my home State—now causing one of the worst things: an increase of crime you can see in California.

□ 1700

The exodus from California comes from the root cause of things like not only the high cost of doing business but the crime wave that is hitting California, and that is rooted in this sanctuary city, illegal immigration, and the things that they cause to make our communities less safe.

So, at this point, I am proud to be able to join in this bill that Mr. BUDD is bringing.

We need to have sanctions against States and cities and, as Mr. STEUBE talked about, hold accountable the public officials that are causing their own cities, their own jurisdictions, to be defying the law.

How are we supposed to teach our kids or anybody that the law has value when we have people making it a contest to see how much they can defy the Trump administration and the law itself?

Madam Speaker, I appreciate this time tonight and Mr. BUDD's effort on this.

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. LAMALFA, and I appreciate his thoughts.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I yield to someone who is focused on securing our border, making sure as well that West Virginia remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family, almost heaven, if you will.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER. Madam Speaker, I would first like to thank my colleague

from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for his leadership on this important issue.

We still have a crisis on our southern border. While we have made progress, we need to finish the job.

We are continuing to construct our border wall, to strengthen our ports of entry, and to keep drugs and crime out of our communities. Yet, while President Trump, the heads of our Federal agencies, and congressional Republicans have joined together to draft good legislation and enforce our country's laws, we, sadly, have areas in our country that harbor criminals under the hypocritical title of sanctuary cities.

In defiance of our laws, many places like San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York City, and others have publicly pledged to serve as a safe haven for the dangerous criminals living in the shadows of our society.

Meaningful immigration reform is crucial, but removing dangerous criminals cannot wait. Crime affects every person in this country—every citizen, every visitor, every single person, whether of legal status or otherwise. We have seen that anybody can be a victim of crime when our city leaders refuse to remove violent offenders off our streets.

These city officials have provided sanctuaries for lawbreakers but not for law followers. We need justice for those victims.

While city leaders protect criminals from deportation and frustrate our Federal immigration enforcers, it is well past time to create a pathway to justice for the law-abiding members of our communities.

If these sanctuary city officials will not protect their citizens, they must pay a price. They must be held accountable and responsible for their reckless negligence.

We need to allow victims and their families to sue these cities that have blocked our Federal agents from enforcing laws and shielded violent criminals from removal. President Trump spoke of this in his eloquent and powerful State of the Union Message.

I am proud to cosponsor the Justice for Victims of Sanctuary Cities Act introduced by Mr. BUDD because my fellow West Virginians and many Americans know that this is the right thing for our country.

Good governance depends on transparency and accountability for our citizens and cooperation between Federal, State, and local leaders. Sanctuary cities deny these.

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I thank Mrs. MILLER for being here tonight. I appreciate her support on this.

Madam Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues who have made it tonight to speak on the dangers that sanctuary cities pose to the communities around us.

It strikes me as common sense to pursue legislation that allows families and victims legal recourse against the municipalities and policies that have caused them so much damage.

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

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 5 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1928

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER) at 7 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 68, DIRECTING THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES AGAINST THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2486, FOSTERING UNDERGRADUATE TALENT BY UNLOCKING RESOURCES FOR EDUCATION ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6172, USA FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2020; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MCGOVERN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-415) on the resolution (H. Res. 891) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 68) to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2486) to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6172) to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the production of certain business records, and for other purposes; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEWIS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for March 3 through today.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on March 3, 2020, she presented to the President of the

United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 4998. To prohibit certain Federal subsidies from being used to purchase communications equipment or services posing national security risks, to provide for the establishment of a reimbursement program for the replacement of communications equipment or services posing such risks, and for other purposes.

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, further reported that on March 5, 2020, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 6074. Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 11, 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:

4084. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Exemptions From Investment Adviser Registration for Advisers to Certain Rural Business Investment Companies [Release No.: IA-5454] (RIN: 3235-AM68) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4085. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Auctions Division, Office of Economics and Analytics, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Auction of Priority Access Licenses for the 3550-3650 MHz Band; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 105; Bidding in Auction 105 Scheduled to Begin June 25, 2020 [AU Docket No.: 19-244] received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4086. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Alabama: Revisions to the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule [EPA-R04-OAR-2019-0214; FRL-10006-31-Region 4] received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4087. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; AL; 2010 1-Hour SO₂ NAAQS Transport Infrastructure [EPA-R04-OAR-2018-0792; FRL-10006-25-Region 4] received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4088. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agen-

cy's final rule — Air Plan Approval; GA and NC: Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R04-OAR-2019-0503; FRL-10006-32-Region 4] received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4089. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Georgia: Revisions to Aerospace VOC Rule [EPA-R04-OAR-2019-0457; FRL-10006-21-Region 4] received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4090. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Tennessee: Open Burning and Definitions Revisions for Chattanooga [EPA-R04-OAR-2019-0270; FRL-10006-33-Region 4] received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4091. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia: Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2019-0162; FRL-1000-19-Region 3] received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4092. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Cyazofamid; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0832; FRL-10005-85] received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4093. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Microorganisms; General Exemptions from Reporting Requirements; Revisions to Recipient Organisms Eligible for Tier I and Tier II Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2011-0740; FRL-9991-60] (RIN: 2070-AJ65) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4094. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Boat Manufacturing and Reinforced Plastic Composites Production Risk and Technology Review [EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0447 and EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0449; FRL-10006-04-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AT12) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4095. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Municipal Solid Waste Landfills Residual Risk and Technology Review [EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0047; FRL-10006-05-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AU18) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4096. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Revisions to the Refrigerant Management Program's Extension to Substitutes [EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0629; FRL-10006-10-OAR] (RIN: 2070-AT81) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4097. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 Ozone Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2019-0103; FRL-10006-20-Region 3] received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4098. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to U.S. Navy Construction Activities at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, California [Docket No.: 200212-0055] (RIN: 0648-BH28) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4099. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Missoula, MT [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0761; Airspace Docket No.: 19-ANM-18] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4100. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Astoria, OR [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0315; Airspace Docket No.: 18-ANM-3] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4101. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Gunnison, CO [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0341; Airspace Docket No.: 18-ANM-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4102. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Rifle, CO [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0328; Airspace Docket No.: 18-ANM-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4103. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Defense and Space S.A. (Formerly Known as Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0869; Product Identifier 2019-NM-162-AD; Amendment 39-19842; AD 2020-03-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4104. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0727; Product Identifier 2019-NM-090-AD; Amendment 39-19840; AD 2020-03-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4105. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0016; Product Identifier 2018-NM-168-AD; Amendment 39-19839; AD 2020-03-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4106. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0877; Product Identifier 2019-NM-146-AD; Amendment 39-19847; AD 2020-03-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4107. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0526; Product Identifier 2019-NM-023-AD; Amendment 39-19841; AD 2020-03-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4108. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0872; Product Identifier 2019-NM-156-AD; Amendment 39-19848; AD 2020-03-24] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4109. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0868; Product Identifier 2019-NM-152-AD; Amendment 39-19843; AD 2020-03-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4110. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0871; Product Identifier 2019-NM-139-AD; Amendment 39-19846; AD 2020-03-22] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4111. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31299; Amdt. No.: 3894] received March 6, 2020, pur-

suant 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.

4112. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31298; Amdt. No.: 3893] received March 6, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 891. Resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 68) to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2486) to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6172) to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the production of certain business records, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (Rept. 116-415). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. MOORE (for herself, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CLAY, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. LAWSON of Florida):

H.R. 6164. A bill to grow and diversify the perinatal workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas (for herself, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CLAY, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. MOORE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. HAALAND):

H.R. 6165. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve data collection with respect to maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KIM (for himself and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 6166. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize and support the creation and dissemination of cardiomyopathy education, awareness, and risk assessment materials and resources to identify more at-risk families, to authorize research and surveillance activities relating to cardiomyopathy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 6167. A bill to require certain financial assistance under the State energy program and the Weatherization Assistance

Program to be distributed without undue delay to support State and local high-impact energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. LURIA (for herself and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 6168. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2020, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FULCHER (for himself and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 6169. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 6170. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a pilot program to study the efficacy of dog-assisted therapy on vulnerable populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 6171. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to publish a national strategic action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 6172. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the production of certain business records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select), Oversight and Reform, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Ms. SHALALA):

H.R. 6173. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to require group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage to cover COVID-19 testing without cost sharing; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. CURTIS):

H.R. 6174. A bill to support the inclusive and meaningful participation of youth in peace building and conflict prevention, management, and resolution, as well as post-conflict relief and recovery efforts; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 6175. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rehabilitation credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, and Mr. WALTZ):

H.R. 6176. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to develop a solar workforce training course for certain members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H.R. 6177. A bill to require Members of Congress to disclose delinquent tax liabilities and wage garnishments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. SABLAN):

H.R. 6178. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a demonstration program to facilitate the clinical adoption of pregnancy intention screening initiatives by health care and social service providers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6179. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a demonstration project to increase access to biosimilar biological products under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. CLYBURN):

H.R. 6180. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 213 William Hilton Parkway on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, as the "Caesar H. Wright Jr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 6181. A bill to prevent the changing of regulations governing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, to provide for expanded food security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. FUDGE (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. DELGADO, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 6182. A bill to amend the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 with respect to assessments of conservation programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 6183. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to meet standards for the location and operation of polling places used in elections for Federal office, including a standard requiring States to ensure that no individual waits for longer than one hour to cast a vote at a polling place, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. ROUNTA):

H.R. 6184. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to modify the reporting requirement for the nationally significant freight and highway projects program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 6185. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on the extraction of certain water for bottling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 6186. A bill to facilitate screening and criminal history background checks for individuals seeking access to qualified chemical and refining infrastructure entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOYER (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. TRONE):

H. Con. Res. 96. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ALLRED (for himself, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. TAYLOR, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. BABIN, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. MARCHANT):

H. Res. 892. A resolution resolution to honor the life and legacy of Jack Repp; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. KILMER, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. NORTON, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. KENNEDY):

H. Res. 893. A resolution expressing support for designation of March 21, 2020, as "National Rosie the Riveter Day"; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KEATING:

H. Res. 894. A resolution expressing the continued commitment of the House of Representatives to condemn and prevent the use of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict as a weapon of war and fully implement the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MOORE:

H. Res. 895. A resolution recognizing National School Breakfast Week from March 2nd through March 6th, 2020, and expressing the sense of Congress that providing breakfast in schools through the National School Breakfast Program has a positive impact on classroom performance; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 6164.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas:

H.R. 6165.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KIM:

H.R. 6166.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution: Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 6167.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution; and under Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution; and Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. LURIA:

H.R. 6168.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

On January 5, 2011, the House of Representatives adopted an amendment to House Rule XII. Rule XII, clause 7(c) requires that, to be accepted for introduction by the House Clerk, all bills (H.R.) and joint resolutions (H.J.Res.) must provide a document stating "as specifically as practicable the power or powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the bill or joint resolution."

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 6169.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 6170.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 6171.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

"To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 6172.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 6173.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3e

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 6174.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

[Page H10170]

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 6175.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause I

By Mr. O'HALLERAN:

H.R. 6176.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H.R. 6177.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 5, which reads: Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 6178.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 6179.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM:

H.R. 6180.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 6181.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8; U.S. Constitution

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 6182.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States, and with Indian tribes.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 6183.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 6184.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 6185.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: power to tax and spend

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 6186.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 451: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 530: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 584: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 587: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 663: Mr. HAGEDORN.

H.R. 713: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 921: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 961: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 1055: Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 1118: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 1135: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1154: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1241: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 1379: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. HURD of Texas.

H.R. 1522: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 1554: Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.

H.R. 1601: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BALDERSON, and Mr. HICE of Georgia.

H.R. 1707: Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 1854: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 1858: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1872: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 2129: Mr. BANKS.

H.R. 2166: Mr. BEYER, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. COX of California, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CORREA, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 2293: Mr. LAWSON of Florida and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2314: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. WATKINS.

H.R. 2517: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 2633: Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 2693: Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LONG, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 2711: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 2731: Mrs. LESKO, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. BAIRD, and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2895: Ms. GABBARD and Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 2927: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 3078: Mr. HARDER of California and Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 3180: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 3208: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 3215: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 3266: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 3378: Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 3597: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 3714: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 3801: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 3884: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 3935: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 4022: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 4138: Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 4164: Mr. WATKINS.

H.R. 4348: Mrs. AXNE and Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 4370: Mr. MAST.

H.R. 4447: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 4494: Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 4524: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 4527: Ms. OMAR and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 4540: Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 4546: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 4588: Mr. ZELDIN.

H.R. 4681: Mr. GUTHRIE and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 4705: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 4729: Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 4789: Mr. GIANFORTE.

H.R. 4792: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 4800: Mr. BANKS.

H.R. 4881: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 5212: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 5265: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 5306: Mr. BRINDISI.

H.R. 5572: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. RYAN, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 5602: Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GOLDEN, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WEXTON, and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 5674: Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 5698: Mr. NORMAN and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 5701: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 5711: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CALVERT, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 5717: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 5765: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 5808: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 5818: Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 5913: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 5957: Mr. BABIN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MASSIE, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR,

Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SEN-
SENBRENNER, and Mr. WATKINS.

H.R. 5995: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 6024: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 6034: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 6057: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 6082: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 6101: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 6107: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 6108: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 6120: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 6128: Mrs. LESKO and Mr. HICE of Georgia.

H.R. 6142: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. McEACHIN, and Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 6150: Mr. MORELLE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. SIREN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. SCANLON, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.J. Res. 2: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H. Con. Res. 89: Mr. PANETTA, Ms. TITUS, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. HAALAND, and Mr. POCAN.

H. Res. 114: Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

H. Res. 408: Mr. KILDEE.

H. Res. 458: Mr. COHEN and Ms. FRANKEL.

H. Res. 642: Mr. CALVERT.

H. Res. 672: Mr. SUOZZI.

H. Res. 759: Mr. NEGUSE.

H. Res. 823: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H. Res. 862: Mr. O'HALLERAN.

H. Res. 872: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H. Res. 882: Mr. COSTA.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MRS. CAROLYN B. MALONEY OF
NEW YORK

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Oversight and Reform in H.R. 6172, the USA Freedom Reauthorization Act do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY Mr. NADLER

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Judiciary in H.R. 6172 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY Mr. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Homeland Security in H.R. 6172 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

88. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, TX, relative to opposing the proposed bill in the 116th Congress, H.R. 5383, by Representative Garcia of Illinois, euphemistically called the "New Way Forward Act" relative to the process for enforcing the immigration laws of the United States; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.



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No. 46

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Senator from South Carolina, the Honorable TIM SCOTT, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, teach us reverential awe. Give us the respect for You and Your purposes that You are due. Bless our leaders. Keep them from evil as You lead them to make a positive impact on our Nation and world.

Lord, rescue them from the inevitable troubles of life, protecting them from harm. As they seek to serve You, fill them with a faith that will not shrink, though oppressed by many foes. May they continually rejoice because of Your promise that no weapon formed against them shall prosper.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute in morning business.

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

IOWA HISTORY MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as all Iowans know, I love history. That brings me to the floor to honor March as Iowa History Month.

Here are some facts about Iowa. Since becoming a State in 1846, Iowa has raised one President—that is Presi-

dent Hoover—and four Nobel laureates, and is home to over 2,000 locations on the National Register of Historic Places.

Our heritage is preserved by Iowans who do their good work through maintaining Iowa's museums and historic sites. I encourage all of my fellow Iowans to help pass on our history to the next generation by taking advantage of the many programs hosted this month by visiting www.iowaculture.gov.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday evening, the President, the Vice President, and their task force offered an extensive public briefing on ongoing efforts to combat this new virus, which has spread from China throughout the world.

As the Director of the CDC explained, officials are now tracking more than 500 cases across our country. Nationwide, the risk to any individual American remains low, but as the Vice President and the experts reminded us, the time is now for all Americans to engage in basic commonsense measures and for Americans at heightened risk to take additional precautions. Detailed recommendations for individuals, families, and employers are available online at coronavirus.gov.

President Trump also announced that in parallel with the public health response, his administration is considering ways to mitigate the impact of the virus on our economy. Senate Republicans look forward to discussing this with Secretary Mnuchin and the President's team so we can all consider the best ways to move forward for the American people. As our government continues to prepare and protect our Nation, I would urge all of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle in both Chambers, to put reflexive partisanship aside and stay focused on our common work to promote the common good. This virus does not care—does not care—about partisan divisions.

This disease poses a challenge, no question, but our Nation is strong, we are well equipped, and we have overcome far, far greater challenges before. As the Vice President put it yesterday, "We're all in this together."

S. 2657

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, this week, we have the opportunity to pass major legislation to strengthen our domestic energy. Chairman MURKOWSKI, Senator MANCHIN, and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee have assembled a strong, bipartisan bill. I look forward to passing it.

I was disappointed yesterday when the Senate failed to advance the legislation and clear a path toward completing the bill. The committee's product includes about 50 different bills and contributions from nearly three-fourths of the Members of this body, and contrary to the Democratic leader's assertions on the floor, I am certainly not blocking any bipartisan amendment. I have stated right here on the floor that I hope and anticipate that we will vote on amendments this week.

Don't be fooled by the finger-pointing. I am not standing in the way of bipartisan amendments. What is really

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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happening is that the Democratic leader is moving the goalposts. There had been a bipartisan understanding about how to finish this bill, but yesterday the Democratic leader decided to change his tune and demand a vote on something outside the scope of the current debate. I hope we can get past this showmanship, finish this bipartisan legislation, and send it to the House so we can get it on the President's desk. Let's don't squander this real opportunity.

Chairman MURKOWSKI's and Senator MANCHIN's compromise product will help our Nation move toward greater energy security, energy efficiency, and energy affordability for years to come—new support for energy efficiency efforts, new incentives for innovation, new tools to secure our electrical grid, and new ways to strengthen our domestic supply chain for important minerals, and on and on and on.

This Chamber got it right last week when it proceeded to the bill by a vote of 90 to 4. It hasn't suddenly become controversial overnight. Everyone knows there are plenty of outside issues that Senators do not agree on. We should let ourselves agree on what we do agree on. Let me say that again: We should let ourselves agree on what we do agree on and complete this legislation this week.

Let's keep legislating. Let's get this done. The American people deserve it.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, on a final matter, this afternoon all Senators will have the opportunity to attend a briefing on election security from administration experts who tackle the issue every day. The FBI Director; the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security; General Nakasone of the NSA and Cyber Command; the Director of Counterintelligence at the DNI; and a number of other senior leaders will come here to the Capitol to discuss this critical subject.

I look forward to hearing more about the significant and strong steps the Trump administration has taken over the past 3 years to secure our democracy and punch back against the real and varied foreign efforts to interfere. I look forward to hearing more about the unprecedented level of coordination that has connected nonpartisan Federal experts in all 50 States, U.S. territories, thousands of local jurisdictions, and private sector leaders to make sure the unpreparedness and inaction that defined the Obama administration's failures in 2016 was not repeated in 2018 and will not be repeated in 2020 or beyond.

I look forward to hearing about how the record sums of money, hundreds of millions of dollars that Congress has put aside for direct grants so States and local election officials can shore up their systems, are making our democracy safer. I expect I will have more to say following the briefing. I expect

many of our colleagues will, but, beforehand, I would like to say this: The American people have confidence in our democracy, as they should. Just last month, a survey found that more than 70 percent of Americans are confident their State or local government will conduct a fair and accurate election this November. Let me say this again. Just last month, a survey found that more than 70 percent of Americans are confident their State or local government will conduct a fair and accurate election this November, and they should be confident about the resilience of our institutions.

Our Nation is strong. The Trump administration has made huge strides. After 8 years of weakness, this administration's foreign policy has made it clear to our adversaries that the United States of America is not going to be pushed around, but the American people also know we must remain vigilant. As long as Russia and other nations seek to meddle, we need to be ready.

Election security is critically important to our Nation, and it can only be handled right if it is handled with good faith and bipartisanship.

When Washington Democrats use this particular topic as a platform for demonizing the other side or for pushing tangential policy proposals, which the left had sought many years—many years—before 2016, everyone can see right through it. It only signals unseriousness.

So I encourage all my colleagues to attend the bipartisan briefing today, and then let's preserve that bipartisan spirit and that unity. Let's focus on fighting against foreign interference, not fighting each other.

We should not just snap right back into tired, old partisanship. We should not let Putin or anyone else bait Americans into talking down our own democracy or sowing more fear and discord among ourselves than other adversaries could ever hope to do themselves.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3422

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3422) to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land

Management, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Indian Education, and to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

S. 2657

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before I get into the remarks, substance, of coronavirus and H.R. 1, I would like to mention that Leader MCCONNELL did not give the right story when he talked about the Energy bill. I would remind people, 13 Democrats voted for cloture; 15 Republicans opposed cloture. I would remind the leader that it was a Republican, Senator KENNEDY, who led the charge to deny cloture, and it was well known that Democrats simply wanted an amendment on the Kennedy bill—a Republican amendment—wanted an ability to vote. Once again, because Leader MCCONNELL does not allow amendments and debate and, instead, just adds more items to his legislative graveyard, the bill went down. But 13 Democrats voted for cloture. If he had his Republican troops together, he might have been able to pass it anyway. To blame Democrats and say we are moving the goalpost is just a total misstatement of what happened.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on COVID, as our country continues to experience the spread of coronavirus, COVID-19, the effects are beginning to be more acutely felt. First and foremost, our hearts go out to the families of those who have lost loved ones during this illness. Second, our healthcare systems are under tremendous stress, businesses have been forced to cut back, and the virus is already starting to take a toll on the economy. As the impact of the coronavirus spreads, the administration appears to have shifted its focus, holding a press conference yesterday to talk about measures the administration might pursue to calm the markets.

I would remind the White House: By far, the best way to ensure economic security for the American people is to deal directly with the coronavirus itself. Again, getting a handle on the crisis and addressing the virus itself is by far the best way to respond to any negative effects on our economy.

The administration seems to believe that the answer to any problem is another tax cut. And no matter what they say about it when they put it together, it always seems to benefit the wealthy and the big and powerful corporations. This is a healthcare crisis; it demands a healthcare solution.

To borrow an expression: You must treat the disease, not the symptoms.

Mr. President, do you hear that? You must treat the disease—the coronavirus—not the symptom, which is the result of the coronavirus, which is the economy.

The President wakes up to a problem only after it has an effect on Wall Street, and his solutions are often aimed, misguidedly, only at calming the nerves on Wall Street. The real answer in this case is to protect the American people, focus on their health and economic security, and competently respond to the public health crisis at our doorstep.

Speaker PELOSI and I have mentioned several actions we could take, from paid sick leave for impacted workers to unemployment insurance, food and housing security, and protections against price gouging. But one thing the administration must focus on right now, above all, is fixing the problems we are having with testing.

The most powerful tool in responding to a virus is to know precisely where it is and how it is spreading. Because the administration took weeks before they developed an accurate test and because the administration was slow to ramp up the number of Americans tested and is now having trouble turning around the results of those tests at a fast enough pace, we are now far behind where we ought to be in understanding how far the virus has already spread.

The United States has the best hospitals, doctors, and scientists in the world. Yet, currently, we are lagging far behind other countries when it comes to testing our citizens. We are behind the United Kingdom, behind France, behind China, behind Switzerland, the Netherlands, Israel, Japan, and Italy. Every day we read a new story in the press about Americans having difficulty getting a test for coronavirus even though they are displaying symptoms. Our own Health and Human Services was unable to say how many Americans have been tested.

It is shocking; it is infuriating. If other countries can do this, why can't we? If other countries do it right, why can't we? South Korea, which has far more prevalent amounts of coronavirus, is already seeing the number of new reports go down because they have done extensive, thorough, and accurate testing.

The result here—why we are not doing as well as other countries is a direct result of the colossal failure of leadership and planning from this administration and this President. One word describes the Trump administration's response to the coronavirus so far: "Incompetence."

I know there are hard-working CDC scientists and experts trying to help the American people. The political appointees are the ones who don't seem to get it and are putting politics over the safety and security of the American people. And it goes right to the top. In the midst of a public health crisis—a serious and dangerous public health crisis—the President has repeatedly pushed unscientific claims about the coronavirus, the availability of a vaccine, and given bad advice—bad advice—to Americans who might have symptoms.

If the President would just keep quiet, it would be better than what he is doing, which is negative. What we really need is leadership. More than ever, we need the President to drop the conspiracy theories, end the Panglossian optimism, and the unscientific speculation. Now more than ever, we need President Trump to lead our government's response with competence and to be truthful with the American people. As I said yesterday, we are all rooting for that, but the President and his administration must take a hard look in the mirror, focus on the problem at hand, not the side effects, and get to work on fixing them.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, H.R. 1—this past Sunday marked one year since the House passed H.R. 1, the For the People Act. This bill takes urgent and long overdue steps to renew our democracy. It will reverse the corrupting effects of Citizens United. It will restore protections for voting. And it will take aim at Washington's culture of corruption, which has run rampant under this administration.

It could not come at a better time. Every election, we see the sweeping power of big money. State legislatures have found new ways to deny Americans, often minorities, access to the ballot. Our adversaries—including the Russians—work day and night to influence our elections and sow confusion in the public sphere. H.R. 1 would forcefully and directly address each of these issues. But, like every other bill passed by the House over the past 2 years, it has been buried in Leader MCCONNELL's legislative graveyard. We must move it. This bill is about making our democracy work and giving American citizens some faith in the future.

Republicans, rather than working with Democrats to strengthen our democracy, have stood in the way. They have blocked election security legislation and sanctions to deter foreign adversaries from trying to interfere in our democracy. They have enabled

President Trump's assault on the separation of powers through their silence on the President's many abuses of power. Even today, the Republicans are putting forward a nominee for the Federal Election Commission who expressed doubts regarding the benefits of even the most reasonable restrictions on campaign spending, including disclosure.

When H.R. 1 first passed the House, Leader MCCONNELL called this bill to restore voting rights and get money out of politics a "terrible proposal" and a "power grab." If Leader MCCONNELL thinks that getting big money out of politics is a terrible idea, if he truly believes making it easier for Americans to vote is a power grab by Democrats, then God help the Republican Party and God help this country.

Democrats will not stop fighting for this bill, nor will we ever stop fighting to restore the democratic values that have guided our Nation for 2½ centuries. In the United States, each person's vote should have the same weight as everyone else's. That is a hallmark of our democracy. A fair and free election is the wellspring of our democracy. It is what Americans have died for in the battlefields around the world, what civil rights activists have marched for across the bridges and the generations. And though the Republican leader has been adamant in his opposition to this legislation, the American people, thank God, will have a chance this November to elect a new Senate that will move this country in a dramatically different direction.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ADVANCED GEOTHERMAL INNOVATION LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2019—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2657, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2657) to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Murkowski modified amendment No. 1407, in the nature of a substitute.

Portman/Shahen amendment No. 1514 (to amendment No. 1407), to establish greater energy efficiency and cost-effectiveness in building codes.

Shahen amendment No. 1525 (to amendment No. 1514), to modify the authorization of appropriations for cost-effective codes implementation for efficiency and resilience.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip is recognized.

5G SPECTRUM

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, the United States is poised for nationwide deployment of the next generation of internet technology—5G. 5G will mark a giant leap forward for internet technology, delivering speeds that are up to 100 times faster than what today's technology can deliver. It will be vastly more responsive than 4G technology and will be able to connect 100 times the number of devices that can be connected with 4G.

While that will make it even easier to do the things we do today, like check our email or stream our favorite shows, the biggest benefits of 5G lie in the other technologies that it will enable—precision agriculture, medical and surgical innovations, safer vehicles, and more.

5G is already being deployed. Cities across the country, including Sioux Falls in my home State, are introducing 5G networks. There is still work to be done before 5G can be fully implemented nationwide. A big part of that work is freeing up adequate spectrum to support the technology.

Like all internet technology, 5G relies on radio spectrum, or what we commonly call the airwaves. In the United States, radio spectrum is owned by the American taxpayer but is licensed to companies that make use of the spectrum to broadcast TV and radio programs, connect cell phone calls, and transmit internet data. Radio spectrum is divided into bands—low-band, mid-band, and high-band—according to frequency and wavelength. Current wireless technology mostly relies on low-band spectrum, but 5G will require the full range of radio spectrum—low-band, mid-band, and high-band.

The United States has done a good job freeing up high-band spectrum for 5G, but we need to free up more mid-band spectrum to see full-scale 5G deployment. Mid-band spectrum is crucial for 5G. It combines strong data capacity with good geographical coverage and allows 5G signals to penetrate buildings in more urban areas. Mid-band spectrum is particularly crucial for rural 5G deployment, as it can provide the coverage and capacity to reach less populated areas.

As past chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee and current chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Inno-

vation, and the Internet, I have been working on 5G for a number of years now. In 2018, Congress passed my MOBILE NOW Act, which laid the groundwork for freeing up more spectrum for 5G.

This past November, Senator WICKER and I introduced the 5G Spectrum Act to require the Federal Communications Commission to free up a critical portion of mid-band spectrum, commonly referred to as C band, for 5G use. While Congress did not enact our legislation, at the end of February, the Federal Communications Commission announced it would adopt a framework similar to that outlined in our bill to make 280 megahertz of C band spectrum available for 5G.

Currently, C band spectrum is licensed by satellite companies that use the spectrum to deliver programming for television and radio broadcasters, among other things. Under the FCC's new rules, the majority of this mid-band spectrum will be made available to wireless companies for 5G. Satellite companies will still be able to provide all the services they are currently providing by launching new satellites and investing in new technologies to make more efficient use of the C band. The licensees for the remaining portion of the C band spectrum will be returned to the government, which will then offer the spectrum to wireless companies in a public auction. Satellite companies will be reimbursed for the cost of relocating their operations to the upper range of the band, and they will be offered incentives for moving their operations quickly so that space for 5G can be freed up as soon as possible. I was very pleased by the FCC's decision, which I think provides the most expeditious and efficient way to free up the necessary mid-band spectrum for 5G.

Some have argued that rather than reimbursing satellite companies, the government should just pull the satellite companies' licenses, but there are a number of problems with that approach.

First of all, while it is true that radio spectrum is owned by the taxpayers, satellite companies have invested a lot of money to put the spectrum into service. While they will still have enough C-band spectrum to provide current services, shifting their operations to the upper band of the spectrum will require a substantial investment. It is fair that they be reimbursed for this government-required shift.

Furthermore, reimbursing companies and providing incentives for them to quickly free up spectrum is the fastest way to make that spectrum available. Simply demanding that companies relinquish their control of a substantial portion of the C band could tie the government up in litigation for years, while countries like China take the lead on 5G.

Finally, setting a precedent for the government to simply seize spectrum licenses would create a significant disincentive for technological investment.

Why should companies invest major sums of money in bringing next-generation technologies to market if they are likely to have the licenses on which those technologies depend seized without warning?

The truth is that the taxpayers will see a bigger return—for deficit reduction, rural broadband, and other priorities—if companies are incentivized to invest. The United States was at the head of the 4G revolution, and we need to ensure that we are at the head of the 5G revolution as well. Winning the race to 5G will provide huge economic benefits for American businesses and American workers, and it will allow the United States to set security standards for telecommunications networks worldwide.

I am very pleased that the FCC has acted to free up mid-band spectrum needed for full-scale deployment of 5G around the country. I will continue to work to ensure that American companies and American workers have the resources they need to bring us into the 5G future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip is recognized.

FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, perhaps later today or one day this week, we will have debate on the Senate floor and a vote, and that vote literally will decide the future for over 200,000 young Americans.

Politicians and elected officials are prone to exaggeration, but I don't exaggerate when I say that, because we will have an opportunity here to debate and vote on a system that was put in place years ago to protect students from being defrauded by the colleges they attend. It is called the borrower defense program. It was started years ago. It was really designed for that rare situation where a student would take out a government loan to go to college after the college made misrepresentations about the education it offered. The student would rely on those misrepresentations, sign up for the school, sign up for the government loan, and learn, to his disappointment, months or years later that the school had lied to him. The school may have told him: If you take this certain course at this school, you will qualify for a certain job or licensure. The school may have misrepresented to the student that the courses they took at the school could be transferred to other schools if the student decided to go to a different university to complete their education. The misrepresentation may have been something as basic as saying "All of our professors and instructors at this school have certain college degrees qualifying them to teach you," or the school may have misrepresented to the student that "If you complete this course, here are the jobs that will be readily available for you to fill."

Students listen to those promises, sometimes rely on them, oftentimes

signing loans with the Federal Government that need to be paid off later, and then they learn they were lied to.

Because they were defrauded or lied to or misrepresentations were made, we set up a provision in the law that said there is a way out for the student. You don't end up holding the bag here when a college or university which the United States government has recognized as accredited has lied to you. You are not left holding the bag. There is another way out. Our Department of Education will take a look at your circumstances and decide whether there is evidence that this school has lied to you or misrepresented, and if we find it, we can restructure or forgive some part or all of your student loan debt.

You know, that makes all the difference in the world to these students because here they are holding the bag, with tens, if not hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt because of lies that were made by the schools that tried to entice them into enrollment. It is called the borrower defense program.

Under President Obama, thousands of students came to the program and said: We were lied to by these schools.

Most of the schools are for-profit colleges and universities. One of the most notorious—Corinthian Colleges—is now bankrupt and gone, but for years, they were enticing thousands of Americans into their programs. They were signing up young students for courses, making them sign the loan agreements, and then after that was done, the students learned later on that the education was virtually worthless.

What happened to Corinthian? Well, the people who started this for-profit college and university did quite well, thank you. All these students paid thousands of dollars to them, and even though they misrepresented the school to the students, they ended up taking the money and going home, and the school faced bankruptcy, and the students are left holding the bag. That is the unfortunate reality we face. We can do something about it today.

The Secretary of Education, Mrs. DeVos, has decided to change the way students have to go through proving their losses, and that is why we are here today. The House has voted overwhelmingly saying Secretary DeVos's approach was unfair. I will describe to you why we think it is unfair.

What we are asking Members of the Senate to do today is take an honest look at the plight of these students and decide whether they are entitled to any relief under the proposal by Secretary DeVos. We estimate that fewer than 3 percent of the students will receive any kind of relief because of the approach she uses. What we can do today is reject that approach. This vote is not about any alternative approach. Though, we could sit down and actually negotiate a better way to deal with this. I have talked to Members on the Republican side about doing just that.

The first step is to stop this new rule by Secretary DeVos, and that will be

an opportunity we have today. If we stop these rules she has promulgated, then the students will have a chance to have some part of their student loan forgiven—perhaps all of it—if they can prove through evidence that they have been defrauded.

Let me be more specific about what we are facing here. In 1992, Congress added a provision to the Higher Education Act which I just described called the borrower defense program. It allowed student borrowers defrauded by their schools to have their Federal student loans discharged. Congress rightly didn't want students left holding the bag because the schools had been guilty of misconduct. It was really a little known or rarely used portion of the law until the year 2014 with the collapse of the for-profit giant Corinthian Colleges.

Corinthian had lied to students one after the other. They inflated their job placement rates, saying to students: Take these courses, and there are plenty of jobs waiting for you. They took out loans for students without the knowledge of the students, and then they lied to the students about employers' recognizing their degrees.

Yet Corinthian was not unique. Nearly every other major for-profit college has been the subject of multiple State and Federal investigations and lawsuits for similar predatory practices.

Since 2015—just 5 years ago—nearly 300,000 student borrowers, mostly from these for-profit colleges, have applied to our U.S. Department of Education for borrower defense discharges. They have said: We were lied to. These schools lied to us about what the education would mean to our futures. They enticed us into getting student loans, and we learned too late that we have been subjects of this fraud. Now, because our lives have been compromised with the great debts that we carry, we are asking for relief from a 1992 law that has been established.

Almost 220,000 of these students have pending claims with the U.S. Department of Education. Do you know how long they have been waiting for resolutions so they know if they can get on with their lives? Many of them have been waiting for years. The claims come from every State in the Union—large, small, red, blue, purple. It doesn't make any difference.

Sadly, it is not going to stop. The Department of Education's estimates show that nearly 200,000 student borrowers will be subject to illegal practices by their schools in 2021 alone. The schools continue to make these misrepresentations to students.

With the new borrower defense rule, Secretary DeVos at the Department of Education will make it virtually impossible for these future defrauded borrowers to receive the borrower defense discharge that Congress intended. The DeVos rule places unreasonable new burdens on defrauded borrowers, including requiring the student borrowers to submit evidence that they

will have to obtain by hiring lawyers and private detectives. For example, defrauded borrowers will have to show that the schools intentionally misled them. How are they supposed to do that?

In addition, the rule requires defrauded borrowers to apply and submit evidence individually instead of being able to apply as a group when many borrowers have experienced similar misconduct across a program or school.

Think about these schools that have been investigated by so many different States and have been found guilty of predatory practices, of exploiting these college students. The schools have been found guilty of defrauding these students in State, after State, after State. Under the new rule by Secretary DeVos, to be discharged under this borrower defense program, each one of the students has to essentially lawyer up. Each one of the students has to hire an investigator.

What is the likelihood that a student who is burdened with debt and is struggling to find a job is going to go out and make those expenditures? It is next to nothing. In fact, it turns out it is about 3 percent of the students who are likely to be able to take advantage of that. Secretary DeVos is basically telling these student borrowers: You are on your own. Lawyer up. Hire a private detective to find the evidence.

This is unfair and unrealistic. We need to go no further than the Department's own statistics to realize that 97 percent of the students have no chance under this DeVos rule. By the experts' best testimony, only 3 percent have a chance of recovering under this new approach. That is the rule we will get a chance to vote on this week, whether that rule should continue.

The Department claims that these new hurdles for borrowers are necessary to guard against fraudulent claims made by students, but there is no evidence—none—of widespread fraud on the part of borrowers among the 300,000 borrower defense claims that have already been submitted. In fact, the Department itself notes that it does not have sufficient information to determine the extent of any potential fraud by students. There is no evidence whatsoever of this notion that Secretary DeVos's rule is needed because of fraud by borrowers. The new rule just means that defrauded borrowers with legitimate claims are not going to get relief.

The Department also claims the DeVos rule protects taxpayers by shifting the burden of relief from the taxpayers to the schools that commit misconduct. Yet it then turns around and acknowledges that other changes in the rule will, in fact, reduce recoveries from schools compared to the 2016 rule, and that means more cost for taxpayers.

The truth is, of the small amount of relief that will be awarded under the DeVos rule, schools will be on the hook for about one-third of it at the most. In

reality, the DeVos rule achieves savings on the backs of the borrowers who are victims of fraud. It eliminates \$11 billion in relief while it reduces the share of relief that the schools which are guilty of fraud have to pay.

The Department also acknowledges that the DeVos rule is not expected to significantly change the percentage of loan volume subject to misconduct. In other words, this rule will not only generate less money from the offending schools, but it will be less likely to discourage future misconduct by the same schools. On the other hand, the former Department inspector general said the 2016 rule would “avoid costs to students and taxpayers that result from school closures.”

I could go on, but the bottom line is this: If we want to stop this insidious practice of defrauding students and having them pile up debt from schools that are phony and that eventually all go out of business, we have to have a program that is sensitive to the needs of the student borrowers and that puts these schools that are guilty of misconduct on the hook for the payoff rather than the taxpayers.

The DeVos rule eliminates the prohibition in the 2016 rule that prevents schools from using mandatory arbitration and class action restriction as a condition of student enrollment. What is mandatory arbitration? It is basically saying to the students and their families: You can't go to court. You have to go into a closed room, sit across the table from one of our lawyers, and take it or leave it.

That is what mandatory arbitration is all about. Class action restrictions mean that the students of one school that defrauded thousands of students can't come together in any kind of legal action.

You don't see those kinds of provisions for mandatory arbitration and class action restrictions in the contracts that most students run into when they sign up at colleges and universities. It is almost exclusively in the area of private, for-profit colleges and universities. The clauses are often buried in stacks of enrollment documents that students rarely, if ever, read. It means that the schools can defraud and mislead students and that they are protected from being held accountable in court. Businesses around America are held accountable for their conduct and misconduct. Why would we let the for-profit colleges and universities off the hook?

Students have nowhere else to turn other than to the taxpayers through this borrower defense program that we are discussing here. Instead of allowing borrowers to hold their schools directly accountable for misconduct in court, Secretary DeVos's rule shields these schools from accountability and puts American taxpayers on the hook.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter that was published in the Charlotte Observer over the weekend. It was written by Shaun Joyce, of Greensboro, NC.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Charlotte Observer, Mar. 8, 2020]

A DWINDLING DEFENSE AGAINST A
FRAUDULENT SCHOOL, BIG LOANS

(By Shaun Joyce)

I'm one of 300,000 people who applied for “borrower defense,” a government rule that is supposed to cancel federal student loan debt for borrowers who have been scammed by their schools, almost 8,000 of us from North Carolina. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has made it harder for defrauded students by rewriting the borrower defense rule with so many restrictions that only 3 percent of the people who were lied to by their schools will get the relief the law says they should.

Fortunately, the U.S. House of Representatives has already voted to strike down DeVos' rewrite, and the Senate is set to vote on it later this month. This won't help my situation because of when I took out my student loans, but I'm hoping that North Carolina Sens. RICHARD BURR and THOM TILLIS will stand up for people cheated by predatory colleges—and pass the bill to provide some justice. I always thought college would be the magic key to unlock opportunity and open the door to the life I wanted. My mother had to drop out before she earned her degree, but always told me, “Go to school.” After learning about the Art Institute of Charlotte, I thought,

“Here's my chance,” envisioning a future as a video game designer. Art Institute recruiters at a college fair convinced me the school was perfect for me. A week later, a representative barely glanced at my portfolio, more interested in selling me and my mother on all sorts of loans. She said the school would prepare me for the job market and connect me to people who could help me land a job. My Bachelor's would cost me around \$64,000, an amount that seemed a little intimidating. But she talked about a number of options—all loans—to help pay for it. She assured me that if my mother didn't qualify for a parent PLUS loan, the school itself would cosign loans for me.

We signed. I was on my way to earning the college degree that would change my life. And it did. But not in any way I would want.

Today, I owe nearly \$100,000 for a degree that didn't prepare me for a job within the gaming industry. I work writing on-hold telephone messages for a marketing company and attend one class at a time at my local community college, working toward a degree in biology—none of my Art Institute classes transferred.

The Art Institute of Charlotte shut down two years ago, but my degree was worthless before then. None of my classes had anything to do with video game design. The school kept pushing me to take out more loans, and I didn't feel I could leave. I still had my dreams—and, as a young black man, the last thing I wanted to do was become just another statistic by dropping out. I switched to an Associate's in hopes of saving money.

When I asked about career opportunities, my adviser sent me Craig's List job postings in California. I never saw any great opportunities. I'm not the only one. Hundreds of thousands of people like me have attended colleges that failed to educate them, left them with crushing debt, and shut down for predatory lending and fraudulent recruitment.

I hope Congress comes through to provide these people struggling and in debt through no fault of their own with some relief. Senators Burr and Tillis should vote yes on Senate Joint Resolution 56.

Shaun Joyce is a 2010 graduate of the Art Institute of Charlotte. He lives in Greensboro, NC.

Mr. DURBIN. Shaun is one of nearly 6,000 borrowers from North Carolina who have applied to the Department for a borrower defense discharge. He attended the Art Institute of Charlotte and thought it was his path to having a successful future. He was told by recruiters that the school would prepare him for a job in video game designing and that those at the school would connect him with people who would help him land that job. That is a pretty serious promise to a young person, isn't it? He said they kept pushing him to take on more and more courses and more and more debt. Eventually, he had so much debt that he felt there was no other option than to finish the degree. He had to go all in with this school, the Art Institute of Charlotte.

He writes: “[As] a young black man, the last thing I wanted to do was become just another statistic by dropping out [of school].”

Shaun owes nearly \$100,000 in student loan debt today for a degree that did not prepare him for a job in the very industry he was promised. When he asked the Art Institute of Charlotte about career opportunities, do you know where they sent him? Craigslist.

As of today, Shaun's work is in writing on-hold telephone messages for a marketing company, and he attends one class at a time at his community college at which none—not one—of his Art Institute credits can be transferred. He has asked the Senate to overturn the DeVos rule. He knows the struggles defrauded student borrowers go through.

I want to share with you a story of a U.S. Army veteran whose name is Jarrod Thoma. Jarrod is from the State of Colorado. After Jarrod left the Army, he wanted to pursue his lifelong passion for electronics by pursuing a degree in engineering. He signed up at the for-profit DeVry University in Westminster, CO. He said he quickly realized he was not getting the quality education it had promised. Course materials and the equipment for instruction were subpar and not as advertised.

He says: “Although DeVry was more than happy to cash all of my GI Bill benefits, my complaints about quality [of the courses they were offering] fell on deaf ears.”

When he tried to transfer, he found out that his credits wouldn't transfer to a public university or even a community college even though DeVry had promised him they would.

In addition to using his entire GI bill benefit for serving this country, he accumulated \$52,000 in additional student loan debt in order to finish his program at DeVry.

On top of that, Jarrod says: “Upon entering the job market, I quickly found that the degree . . . was not worth the paper it was printed on, and it actually hurt my job prospects.”

Jarrod is waiting, along with 3,800 other Coloradans, for the Department

to act on his borrower defense request, and he has urged the Senate to overturn the DeVos rule in order to help future veteran borrowers like him.

Let me also show you Tasha Berkhalter. I met her recently. She is a U.S. Army veteran from Lima, OH. She enrolled at ITT Tech, which is another notorious for-profit school. After she had been honorably discharged from serving in our U.S. Army, she was promised by ITT that her GI bill benefits would cover the cost for the program and that her program would lead to a job in her field after graduation.

At one point, she tried to transfer, only to find out that other schools wouldn't accept the credits she had earned at ITT Tech. She didn't have any options. She had to finish at ITT. Not only did she exhaust her entire GI bill benefits at ITT Tech, but she had to take on additional Federal student loans despite all of ITT's assurances that was not going to happen. Tasha's student loan debt today for having attended ITT Tech is almost \$100,000 beyond her GI bill benefits—all for a degree that she says no employer takes seriously.

Of course, this puts a lot of pressure on her now. Tasha is married and has a family. She is facing overwhelming stress, anxiety, and depression because of the miserable experience she had with this for-profit school, ITT Tech, and the student debt she incurred.

She served our country, and she risked her life for America. When it came to her GI bill benefits, she lost all of it at this for-profit school. She is asking for a chance to start over with her life, and our vote on the Senate floor may decide that. She even questions herself as a wife and as a mother of four young children because she is unable to provide for her family as she is still unable to get a job in her field. She has lost cars, homes, and has had to move from State to State. She supports overturning the DeVos borrower defense rule because she wants defrauded veterans like her to have a shot at relief.

Veterans like Jarrod and Tasha are the reason that I bring this matter to the floor and ask my Republican and Democratic colleagues to join me. So many of us give speeches about our appreciation for the veterans and their service to our country. So many of us voted for the GI bill benefit package. We said to veterans: We owe it to you. You served our country. We want to be on your side after that service so you can build good lives in America.

Then schools like Corinthian and schools like ITT Tech defraud these students out of their GI bill benefits and pile additional debt on top of them. That is why this has become such a major veterans issue.

Take a look at the veterans organizations that support the measure that I bring to the floor today: the American Legion—and I am going to quote from a letter from its national commander in just a moment; the Student Vet-

erans of America; the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; the National Military Family Association; the Paralyzed Veterans of America; the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors; VetsFirst; Veterans for Common Sense; and Veterans Education Success.

I would like to show you this last poster here. It is a letter that I received from Bill Oxford. Bill, as you can see, is the national commander of the American Legion. He wrote to me on behalf of 2 million American Legion members whom he represents because he wanted to go on the record and give me a chance to bring this evidence before my fellow Senators, Republicans and Democrats. Many of them are being visited today by representatives of these veterans organizations, including the American Legion. I hope they can spare a minute of their time in their offices in honor of these veterans and listen to the pleas they are going to make for a vote in favor of the measure I am going to bring before the Senate.

Here is what Bill wrote in his letter to me: "Thousands of student veterans have been defrauded over the years—promised their credits would transfer when they wouldn't, given false or misleading job placement rates in marketing, promised one educational experience . . . but given something completely different." Bill calls this rule by Secretary DeVos "fundamentally rigged against defrauded borrowers" and writes that it "flagrantly denies defrauded veterans [fair and timely] decisions [on their claims]."

Bill closes his letter by calling on Congress to overturn the DeVos rule.

How many times have each of us stood on the floor and talked about honoring the sacrifices of men and women who serve our country in uniform?

Well, we have a chance to do it with a vote this week—to put our votes where all of our speeches have been. We have a chance to stand up not just for the American Legion but for all the veterans groups that I referred to before, to give defrauded student veterans and student loan borrowers a fair shot at the Federal student debt relief that Congress intended for them.

We don't do many things on a bipartisan basis around here anymore, and it is a shame. I hope this will be an exception. Frankly, all of us have given these speeches on both sides of the aisle. All of us have said how much these veterans and their families mean to us. Well, now they are asking us to be on their side with this vote.

I am urging my colleagues to show America that, when it comes to supporting our veterans, the Senate, on a bipartisan basis, can come together and do the right thing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. LOEFFLER). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, student debt and student loans are a fre-

quent topic of conversation, and, of course, that is what we are discussing here today. As someone who took about 20 years to pay off my law school loans, this is personal. Fortunately, I was able to do so due to generous interest rates and lending that helped facilitate people pursuing higher education and beyond.

Across the United States, student loan debt totals nearly \$1.6 trillion and is made up of some 45 million borrowers. As more and more Americans are going to college and beyond, which is a good thing, this widespread problem isn't going to go away any time soon.

I agree that we need to take some action here in Washington to address the financial burden for those with existing debt and to help give prospective students a better understanding of what the debt that they will assume will mean to them in their future life, before it is too late.

One of the leading candidates for President on the other side of the aisle, Mr. SANDERS, has suggested that we just make education free and that we eliminate all debt. Well, that is a fantasy. There is no such thing as free. I am tempted to quote Milton Friedman, who said: There is no such thing as a free lunch. Of course, what he meant by that is that somebody, eventually, will pay. It may not be the immediate person who is the object of your bounty, but somebody will pay.

It is not financially responsible to just suggest that you are going to wipe away all debt, and it is certainly not fair to those who worked hard to earn the money to pay for their school only to find that those who did not find themselves with no debt. We have to come up with some commonsense answers, not just live in a fantasy land. Of course, to say that we are going to wipe away the debt is not fair to the parents who started saving for their kids' college even before they started walking or to the college student who worked multiple jobs to graduate with little or no debt at all or decided to go to community college at a lower cost before they then transferred to a 4-year institution and found a way to mitigate or keep their debt manageable. This idea of wiping away debt or making everything free is unfair to the person who chose not to go to college, only then to be saddled with someone else's debt. That is not fair.

So the problem with wiping away debt is that it is never really gone. You just pass the responsibility on to someone else, and we see that concept—that mentality—at play here today, when it comes to this rule promulgated by the Trump administration that our friends across the aisle seek to reverse.

Last fall, the Department of Education took a big step to forgive loans for students who have been defrauded by an institution of higher education without placing a serious burden on taxpayers. I think that is a good thing. People who commit fraud ought to be

held to account and those loans should be forgiven, but the burden should not be placed on taxpayers.

There have been similar regulations around for decades, and, in 2016, the Obama administration made some serious changes that actually broadened the types of claims a student can make. They issued a rule that said a school's substantial misrepresentation could result in a student's loans being forgiven.

But if my time in a courtroom taught me anything, it is that a good lawyer could portray even a factually accurate advertisement as somehow a misrepresentation, and there is no requirement that it be material but just that there be some abstract misrepresentation.

I don't have any doubt about the intent of the law and that the intention is good, but the concept is far too broad and the sad truth is, being so broad, it is ripe for abuse, and that is exactly what the current rule in place sought to change—to maintain the ability to relieve debt as a result of fraud, but not make it so broad that it was subject to further abuse.

The new rule establishes a clear standard for students to get individual debt relief and helps those impacted by school closures to find a way to finish their degree. It also takes big steps to hold schools accountable, which I believe is absolutely critical. We have this strange system where the school itself receives the tuition but has no accountability if the student is unable to complete their course of study or ends up getting a degree or a certificate in something that does not generate the income they need in order to pay that debt back. So we need to find ways to hold schools responsible, as well—as well as prevent predatory behavior from impacting more students, for example, targeting of veterans and then draining their GI bill benefits and leaving them with basically nothing to show for it. Those are the types of things we ought to be focusing on.

Overall, this rule—the underlying rule that our Democratic colleagues seek to reverse—includes commonsense reforms to ensure it achieves the goal of helping students who are defrauded, while preventing taxpayers from footing the bill for a far-too-broad definition of what constitutes a misrepresentation.

It is disappointing to see that they are trying to take us back to the previous rule, which was so ripe for abuse. In doing so, it would cause serious harm to students and schools and to the American taxpayer. They will end up left holding the bag.

Rather than zeroing out the loan balance for tens of millions of borrowers or allowing broad and vague allegations of fraud, we need to look at targeted changes that can make a huge difference. One place that I mentioned a moment ago where we need to focus is our veterans. I have heard from a number of my constituents who are

straddled with student debt—many before the time they actually served in the military.

If someone goes to college after leaving the military, the GI bill of rights will cover a substantial part of their education. But what about those who went to college or graduate school before they went into the military, those who took out loans prior to their service?

Well, in most cases, the GI bill cannot be applied retroactively, and servicemembers are left footing the bill for an education that otherwise would have been covered if they had gone to school after their military service.

Well, I don't think we should categorically exempt student debt and tuition incurred before military service and thus make the GI bill of rights, if you go into the military after that, worth basically nothing. These men and women should have the choice and the flexibility to use the benefits they have earned to pay off their student loans—in other words, use their GI bill of right retroactively, just as they would be able to use them pursuing a new degree.

I will be introducing legislation soon to make that change and to help our servicemembers address loan debt using the benefits that they have already earned.

We can't just look at preexisting debt, though. We need to ensure that prospective students are making wise financial decisions on the front end. Unfortunately, that is easier said than done. There is no clear system that makes it easy for students to compare financial aid packages from one school to another and to decide what the true cost of each will be. Many times, it is like comparing apples and oranges, and sometimes it can be downright misleading.

Depending on how a school displays information about scholarships or other financial information, the difference in the pricetag can be pretty stark. It doesn't matter whether you are a 17-year-old heading straight to college from high school or somebody who has been in the workforce for years and is now heading back to school. The process is far too confusing, and it does not need to be.

There are a lot of resources to help students get a clearer picture about their loan obligations and their expected salary after graduation and how that will impact their loan payments. Every student who incurs a penny of debt ought to have the information they need to be able to determine what amount of debt is acceptable in light of their future earning capacity and whether they will actually be able to get a degree that will allow them to pay back the money they borrowed for their school.

I believe that is a shared responsibility. Not only is that something that the student bears responsibility for, but I think the school they attend bears responsibility as well.

At the very least, we ought to provide accurate information. For example, the Department of Education has a calculator on their website that lets students calculate the net price of a degree before ever deciding which school to go to or what kind of loan to take out.

The issue, though, is that this information isn't always easy to find and colleges and universities are not doing a great job at promoting it. That needs to change.

I am a proud cosponsor of several pieces of legislation that would help prospective students better understand the cost of their higher education on the front end.

Three of these bills have been introduced by our friend from Iowa, Senator GRASSLEY, and would simplify the process for prospective students. One of these bills would standardize the format in terms of financial aid so that students aren't comparing apples to oranges; they are actually comparing apples to apples. Another would improve both the effectiveness and access to net-price calculators to help students make informed decisions before even deciding where to apply. The third would strengthen student loan counseling requirements to schools, so students are made aware of every option available, making it less likely that they will borrow more than they are likely to be able to repay.

So despite what our colleagues across the aisle are saying, outright loan forgiveness across the board isn't the only path here. There are other options which I intend to pursue to make incremental changes that will have a huge impact on people working to repay their student debt without spreading that burden to each and every single American taxpayer. While these ideas may not fit on a bumper sticker, that does not mean they are not worth pursuing.

I look forward to working with our colleagues to try to address this problem of mounting student debt and the difficulty many students have of paying that debt back because of misinformation or bad decisions they made, unaided by the schools they attend, to determine whether the degree they are pursuing and the debt they are incurring is actually realistic in light of their future income-earning capacity. We can address this sensibly and responsibly and in a way that does not affect each and every American taxpayer.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, later today the Senate will be taking up the borrower defense CRA vote and likely voting on it tomorrow. Each and every Senator will have a choice. They can side with working students, or they can side with predatory, for-profit colleges. It should not be a hard choice, and that choice certainly should not be partisan.

Students who were cheated and defrauded by predatory, for-profit colleges are often left with crushing debt and no path forward. That is why President Obama issued the borrower defense rule—to help students move forward with their lives and education and to get the debt relief they so urgently need.

Since taking office, Secretary DeVos has put up roadblock after roadblock for students and borrowers. First, she refused to implement the borrower defense rule that was on the books, until a court forced her to. She stalled on debt relief for hundreds of thousands of borrowers who were left waiting for an answer, with tens of thousands of them falling into default and collections. Once again, the Federal courts were forced to step in.

Now Secretary DeVos is trying to deny full relief to students who were clearly cheated by predatory colleges. For so many people, getting relief on your student debt means the difference between making ends meet or not, the difference between paying your rent or not, and the difference between getting back on your feet or not.

Now, to make matters even worse, Secretary DeVos has gone further than just delaying and limiting the relief. She has issued a disastrous new borrower defense rule intentionally designed to make it harder for defrauded borrowers—defrauded borrowers—to get relief even when predatory colleges clearly violated the law. It will prevent students from getting their day in court and let predatory colleges off the hook financially. This rule says, in the fine print, that students will be stuck repaying 97 percent of their fraudulent debt. The Department even admitted that students will be cheated out of \$2.5 billion per year, and students will only get 3 cents back for every dollar of fraud they experience. That is cruel and wrong.

The Congressional Review Act, or CRA, would immediately halt Secretary DeVos's rule in its tracks and prevent it from going into effect.

It is time to put an end to the non-stop efforts by this administration to prioritize the interests of predatory, for-profit schools over the interests of our students. It is time for Senators to decide, once and for all, if they will support our student loan borrowers who have been cheated out of a quality education or help corrupt institutions with their bottom line.

I want to personally thank Senator DURBIN for his tireless efforts to push this important issue forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, if your car is a lemon, you don't sue the bank; you sue the dealer. A college can be a lemon, just like a car can be. A college could promise a potential student a job and then tell them that 50 percent of their students scored perfectly on their SAT tests. The potential student might use that information to take out student loans and enroll in a college. Then, if the information turns out to be false, the student may be stuck with student loans they can't afford to repay. Unlike a car, if your college is a lemon, you do sue the bank, and the bank is the taxpayer.

Today, Democrats are forcing the Senate to vote on a Congressional Review Act that, if passed, would overturn the Trump administration's borrower defense rule. This process allows a borrower of a Federal student loan to have their loan forgiven if their institution misled them and that misrepresentation led to financial harm.

First, if your college closes, it is important for you to know that your loans are forgiven. Let me say that again. If your college closes, it is important for you to know that your student loan is forgiven.

There are about 6,000 colleges and universities in our country, and 783 of them closed in 2018. For example, when Corinthian College closed, that made a lot of news. Many students, though, transferred to another college. But if they didn't transfer, they weren't stuck with their student loans; their loans were forgiven.

We are not talking about that today when we vote. If your college isn't closing but it does defraud or mislead you, then you can file a claim. You can file a claim to have your loan forgiven, and you file it with the U.S. Department of Education.

There are 42 million Americans with an outstanding Federal student loan. In 2018, about 106,000 of those 42 million Americans filed what we call borrower defense claims. They claimed they were misled by the college when they used their student loan to go to that college.

In November 2016, the Obama administration issued a rule that required a borrower to demonstrate only that they had been misled, not that they had been financially harmed. The Trump administration fixes that overly broad regulation, while still protecting borrowers and the taxpayer.

Here is the difference. Under the Obama administration, if one student had filed a claim and proved that he or she had been defrauded, all the other students in that program had to do was attest they had been misled in a similar way before having their loans forgiven as well. It was sort of a class action.

It was unnecessary for the first student or subsequent students to prove they had been financially harmed by

that misrepresentation. What this meant is, if you went to a school that had misled students, your loan could be forgiven even if you had a job making \$85,000 a year.

Under the Trump administration, each student needs to file a claim, prove that they were defrauded and that they were financially harmed, and then their loan would be forgiven by the taxpayer. Remember, the bank is the taxpayer.

Secretary DeVos's borrower defense rule restores the original intent of the law that a borrower must be misled and harmed.

The new rule establishes a fair and clear process as to what a borrower must demonstrate: No. 1, that the school misled them; No. 2, that the student relied on that information to enroll in the school; and No. 3, that the student was financially harmed. The new rule gives the borrower ample time to submit a claim and ensures that the Department is basing their judgment on all available information.

The DeVos rule also protects the taxpayers who spend roughly \$100 billion a year on Federal student loans. It continues to allow the Secretary to recoup funds from an institution that has defrauded or misled borrowers. It encourages borrowers and the institution to resolve issues directly rather than involving the Federal Government.

And the new rule allows the Department to evaluate the level of harm to each individual borrower filing the claim and forgives the appropriate amount. For example, if you were told by the school that you would make \$45,000 a year when you graduated, but you are only making \$40,000, the Department could decide to forgive a part of your loan.

The Obama administration's rules went too far and allowed borrowers to have their loans forgiven whether or not they had actually suffered financial harm. Secretary DeVos's new borrower defense rule restores the original intent of the law that the borrower must be misled and harmed.

I encourage Senators to vote against today's Congressional Review Act.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:10 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:31 p.m., recessed until 2:10 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

ADVANCED GEOTHERMAL INNOVATION LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2019—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 1

Mr. UDALL. Madam President, it has been 1 year since the House of Representatives passed the most comprehensive package of anti-corruption

reforms since Watergate—1 year. H.R. 1 shines a light on secret campaign contributions, makes it easier to vote, and cleans up corruption in Washington. It is the solution to the gridlock that the American people are tired of in our Nation's Capital. But for 1 year, H.R. 1 has gathered dust on Majority Leader MCCONNELL's desk.

Every single Senator in the Democratic Congress and in our caucus here in the Senate is cosponsoring the For the People Act, which is Senator MERKLEY's and my companion bill to H.R. 1, For the People Act, but it is buried deep in the leader's legislative graveyard.

Over the course of the last year, as the For the People Act has languished, tens of millions of dollars were spent—much of it in secret—to influence the policymaking process.

Almost half a dozen States passed new laws restricting voter rights. The U.S. Supreme Court gave the green light to political gerrymandering. And President Trump, visiting his own properties dozens of times, funneled millions of taxpayer dollars into his own pocket. Yet, the Republican Senate is silent—silent as our democracy faces a crisis like none we have ever seen in our lifetimes.

We can draw a straight line from the crisis in our democracy to more than 300 bipartisan bills buried in the majority leader's graveyard. The bills waiting for Senate action are broadly supported by the American people, but they are opposed by the ultrawealthy, the special interests, the powerful corporations in that they try to buy our elections. Like Senator MCCONNELL, these Big Money interests are proud of killing these bills.

Here is what happened over the year that the For the People Act has been in the majority leader's graveyard: The number of Americans without health insurance increased by hundreds of thousands. California wildfires, worsened by climate change, cost \$25 billion. Flooding in the Midwest, also a casualty of climate change, cost \$12.5 billion. And 22 people were gunned down at an El Paso Walmart by a White nationalist armed with an assault rifle. Sadly, that was just a fraction of the thousands of gun-related deaths in our country last year.

This is not the America that the American people want. The American people want us to act. The gap between what the American people are clamoring for and what the Republican majority in the Senate is giving them is as wide as the Grand Canyon and is growing by the day.

Just look at the polls. Staggering numbers—closing in on 90 percent of Americans—support universal, affordable healthcare. With these numbers, you would think Republicans would be making sure that every American has healthcare, but, instead, Republicans have tried to dismantle the Affordable Care Act every chance they get. As we speak, President Trump and 18 Repub-

lican Governors and attorneys general are urging the Supreme Court to strike down the Affordable Care Act.

The American people want exorbitant prescription drug prices reeled in. Eighty percent of Americans think the cost of prescription drugs is far too high, and we all know that Big Pharma is the reason why. Yet legislation to reduce drug costs is also stuck—stuck among the hundreds of other bills on the majority leader's desk. Over the last two-plus decades, Big Pharma has spent \$3.7 billion—yes, that is billion—on lobbying. So today the same vial of insulin, which cost \$175 15 years ago, costs more than \$1,400 today. As a result, some diabetics ration their insulin, and some, as a result, have died.

It is not just our healthcare. The ability of our planet to support human life as we know it is at stake. Time and again, polling tells us the American people want us to tackle climate change. The American people accept the science. They understand the existential threat. Yet dozens of climate change bills lie dead in the Senate, including my Renewable Electricity Standard Act, to move us to 100 percent clean energy by midcentury.

Nearly 70 percent of Americans, including a majority of Republicans, believe we need to take aggressive action to fight climate change, and almost 80 percent believe the government should invest more in renewable energy resources. With these kinds of numbers, you would think Congress would be passing climate change legislation on a regular basis, except you would be wrong. Why?

Well, an expert analysis found that from 2000 to 2016, \$2 billion was spent on lobbying regarding climate policy, and the fossil fuel interests outspent environmental public interest groups by a factor of 10 to 1. This is not democracy at work. This is a complete perversion of our democratic ideals.

But the good news is we can change all of this. We can reinvigorate our democracy. We can end the reign of Big Money, empower small donors, make it easier to vote, stop political gerrymandering, and bring ethical conduct to Washington. The majority leader just needs to stop doing the bidding of the wealthy special interests and bring the For the People Act to the Senate floor.

I know my colleague Senator MERKLEY is here and Senator BENNET, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and Senator CARDIN.

I yield to Senator CARDIN. Thank you all for being here today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I want to thank Senator UDALL for his leadership on the For the People Act, and I want to thank Senator MERKLEY for his leadership on this bill.

This bill contains many provisions that deal with the fundamental values of this country. I also am proud of my colleague in the House of Representa-

tives, Congressman SARBANES, who is the lead sponsor of H.R. 1, which is the For the People Act. It passed the House of Representatives over a year ago, and there has been no action on the floor of the Senate as a result of the majority leader's decision not to bring these bills to the floor.

As I said, it includes a lot of different bills that all deal with America's values. These are the values that are the strength of this Nation—free and fair elections. That is what we promote globally because we know that is key to a stable democratic society. Yet when you look at the way we conduct elections in this country, we are not setting a very high example. Look at how much money is involved in elections in this country. From the President of the United States to our local offices, too much money speaks to who is going to be able to get the attention of the voters. We need to change that.

We know that suppression of voters has been institutionalized as a strategy to win office. That should have no place in America. We should want the maximum amount of voters to participate in our political process, not try to prevent people from exercising their right to vote.

The For the People Act brings about meaningful change so that America, which is the shining example of democracy, can lead the world by the way we conduct our own elections. Let me mention two provisions that I am particularly pleased are included in the For the People Act. One is democracy restoration; that is, to allow those who have been convicted of crime, after they have served their penalty, to be able to participate in elections. We are one of only a few western democracies that permanently disenfranchise an individual who has been convicted of a felony. There are 6.1 million adults who currently are disenfranchised as a result of that provision, yet only 22 percent of those individuals are incarcerated. The other 78 percent have paid their penalty, have done their time, and are now reintegrated into society. It is in our interest to have them participate in our democratic system. It reduces recidivism. And, quite frankly, it is targeted at people of color. They are who have been most disenfranchised as a result of this provision. Thirty-four States still have restrictions, and 12 have lifetime restrictions on those convicted of a felony. The Democracy Restoration Act would remedy that situation.

The second bill I am going to refer to very briefly is the Deceptive Practices and Voter Prevention Act that targets primarily minority voters to suppress their vote. It is the modern Jim Crow laws in which we find we are using modern technology. We have campaign strategies aimed at minority communities to give them misinformation about how they can vote or whether they are eligible to vote or where they can vote. That is being used today. We have to make sure that doesn't happen in the American election system.

For the People provides meaningful changes so that we don't allow suppression of votes to be an institutionalized strategy to try to win an election, so that we have the maximum participation of voters in our process, and it deals with the ever-flowing increase in the amount of dollars that are put into American elections.

The U.S. Senate should not be a graveyard. Majority Leader McCONNELL has prevented hundreds of bills—bipartisan bills—from coming to the floor of the U.S. Senate. It has been a year since we have had the For the People Act passed by the House of Representatives. It is well past time for the Senate to take up this legislation so that we can show the American people we support the values that have made America the great democracy in our country.

Thank you very much.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, Shakespeare's great play "Hamlet" began with the phrase: Something is rotten in Denmark.

Well, something is rotten in Congress, and what is rotten in Congress is dark money. Citizens United—perhaps one of the most foolish decisions ever rendered by the U.S. Supreme Court—opened unlimited spending into our politics, which benefits whom? It benefits those who have unlimited money to spend and a motive to spend it in politics. That is not a group of people whose voices were not being heard here already. That is the favored group. But Citizens United opened the door for them to spend unlimited money, and then the Supreme Court failed to police its own decision. Its own decision said this unlimited spending was going to be independent of candidates and transparent to the public. Well, they are 0 for 2. It has been a decade, and they have never even tried to enforce the basic predicates of their decision. It is a shameful, shameful effort by the Court. Now, as a result, we have throughout our politics this dark money tsunami of slime.

How bad is it? These groups have spent \$4.5 billion since Citizens United—\$4.5 billion trying to influence Congress. Do you think they were doing that in the public interest? Of course not. Do you wonder why bills die here in the legislative graveyard of the Senate? Take a guess.

Outside groups—these phony-baloney front groups for these big special interests—are now outspending candidates in races. In fact, in the decade after Citizens United, outside groups outspend candidates in 126 different congressional races. And it is a very small group of people behind it. The top 10 donor households gave a combined \$1.1 billion to these front groups. Do you think they were looking out for the public interests? Dream on.

Who are the big spenders of this dark money? National Rifle Association;

Americans for Prosperity, which is the Koch brothers front group; Crossroads GPS, which is Karl Rove's front group; and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the champions of climate denial and obstruction.

Do you want to know why we are not getting things done around here? It is because billions of dollars are being spent secretly by special interests to shut things down, and it is creeping now even into the courts. The Federalist Society, which is picking our judges, is at the center of a \$250 million dark money network. A group that ran the campaigns against Garland and for Gorsuch and then afterward for Kavanaugh got an individual \$17 million donation for each of those two campaigns. It is actually probably the same donor, which means somebody out there anonymously gave \$35 million to determine the makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court, and we don't know who that is. We don't know what business they have before the Court.

As I said, Hamlet begins with "something is rotten in . . . Denmark." Something is rotten in Congress, and the rot is creeping over to the Supreme Court, and it is dark money, and it is the patriotic and decent thing to do to extirpate this menace.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, last year, I was proud to stand with my colleagues as we introduced the For the People Act in the Senate just weeks after it passed the House of Representatives. This measure has already passed the House of Representatives.

If you took civics 101, they explain that after the House took action on a measure, it came here. So the obvious question is, What happened to it? It has been a year. It must be here somewhere. Well, we know exactly where it is. It is in Senator McCONNELL's office. He is the Republican Leader of the U.S. Senate, and he has made a conscious decision that hundreds of bills just like this one will not even be considered on the floor of the Senate. It isn't that he doesn't have a majority; he does. But he doesn't want us to even debate or discuss these bills before the American people.

This U.S. Senate once enjoyed its reputation as the world's most deliberative body, which means we came here, debated, argued, and voted on things like amendments and bills like this one. Last year in the U.S. Senate, the calendar year 2019, we considered exactly 22 amendments in the entire year—22 amendments in 1 year in this Senate. Six of them were offered by Senator PAUL, who, with a gun to our heads, said: If you don't give me a vote on my amendment, you can't go home. All six of his amendments were defeated, but that just gives you an example of why there is so little activity and why this floor is so empty so many times.

In fact, this floor has become a museum piece where bystanders, wit-

nesses, and spectators can come in, sit in the Galleries, and look down on the desks that used to be occupied by Senators who debated and voted. We don't do that anymore. Instead, we consider one after the other after the other of judicial nominations. I am not going to get into that issue because it has been touched on already.

My contribution to this For the People Act goes to the heart of political campaigns. If you don't think American political campaigns are long enough, if you would like us to be on television a few more months each year, hang on tight because it is coming. If you don't think enough money is being spent on American political campaigns, hang on tight because more is coming. If you want to reach the point where we have no idea where most of the money is coming from that funds these campaigns, hang on. The Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court across the street has set the stage for that, and that is where we are headed in America today.

My proposal for fair elections now moves in exactly the opposite directions—shorter campaigns, smaller contributions, more confrontation between candidates over issues than to have this battle of television ads that goes on now.

My act would create a voluntary, small-donor, public financing system for Senate candidates who agree to raise only small-dollar contributions. I know it is a dream, but think about what it would do to change American politics. Here is how it would work: Qualified Senate candidates would receive grants based on their State's population, 6-to-1 matching grants for contributions they get of \$200 or less—smaller contributors—and vouchers for purchasing television advertising other than social media. Once candidates reach the maximum amount of matching funds they receive, they continue to raise an unlimited amount of contributions of \$200 or less—a \$200 cap on contributions. They can also raise money from small-donor political action committees, known as People PACs, which allow citizens to make their voices heard by aggregating just small contributions—no big hitters.

The fair elections public financing system would elevate the views and interests of a diverse group of Americans, rather than the traditional wealthy class, and we would pay for it without spending a dime in taxpayer dollars. Our system would be financed with assessments on wealthy bad actors and industry law breakers. In the 2018 midterm elections, the price of victory for a successful House congressional candidate averaged about \$2 million, and 35 Senate candidates who won in 2018 spent an average of \$15.7 million apiece.

If we don't rein in the cost and length of campaigns, shame on us. We have to reclaim the reputation of this great Congress and the U.S. Senate, and it starts with the way we finance our campaigns.

In addition to the Fair Elections Now Act, this bill has measures to increase access to the ballot box, to strengthen election security, to improve oversight in our campaign finances, and to remove corruption from office.

I think it is outrageous that we live in an America in which people are dreaming up ways to restrict and restrain people's right to vote. If there is anything fundamental to a democracy, it is the vote of those who are legally entitled in America. I have been in this business for a while. I started off by losing a few elections. I didn't enjoy a moment of that, but there was a notion that at least the American people had spoken in those elections, and I accepted the verdicts of those people. They have come back and given me a few chances since to be in public service.

Let's make sure the American people have the voice—the most important voice in this process—through their right to vote. Keep foreigners out of the process, and put Americans into them. Don't make it hard to vote. Make it easy for those who are legally entitled to vote.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I come to the floor to mark the 1-year anniversary of the House passage of H.R. 1, the For the People Act. I am honored to be here with my colleagues, and I am here to urge the Republicans to bring this legislation to the floor for a vote.

This bill has been languishing in the legislative graveyard for a year. I know because I have 13 provisions in this bill. This bill—the combined work of so many people in this Chamber, including of my friends Senator UDALL, Senator MERKLEY, and many others—would fundamentally improve our democracy by protecting voting rights, securing our election systems, and getting dark money out of our campaign system.

Why is it so important for us to act on this bill? Every one of the things we want to get done—finally addressing the climate crisis, immigration reform, improving people's healthcare, making healthcare more affordable—depend on there being a democracy that works so people can make sure their votes count.

At a time when the right to vote is under attack, when foreign adversaries are trying to exploit our divisions and interfere in our elections—something we are going to be briefed about this afternoon from intelligence agencies—and when an unprecedented amount of money from special interests is drowning out the voices of the American people, we need to take bold action to restore Americans' confidence in our political system. That is exactly what the For the People Act does.

As the ranking member of the Committee on Rules and Administration, I know this bill is important. I am frustrated that we have not had more

Rules Committee hearings about things like the oversight of the FEC. I am frustrated that, just today, a Republican Commissioner was put forth for a hearing, recommended by the White House, when there is a highly qualified Democratic candidate who would be the first person of color in history to serve on the Federal Election Commission who has been vetted and has cleared the White House. Yet we only saw the Republican candidate. This is why this bill is so important.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. As we celebrate, we are reminded that, throughout our country's history, the right to vote has been hard fought and hard won. Just 2 weeks ago, I had the honor of joining Congressman JOHN LEWIS—a true hero for voting rights—on the 55th annual Selma bridge crossing to commemorate the sacrifices made on Bloody Sunday.

When we reflect on the sacrifices that have been made for the right to vote, one thing is truly clear—that the fight is not over. There are people today who are working to take the right to vote away. Their work comes in many forms: voter ID laws, gerrymandered districts, purging people from voting rolls, and one that we just saw just last week on Super Tuesday—polling place closures that result in voters having to wait hours in line just to cast their ballots. Just last week in the State of Texas, some African-American voters waited more than 5 hours in line. When a reporter asked one group of voters how the group got through it, a man said: We thought they were making us wait on purpose, so we motivated each other to stay.

The policies that led to those long lines didn't happen by accident. Discrimination in voting is happening, as the Fourth Circuit noted in a North Carolina decision on gerrymandering—and these are the words of the judges—with “surgical precision.” Discrimination in voting is happening with surgical precision against the African-American community.

Our democracy is stronger when more people participate, and our policies are better when more people participate, so we should be making it easier, not harder, to vote. Every eligible American should be automatically registered to vote when one turns 18. That is a bill that I lead. If Target, which is my hometown company, can track a pair of shoes in Hawaii with a SKU number, if everyone gets a Social Security number, we should be able to make sure that people who are eligible to vote are automatically registered when they turn 18.

So as to end the practice of gerrymandering, we also need to reform how we draw district maps by having an independent commission in each State. Certainly, we also need to ban the purging of voting rolls. As my friend Stacey Abrams has said, if you don't go to church or the synagogue or the

mosque for a year or so, you don't lose your right to worship. If you don't go to a PTA meeting or any other kind of Rotary Club or anything for a few years, you don't lose your right to assemble under the U.S. Constitution, and if you have not voted in a few elections and show up when you have been registered but, somehow, they never sent you the notice and, because there is no same-day registration, you find out you cannot vote, even though you had been duly registered to vote, you should not lose your right to vote under the U.S. Constitution. That is exactly what is going on right now with voting purges.

I am proud to lead provisions in the important For the People Act that would accomplish the goals to end these discriminatory practices. Of course, we also have to make voting more secure, which is my last topic.

It has been 1,218 days since Russia attacked us in 2016, and we have yet to pass comprehensive election security legislation. The next major elections are just 240 days away, and primaries, as we know, are underway. We must take action now to secure our elections from foreign threats. That is why I have championed legislation to beef up our election systems, which was included in H.R. 1, by providing States with the resources to modernize our voting equipment—some of this has been passed here in this Chamber—but also to set standards for Federal elections, which is the key part—requirements like paper ballots and post-election audits. We still have States—entire States—that have no backup paper ballots.

I am not going to spend time going through all of those States, but let me tell you that the Russians know exactly which States those are that have no backup paper ballots. We just had some caucuses in this country, and people resorted to looking at those paper ballots. Imagine if we were hacked in a certain county or in a certain State and there were no backup paper ballots. What would that do to a Federal election?

These are the basics of a secure election system, but in 2020, as I noted, voters in eight States will now cast their ballots on machines that produce no paper trails. There are 16 States that still have no statewide audit requirements to confirm the results of an election, and a majority of States relies on voting systems that are at least 10 years old. That is wrong.

That is why Senator LANKFORD and I, as well as Senator WARNER, Senator HARRIS, Senator BURR, and many others, have been pushing the Senate to act, but we have been gut-punched because calls were made from the White House and calls were made from Senator MCCONNELL a year ago to stop the votes to get that bill through the committee to the Senate floor.

Making voting easier and more secure is only part of the solution. We also have to get dark money out of our

politics and increase transparency. Americans know this. They know there is way too much dark money in our politics. In poll, after poll, after poll, they overwhelmingly want to have more transparency. Campaign finance reform is a central part of H.R. 1 for a reason. If we don't put a check on the corrupting influence of money in politics, American voices will continue to be drowned out by special interests.

Think about the three things I have just proposed: making voting easier, securing our election systems, and getting Big Money out of our campaigns. These are not radical proposals. These are proposals on which nearly everyone in our country agrees.

I conclude by noting, in addition to marking the 1-year anniversary of the passage of H.R. 1 in the House, today is Harriet Tubman Day. Most people remember Harriet Tubman for her incredible work on the Underground Railroad, where she repeatedly risked her life for the freedom of others. I recently watched the movie "Harriet" and highly recommend it to my colleagues. Yet Harriet Tubman didn't stop her fight for freedom and equality after the Civil War ended. She took up the cause of women's suffrage and worked tirelessly until she was 90 years old in helping women get the right to vote. We celebrate her life today because she spent a lifetime bending the arc of our moral universe toward justice.

The best way we can honor her and the countless others who have risked their lives for our country and our democracy is to continue the work of improving our democracy so that it works better for the next generation. That is what the For the People Act is all about.

I urge my Republican colleagues—I implore them—a group of people who I know believes in freedom—to allow us to have this bill come up for a vote to ensure that people have the cherished freedom to vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I appreciate the opportunity to talk about this bill.

I thank my colleague Senator UDALL, of New Mexico, and my colleague Senator MERKLEY, of Oregon, for their extraordinary work.

I don't know if they have ever had the experience that I have often had or the Presiding Officer has had, but there are times, in my having spent a week here after having done absolutely nothing, when I am walking through the Denver International Airport, and I want to put a paper bag over my head because I am so embarrassed about the failure of this institution to live up to even the barest responsibilities that we have.

I mean, we can't even pass a basic infrastructure bill around this place while China is building 3,500 miles of fiber-optic cable to connect Latin

America with Africa and back to China to export the surveillance state from China. That is what China is doing there while we are doing nothing here. We have become the land of flickering lights, whereby the standard of success is whether we have kept the lights on for another 2 hours or another 4 hours.

What the American people need to understand is that this is the ideological end state of what the Freedom Caucus came to Washington to do. It has become the ideological end state of what MITCH MCCONNELL can do because, in the rubble of our institutions, they can achieve the objectives they want to achieve. They can put right-wing judges on the courts without our institutions working. They can come out here and cut taxes for rich people and claim it is a middle-class tax cut without our institutions working. Yet what we are unable to do without those institutions working is invest in our infrastructure, is make sure that we have an education system in this country that is actually liberating people from their economic circumstances instead of reinforcing their economic circumstances, is ensure that we are doing something on the climate and doing something on guns.

It has been more than 20 years since Columbine happened in Colorado. My State—the Western State, a Second Amendment State—passed background checks after Columbine. My three daughters grew up knowing they lived in a State that was actually trying to respond to what was going on in their schools—not true of the U.S. Congress.

The reason for much of this inaction is the Supreme Court's decision with regard to Citizens United. I will not belabor the point, for I know my colleague from Hawaii was kind to let me go ahead of her, but let me just repeat this: After Citizens United, 10 donors over the past decade have contributed \$1.2 billion to our policy. That has created a corruption of inaction in the U.S. Senate. It is not corruption that you see because it is a corruption of inaction. It is the bill that is not introduced. It is the committee hearing that is not held. It is the vote that is never taken for fear that, if you do that, some billionaire is going to drop \$30 million on your race and run a primary against you in your next election.

Do you want to know why we can have a Senate in the United States that votes on only 22 amendments in a year? That is the reason. Do you want to know why we have a Senate wherein 75 percent of the votes are personnel votes and 25 percent are actually on amendments? That is the reason. We have to overcome it, not for Democrats or Republicans but for the American people because this is their exercise in self-government. This is the way they make decisions.

I know these reforms can work because they have worked in Colorado with a bipartisan commission to end gerrymandering, mail-in voting, and automatic and same-day voting reg-

istration. The result is that we have the second highest voter participation rate in America. How can that not be good for our democracy?

So my hope is that at some point, when he hears the voices of the American people, MITCH MCCONNELL will relent and allow these bills to come to the floor.

He described this bill last year as a power grab—a power grab—and I will accept that if it is understood that it is a power grab by the American people, which is what it is—an effort to get money out of our politics and to put people back into our politics so we can start doing the work that the American people sent us here to do.

With that, I thank my colleague from Hawaii again for her indulgence.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, I also want to thank Senators Udall and Merkley for their extraordinary work on the For the People Act.

We are confronting a crisis in our democracy. We have a President who repeatedly invites foreign intervention in our elections, engages in widespread corruption, attacks the news media as part of a broader assault on the truth, and uses false claims of voter fraud to legitimize voter suppression across the country.

These challenges to our democracy are not limited to the Trump administration, but this President has undoubtedly made things much, much worse. It is why I joined an overwhelming number of my Democratic colleagues of both Chambers of Congress in cosponsoring H.R. 1, the For the People Act.

This crucial piece of legislation is the most expansive and serious attempt to strengthen American democracy in decades. Among its many provisions, this bill would root out corruption by attacking the dark money in our politics. The door was opened in the Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court. This bill would also secure our elections from foreign interference and restore voter protections that Republicans have spent decades attacking for their own partisan political benefit.

Like many of my colleagues, I am particularly focused on combating the Republican Party's efforts to disenfranchise millions of minority voters. I could spend hours detailing the efforts throughout American history to make it as difficult as possible—or even impossible—for people of color to vote.

But today I want to focus on the impact of the Supreme Court's 2013 decision in Shelby County. In this 5-to-4 decision, Chief Justice Roberts and the Court's conservative Justices effectively gutted the core protections of the Voting Rights Act. They decided that States with long histories of discrimination no longer had to obtain Federal approval for voting changes under the Voting Rights Act.

As author Carol Anderson explained, Chief Justice Roberts has “[l]ong [been] an opponent of the Voting Rights Act,” and in Shelby County he used arguments that had been “carefully crafted” over “several decades” to eviscerate the Voting Rights Act.

Without the constraints of the Voting Rights Act, States with long histories of discrimination ramped up voter suppression, from racist voter ID laws to eliminating early voting, to purging voter rolls and closing polling places.

In the 6 years following the Shelby County decision, for example, States previously subjected to preclearance under the Voting Rights Act closed at least 1,688 polling sites. Texas alone closed 750 polling places.

The closures had their intended effect. A study at Harvard University found that minority voters are six times more likely than White voters to wait longer than an hour to vote. Longer waits impose greater costs for voting on minorities and deter them from voting in future elections. We saw the impact of these policies just last week on Super Tuesday, which saw inordinately long lines in minority precincts in Texas.

Mr. Hervis Rogers waited more than 6 hours to vote, but he was determined to make his voice heard. So when he got to his polling place at Texas Southern University, a historically Black college in Houston, he patiently waited in line until he could cast his vote at 1:30 in the morning.

Mr. Rogers’s experience last week speaks to one part of a broader problem. The Republican Party is so invested in voter suppression because they view it as an effective tool to win elections, and these efforts had devastating consequences for our country in the 2016 Presidential election—the first Presidential election held in 50 years that did not have the protections of the Voting Rights Act.

We saw plummeting minority turnout across the country, including in the key swing States of Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

Carol Anderson observed that in 2016, 50,000 fewer people voted in 1—just 1—overwhelmingly African-American county in Wisconsin. Donald Trump, by comparison, won Wisconsin by only 27,000 votes.

Efforts to further suppress the minority vote in swing States continue to date. Last year, for example, a conservative interest group sued Wisconsin’s State Elections Commission to force a purge of 209,000 infrequent voters from the voter rolls. Although a lower State court granted the conservative group’s request, a Wisconsin appeals court put the voter purge on hold while the fight in court continues.

These ongoing voter suppression efforts serve as stark reminders of why we need to pass the For the People Act. This bill not only blocks common strategies Republicans have used to make it harder for minorities to vote,

but it also includes critical democracy reforms to make their votes count.

This legislation would also set strong national standards to protect voting access that reflect and improve upon steps that have already been taken by States like Hawaii. Last year, for example, Hawaii became the fourth State in the country to provide mail-in ballots to all voters. Our State also has same-day voter registration, preregistration for residents under the age of 18, and a 10-day early voting period.

While some States are stepping up to protect voting rights, Congress needs to take strong and decisive action to restore voting rights and end voter suppression across the country.

We also need to take an equally strong stand against Donald Trump’s efforts to pack our Federal courts with judges who have dedicated their careers to undermining the voting rights of minorities.

At the Supreme Court, where Donald Trump has appointed two Justices, there have been a number of cases attacking the voting rights of minority communities, and there are real concerns that the Roberts Court will continue to uphold these voter suppression efforts.

In the lower courts, Trump judges include Andrew Brasher, now an Eleventh Circuit judge, who argued in support of gutting the Voting Rights Act in the Shelby County case; and Kyle Duncan, now a Fifth Circuit judge, who defended North Carolina’s discriminatory voting law that the Fourth Circuit found—and I quote the Fourth Circuit—“target[ed] African Americans with almost surgical precision.” These are overt acts to suppress voting.

President Trump’s hostility to voting rights is so extreme. He is appointing anti-voting rights advocates even to courts that do not handle voting issues, such as Stephen Schwartz for the Court of Federal Claims and Stephen Vaden for the Court of International Trade. Both have no experience with these courts, but both have defended North Carolina’s discriminatory voting law.

The right to vote is one of our most sacred rights, and we must do all that we can to protect it for all Americans. That is why I will continue to fight back against Donald Trump’s court packing and fight for the passage of critical legislation like the For the People Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I am pleased to be here with my colleagues to fight to restore the American Constitution. I am pleased to be here with Senator TOM UDALL, who has led the For the People Act, and my colleagues MAZIE HIRONO, MICHAEL BENNET, AMY KLOBUCHAR, and DICK DURBIN—all speaking up to say that we must defend the American Constitution.

At the root of that is our system of electing those who represent us, and that election system, America, is now deeply corrupted by gerrymandering, by extensive, persistent voter suppression, and by dark money. It affects everything that we should achieve for the people of the United States.

If we believe we need to end the price gouging of Americans on pharmaceutical drugs, we need to end this corruption and pass the For the People Act. If we believe that every child deserves a quality K-12 education and that our children should be able to go to college without a mountain of debt, we need to end this corruption and pass the For the People Act. If we believe that Americans should be living in homes and apartments, not sleeping on the streets, we need to end this corruption and pass the For the People Act. If we believe that we have a responsibility to pass on a habitable and livable planet, free of pollution, to our children and grandchildren, we need to end this corruption and pass the For the People Act.

This corruption—gerrymandering, voter suppression, dark money—is all about eviscerating the very soul of our Constitution—the “we the people” vision of our Constitution, that we would not be like European nations that had government by and for the powerful, but that here in America representatives of the people would be able to have government by and for the people.

It is Jefferson who said: The real test of whether we succeed is whether the laws reflect the will of the people. But instead, we see the laws in this Chamber being constructed solely, uniquely, and, unfortunately for the most powerful and wealthy among us rather than the people.

Gerrymandering, where voters should choose their politicians but, instead, politicians choose their voters—that is a deep and powerful corruption that has extensive impact on the Chamber that is just down the hall.

We have seen what happened in North Carolina, where 47 percent of the State’s popular vote in House races won 23 percent of the seats and, similarly, in Pennsylvania, in the election before last, and the Supreme Court threw up its hands and said: We can’t do anything about this, even though the Pennsylvania Supreme Court understood it is so important to fairness and equal representation and took it on and solved it.

This bill sets up independent commissions across the country so that the districts for representation are drawn fairly.

Then there is voter suppression and intimidation. If you believe in our Constitution and if you honor it, you believe in voter empowerment, not voter suppression.

We have seen a flood of suppression and intimidation since the Supreme Court took a hatchet to the Voting Rights Act in the Shelby County case—voter ID laws, purges of voter rolls,

moving polling locations, cutting back on the hours, cutting back on the staffing. We have seen it in North Dakota. We have seen it in Georgia. We have seen it in Ohio, and we have seen it in North Carolina. We have seen it in Iowa. We have seen it in New Hampshire, and we saw it in Texas last week.

There are strategies to keep the poor from voting, strategies to keep those Americans of minority communities from voting, strategies to keep American Native Indians from voting, and strategies to keep college students from voting. Talk about the intense and deliberate corruption of America. Voter suppression and intimidation is it.

But this bill lays it out—automatic voter registration, national vote-by-mail, prohibiting the purging of voting rolls, online registration to enable people to have a smooth, solid road to be able to participate, rather than roadblocks and land mines to prevent them from participating.

Then we have the dark money. These are the most powerful and richest Americans trying to drown out the voices of millions of Americans through unlimited dark and dirty money in our campaigns. Americans know the system is now rigged. They know it is now corrupted by this money. We have seen an explosion of this money since 2010 when the Citizens United decision came down, a 5-to-4 decision from the Supreme Court. It bloated to more than \$4.4 billion.

This bill takes that on. It shines a light on all the money so we know where it is coming from and where it is going, so it can't be hidden in a shell game from one level, to the next, to the next. It requires honest ads. It allows small-donor matching grants. This bill, for the people, says no to corruption and yes to the "we the people" Constitution of the United States of America.

If we want to act on the fundamentals for families on healthcare, on housing, on education, on infrastructure, and on living-wage jobs; if we want to take on the Equality Act so doors are no longer slammed for the LGBTQ community; if we are going to take on the carbon pollution that is destroying so much in American agriculture and our forests and our fishing, doing so much damage with fiercer storms; if we are going to take this on, we must pass the For the People Act.

This act has passed the House down the hall. It has come down here, and it has been buried by the Republican leadership in this Chamber in, I must say, one of the most deliberate acts of sabotage of the Constitution we have ever seen on the floor of this Senate, and that sabotage must end.

Therefore, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 39, H.R. 1; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid

upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Is there objection?

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I must admit I was sitting here, and I thought I was coming over for H.R. 1 from the House, which was attempted to be put on the floor—a bill that was supposedly designed to create ballot security—and I got here and found out that this is the bill that will right all wrongs. I had no idea that in one piece of legislation, so many things could happen.

I understand also it is a bill that stops the subversion of the Constitution. I actually always thought a principal purpose of our Constitution was to divide between the State and the Federal Government those things that could be better done by local government and those things that could be better done by State government. That certainly is not what I heard today.

I also thought that the reason for this bill supposedly from the House was a bill that would create a level of election security that I never thought the bill would create, but I haven't heard that.

I almost went down to ask as my friend was finishing up, am I really here for H.R. 1, or is this some other bill that does so much more than I ever could have imagined that H.R. 1 could do?

In March of 2019, the House did pass this bill. It gave unprecedented control to the Federal Government over the elections of the country. You take away—you moved as far as you possibly could, with this bill, the responsibility for running an election at a precinct in a jurisdiction.

At that time, the Senate requested that the bill be taken up, and it was objected to—by me, actually. In the intervening year, the bill hasn't changed. It appears to have gotten a lot better at what it might possibly be designed to do, which appears to be everything that anybody would ever want to deal with, but what it really does is it still represents a one-size-fits-all Federal power grab to take control of election administration away from the States and in most cases away from the community and in many cases away from a locally elected official whose—the very essence of the job they have been elected to do is to be sure that not only can people vote but that people have confidence in what happens on election day. That, in my view, would change dramatically if you move that responsibility from the people who have it now to some group here in Washington, DC, who would try to administer elections nationally.

I am confident that wouldn't happen. In fact, the security of our elections—since the impetus of this was supposed to be more secure elections when the House first said they were going to

pass a big election bill that ensures elections will be more secure, I think the thing that secures our elections the most is the diversity of the system. This bill would undermine the decentralization of the system. It would undermine the ability of local officials to be responsible.

I spent 20 years as either the election official in the biggest county in our State where one person had that responsibility or as the secretary of state, the chief election official. I have been advised by and I have given advice to and I have worked with local election officials who are incredibly motivated to see that what happens on election day is what voters want to have happen—the ability to cast their ballots with minimum obstacles and with maximum confidence that what happened on election day was what voters intended to do. I think I understand how hard those election officials work and everything they do to ensure that voters will be heard.

It is not just my opinion. President Obama in 2016 said that "there is no serious person out there who would suggest somehow that you could even rig America's elections, in part because they are so decentralized and the number of votes involved." I actually agree with that. I think that was right then, and I think that is right now.

But this bill tells States how they could run every aspect of their election. It takes away the authority of States to determine their own process in voter registration. It requires States—many States do this. If States do this and they think it works in their State, fine with me. But this would require online registration. It would require automatic voter registration. It would require same-day registration. If we were concerned about access to the voter rolls, none of those things would be things that from Washington, DC, we would believe we could require. It requires the criteria of how you process how a voter can be removed from the voter rolls. It tells States what kind of election equipment they must use. It tells States how their ballots have to be counted. It tells States how their ballots have to be audited. It even goes so far as to tell States what kind of paper their ballots have to be printed on.

That is exactly what happens when you decide you are going to make something better by making one big one-size-fits-all system. Nothing is too small for that system to decide they can do better than anybody locally could decide, even what paper the ballot is printed on.

This doesn't stop at that, though. It changes Federal campaign finance law. It includes politicizing the Federal Elections Commission by changing it from an evenly divided number to a partisan, five-member Commission where three members would always be of the opposite party from the other two. It creates a program for public financing of Federal elections, which

was just described as “grants to politicians”—the most ingenious description I have heard of giving tax money to politicians to run elections. It would be a grant to politicians.

This bill hasn't changed since last March, but a lot has changed since last March. The Intelligence Committee that I am a member of has released three volumes of its report on Russian interference in the 2016 election. Those three volumes include numerous recommendations to combat foreign election interference in our elections. The vast majority of those recommendations are not in this law. Many of those recommendations have been passed by the Senate and not passed by the House.

We are going to have a briefing in just about 50 minutes from the FBI, the Homeland Security people, and the people who are actually working to secure our elections so that every Senator can hear what is happening there. None of that is in this bill.

State and local officials have moved dramatically since 2016 to upgrade their systems. All but two States, I believe, now have largely moved to where they have an auditable paper trail, which I was always insisting upon as a State election official. States are moving in that direction. They are changing their own laws. Federal officials are giving them advice when they need it but not trying to take over.

This bill not only doesn't acknowledge what State and local officials have been doing, but it actually undermines what they have been doing by setting standards that the brandnew equipment might not fit—equipment that has a paper trail, equipment that States had just bought, equipment they bought that they think would do a better job but might not be in full compliance with this new law.

There certainly are things that the Federal Government can do to assist, particularly in securing local elections and giving advice to local election officials. H.R. 1 does not do most of those things. It doesn't meet the standard that it sets for itself. It doesn't address the actual challenges in elections. So, Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, my colleague has just demonstrated why this bill should be on the floor. He has given extensive conversation on a series of points that should be deliberated upon.

I say to my colleague from Missouri, isn't this what we should be doing as a body, putting issues on the floor of the Senate and debating them for the future of this country so that we can get, if you will, right to the facts rather than to have things obscured by the fact that the issue is not on the floor.

So I would encourage my colleague from Missouri to go back to his caucus and say: You know, I just gave a vigorous opposition to this bill, but I believe in the role of the Senate in delib-

erating the issues. So I think this bill should be put on the floor, and I think it should be open to amendments.

I can hear from what my colleague has stated that he probably thinks the bill should be shrunk and probably thinks it could also be expanded. Good. That is the point of having debate and amendments on the floor of the Senate.

So I would hope, in the spirit of your comments, you would be willing to actually stand up and debate this bill and advocate for your colleagues to debate this bill on the floor of the Senate, because once upon a time, this floor would have been full of Members arguing over key issues, enlightening each other, pointing out the flaws in their thinking, but now substantive policy bills don't arrive here on the floor because of an unconstitutional position—one that is not delineated in the Constitution—the majority leader has decided that nothing should be debated on this floor that he alone doesn't want considered.

Let's think about some of the points that were just raised. One point was that the Federal Government should have no role in elections; it should all be left to local officials. Didn't we have that debate in 1965 in the Voting Rights Act? Why did the Federal Government say that we should, in fact, have laws for the integrity of our elections? It was because there were all kinds of forms of voter intimidation and voter suppression, keeping the people of the United States, the citizens of the United States, from fully participating in their democratic Republic. It is the Constitution that laid out this role for the Federal Government, saying Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations regarding elections. So it is the Constitution that envisioned that if States failed to protect the integrity of our elections, then we should act right here, right now.

My colleague said he didn't like the idea that the bill says what type of paper to use. Well, that's certainly something that can be worked out. But shouldn't we have paper ballots everywhere?

My colleague said local officials are doing a great job. Then why were people in minority districts waiting 7 hours to vote, when people in many other districts—more affluent districts—were waiting 7 minutes to vote? That is discrimination, straight and simple. Shouldn't we debate eliminating that discrimination here on the floor of the Senate?

This is about the integrity of our elections. This is about the vision of our Constitution. This is about not letting the wealthy and powerful control what happens in our United States of America.

If we do not address this corruption of this Senate and of the voting institutions, then we, in fact, will fail to fulfill our responsibility under the Constitution of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

AUSTRALIAN WILDFIRES

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to honor the alliance we have between America and Australia. Specifically, I want to pay tribute to the partnership we have with regard to firefighting. America's century-old friendship with Australia has safeguarded two great nations.

July of 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of our historic victory in the pivotal Battle of Hamel during World War I. The Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty came together to cement this military alliance. Since that treaty was signed in 1951, we have always supported each other in times of crisis. It is this enduring spirit of mutual concern and cooperation and commitment that we celebrate today.

Senator BEN CARDIN of Maryland and I have put together a bipartisan resolution paying tribute to our firefighting alliance.

In recent years, the United States and Australia have suffered some of the hottest, driest weather on record. As a result, we have seen longer, fiercer wildfire seasons. For over 15 years, the two nations have come together to battle some of the most damaging and deadly fires. In 2018, more than 100 Australians helped the United States combat wildfires ravaging the West Coast.

For our part, U.S. agencies have been sending American firefighters to help the people of Australia. These agencies include the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Most recently, 362 firefighters helped battle this season's brutal Australian brush fires. These brush fires burned over 30 million acres before the last fires were put out just this month.

Tragically, three former American servicemembers died in a plane crash fighting the wildfires in Australia. One of these heroes, Ian McBeth of Montana, was actually a member of the Wyoming National Guard. Also killed were firefighters Paul Hudson of Arizona and Rick DeMorgan of Florida.

This resolution honors their ultimate sacrifice. It also recognizes the sacrifices of all of the courageous American and Australian firefighters.

I especially want to thank the 15 firefighters from my home State of Wyoming who assisted Australia: Travis Braten, Anna Cressler, Peter Freire, Kyle Miller, Chris Rankin, Eldred Slagowski, Traci Weaver, Timothy Haas, Richard Howe, Frank Keeler, Robert McConchie, Shane McCormick, Heath Morgan, Rance Neighbors, and Jonathan Ziegler.

I ask unanimous consent that the complete list of all of the names of those U.S.-Australia brush fire firefighters be printed in the RECORD.

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

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

US AUSTRALIA BUSH FIRES

Charles Russell, Peter Butteri, Bradford James Reed, Dylan Howard Brooks, Kyle Cowan, Raymond Anthony Crowe, John Craig Fremont, Evan Elliot Karp, Adam Kohley, Theodore Plumlee, Karen Irene Scholl, Brian A Lopez, Sean W Snyder, Lori E. Hisek, Anthony Edward Acheson, Jonathan F Catron, Sean C Cox, Nathaniel Curtis Dierking, Melanie N Dolan, Jared B Gilmore.

Bill Kuche, Bethany Dawn Kurtz, Clyde England, Benjamin Stuart Evans, John M Garrett, Cody Goff, Ryan Hagenah, Koreena L Haynes, Jake T Roocke, Jamie Rogers, Brady Schultz, Greg Smith, Eugene H Thul, RobRoy Williams, Corey Wood, Mark Empey, Leander Real Bird, Angel Acosta, Kristen M Allison, Victor Almanza.

Matthew A Aoki, Pablo Arriaga, Shane W Bender, Salvador W Cody Blanco, Fred Brewster, Danielle T Cardenas, John Casey, Ernest Ceccon, Armando Ceja, Hector Cerna, Brad W Corbin, William Richard Crews, Daniel R Diaz, Leonard Dimaculangan, Timothy Dunfee, Catherine B Eurbin, Isaac Flattley, Jason French, Santos Gonzalez, Brian P Good.

Justine Gude, Keegan Guillory, Joshua H Haddock, Charles Hixon, Patrick Howard, Janes, Brian Janes, Sean D Johnny, Paul Johnson, Joseph P Jones, Kyle Jones, Kenneth C Kempter, Ken H Kumpe, Alex E Malson, Tony Martinez, Josh Mathiesen, Jack Lincoln Matteson, Alex McBath, Jonathan Merager, Vicente Moreno.

Richard Noggles, Jackie Ortega, Adam D Park, Jorge L Perez, Adam Ramirez, Richard Reposo III, Gabriel J Romero, Mark S Smith, David Ernest Soldavini, Sean Stalie, Teresa M Stelman, Greg Stenmo, Johnny Summers, Matthew R Tarango, Joshua Thomas, Kevin Tkoch, Sergio Jose Toscano, Harold D Updike, Eduardo Valle, Eric Verdries.

Jason Withrow, John Worsley, Kurt M Yearout, Grant J Gifford, Tim Klukas, Jason W Loomis, Robin Wills, Rick L Young, Kyle Landon Bonham, David Carrera, Jeremy Scott McMahon, Elizabeth A Schenk, Jeremy Stocks, Jeremy Strait, Nate Gogna, Jeffrey Michael Bade, Thomas Barter, Michael Bryson, Andre Camacho, Dennis Fogel, Tyler Hoest.

Jay L Karle, William F King, Scott McCreary, Tracy Milakovic, Joshua Alan Morris, Jonathon Michael Richert, Kelly Rudger, Isaac Shinkle, David Smallman, Michelle S Smith, Kelly J Stover, Eric Zantotto, Richard Barrett, Shawn M Phillips, Todd D Ruzicka, John Weil, Richard I Sterry, Patrick B Blair, Geoffrey C Harrison, Owen Johnson, Matthew M Ringer.

Russell Stark, Tyler S Webb, Robert Dodgen, Jason Pertruska, Jason Steinmetz, Steve G Parrish, John G Ramsay, Greg Titus, Michael W Dueitt, John Allen Mason, Greg Funderburk, Benjamin Hobbs, Carroll Stewart, Cole Moore, Benjamin Covault, Tony L DeMasters, Mary F Fields, Robert Harper, Sean D Johnson, Albert L Linch.

James Greg Loper, Douglas Marolf, Monica Christine Morrison, Gary Brian Munson, Ricky Jackson, Robert MacDonald, Stuart Rodeffer, Destry Wayne Scheel, Kyle Lee Smith, Roger L Staats, Brian J Watts, Joel A Welch, Nicholas D Yturri, Alex Abols, Elden Alexander, Daniel A Betts, Ray M Bilbao, Lester Brown, Kristian Lee Bruington, Chris Belliston, Todd Jinkins.

Michael Evan Johnson, Mark L Kelley, Kenneth Bochniak, Farron Leslie Kunkel, Jennifer Dawn Myslivy, Page Nolin, John C Noneman, Stephen F Price, Ivan Kendrick Smith, Clay Stephens, Thaddeus Labrum,

Kafka, Joseph P Kafka, Joel Kerley, Michelle Moore, Charles Jason Barnes, Kimberley S Owczarzak, Brian Stearns, Michael Richard Crook, Ann M Niesen, Martin Cassellius.

Reggie E Bray, Allen C Briggs, Robbie Gerald Hollsingworth, Jared Bohrman, Michael D Burow, Jeannette M Dreadfulwater, James C Flint, Michael D Goicoechea, Gump, Robert Gump, Jermyn, Robin Jermyn, Justin Kaber, James L King, Morganne M Lehr, Chris J Loraas, Dennis Arthur Moroto, Nate Ochs, Brent H Olson, Brett Pargman, William Phillips, Kathy A Pipkin, Cameron L Rasor, Scott Schrenk, Julie N Shea, Charles Showers, Trent Daniel Sohr, Mike N Granger, Christopher M Barth, Leroy Steven Evans, Richard Hayner, Richard C Lang JR, David C Lee, Julie Polutnik, Mike J Williams, Bonnie Strawser, Scott Beacham, Cody Wienk, Rick Beal, Gilbert Calkins, Marcus Cornwell, Jonathan Henry Crane, Terrance Gallegos.

Barry Edward Lee, Jennifer Martynuik, Chris Niccoli, Ezra C Engleson, Matthew James Peterson, Justin Cutler, Brian C Holmes, Ian McQueary, Jacob Keogh, Juan Islas, Kevin Kelly, Joseph L Miller, Dylan Rader, Timothy P Roide, Eric T Tilden, Tyson A Albrecht, Jason Amis, Lorri Ann Benefield, Josh Diacetis, Clayton A Farnsworth, Nathan D Goodrich, Jason Matthew Green.

Edward Hiatt, Mark Hocken, Michael C Ingman, Brett Edward Johnson, Ruth M Johnson, Bart Cory Kicklighter, Laura B Livingstont, Eric A Miller, James Norman Osborne, Todd M Pederson, Alexander R Plascencia, Alex Robertson, Norman Arno Sealing III, Sandra M Sperry, Cameron M Stinchfield, Samuel D Tacchini, Kip Forrest Turner, Michael S Graham, Jeremiah Maghan.

Jada Altman, Scott Barnes, Kenneth R Boles, Tavis N Fenske, Justin Fenton, Josh Fulton, Brenda Hallmark, Natalie L Simrell, Chanel Sitz, Benjamin Thayer, John Toelle, John Szulc, Tomas K Liogys, Paul E Church-ill, Joshua J Ball, Kurt Bassestt, Kevin Lloyd Merrill, Eric K Allen, Lee Justin Dueker, Janan Hay Sharp, Tommy M Barnes, Michael Allan Davis, Jason M McDaniel.

Reynaldo Navarro, Jr, Brian Burbridge, James Holbrook Chadwick, Linda Milbury Chappe, Chris Marson, Clint C Coates, Dustin Blair, Renee F Flanagan, Audrey Huse, Kim J Martin, Jonathan Peel, Robert Lopez, Megan Saylors, Matthew W Way, Tracy Swenson, Michael J Doherty, Jason Kirks, Jeffrey Wilson.

Dameon Julander, Pila Malolo, Matthew Pippin, Jason Porter, Jeremy Seng, Tommy Braun, J Bradley Washa, Tyler Van Ormer, Robert F Allen, Steven John Brady JR, Kyle Cannon, Britt J Davis, Mike Daivs, Marge Hutchinson, Lindsey Kupfer, Patrick McGabe, Daniel E Pickard, John E Wirth, Scott Ebel, Jeff Dean Dimke.

Steven Rudolph Miller, Brendan P Neylon, Travis Braten, Anna Cressler, Peter L Freire, Kyle Miller, Chris Andrew Rankin, Eldred Jay Slagowski, Traci E Weaver, Timothy J Haas, Richard Howe, Frank Keeler, Robert McConchie, Shane McCormick, Heath Morgan, Rance Neighbors, Jonathan E Ziegler.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, the fact is that America's firefighters put their lives on the line every day to keep people safe. They do it here at home, and they do it when they go abroad.

This resolution applauds the brave men and women who responded to the Australian people in their hour of need.

It also promotes the sharing of critical resources, research, and best practices. This will help us prevent and suppress future fires.

Be assured that the American-Australian firefighting alliance will continue to protect us in the time of crisis. Our bipartisan resolution celebrates this enduring partnership.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

HONORING IAN MCBETH

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Wyoming for his comments. I come here today to express some very similar ones.

I come here today at a sad time—a sad time for Americans and especially a sad time for Montanans. You see, at the end of January, we lost three great Americans who paid the ultimate price for risking their lives for our allies down under. Those three great Americans are Flight Engineer Rick DeMorgan, First Officer Paul Clyde Hudson, and Captain Ian McBeth, who is a Montanan. They all lost their lives when their plane went down fighting a devastating bush fire in Australia.

Captain McBeth lived in Great Falls, MT. He was a dedicated pilot and servicemember. He was a member of both the Montana and the Wyoming Air National Guards and he completed several combat deployments, including tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Captain McBeth was one of the best pilots Montana had to offer. It was as if he was born to fly C-130s. But even more, he was born to be a caring father, husband, brother, and son to the incredible family he has left behind. At 44 years of age, he was taken from them far too young.

Captain McBeth was devoted to his family, leaving behind his wife, Bowdie; his kids, Abigail, Calvin, and Ella; and his parents and siblings, whose hearts have to be aching right now.

My wife Sharla and I are keeping them in our prayers and in our hearts through this trying time.

Captain McBeth heard the call to serve this country and did so honorably, taking that call to duty even further to help the folks in need on the other side of the world to fight wildfires.

Now, Montanans are no stranger to the risks that come from fighting wildfires, but that doesn't make it any easier when we lose one of our own. Captain McBeth and so many other Montanans who bravely run into danger when others run out—these are our heroes, plain and simple. We owe a debt of gratitude to Captain McBeth that can never be repaid. Montana has lost one of its finest, and he will be missed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MCSALLY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

HONORING PAUL HUDSON

Ms. MCSALLY. Madam President, last week, I cosponsored a bipartisan resolution honoring the three American firefighters who lost their lives fighting Australia's bush fires this year, including First Officer Paul Hudson, from Buckeye, AZ. Each of these men gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to others.

Paul dedicated his life to protecting others, first as a marine and then as a firefighter. He served in the Marine Corps for 20 years, including as a C-130 pilot, before retiring as a lieutenant colonel. Paul graduated from the Naval Academy in 1999 and later went on to earn a master's degree in business administration and information technology management from the Naval Postgraduate School.

When aid was needed in Australia to combat the devastating wildfires, Paul jumped into action and put his life on the line to help others. He was only 42 years old when he was killed in a plane crash while fighting to extinguish these awful fires. My heart and my prayers, and Arizona's heart and Arizona's prayers, go out to his wife, Noreen, and her loss. Arizona will not forget Paul's immense selflessness and his sacrifice.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 587.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of James P. Danly, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2023.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of James P. Danly, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2023.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Tim Scott, Chuck Grassley, David Perdue, Lamar Alexander, John Barrasso, Tom Cotton, Thom Tillis, James M. Inhofe, Shelley Moore Capito, Ron Johnson, Mike Rounds, Richard Burr, James Lankford, Jerry Moran, John Thune.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

RECESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess until 5 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:02 p.m., recessed until 5 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CASSIDY).

LEGISLATIVE SESSION—Continued

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELATING TO "BORROWER DEFENSE INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY"—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in just a few moments, we are going to be considering the motion to proceed to the borrower CRA, and I would like to say a few words, understanding that the Senators are expecting this motion to come up in about 5 minutes.

This is a joint resolution that was passed on a bipartisan basis in the House of Representatives to overturn the borrower defense rule that has been promulgated by Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. I am pleased to be the Senate's sponsor.

Here is what it comes down to—hundreds of thousands of Federal student loan borrowers having been defrauded by their schools. They went to some of these for-profit schools that have gone out of business, but many schools defrauded these students over the years.

We in Congress established what was known as the borrower defense. We said, if you borrow money from the Federal Government and go to colleges that we acknowledge as being accred-

ited and they defraud you, lie to you, misrepresent to you what your education is going to cost or what it is going to give you, then, you don't have to be saddled with the student debt for the rest of your life because of their lies, because of their fraud. You have a chance to go to the Department of Education and plead your case that you were defrauded, and you should at least be relieved of some, if not all, of your student loan debt. That is what it is all about.

There are 230,000 student borrowers who are waiting for the Department of Education, under Betsy DeVos, to do something. The Department has not done anything except to come up with a new rule that says, at this point, it is going to be harder for these students to prove fraud. It isn't enough that the States and other units of government have found fraud by these schools. These students are supposed to be their own lawyers and their own investigators and prove the fraud and how it affected them personally.

Is it reasonable for a young student who has been defrauded and is carrying student debt to have that responsibility? Secretary DeVos thinks yes. I think no. That is what this vote is all about.

Who agrees with my position on this issue? Most of the advocates for students do. In addition, the veterans organizations across America, led by the American Legion, are supporting our effort now under this Congressional Review Act to do away with the new rule by the Secretary of the Department of Education. They say it is unfair to veterans—it is—and unfair to student borrowers to hold them to this standard.

The American Legion's national commander, Bill Oxford, called the rule, which we are going to get a chance to vote on after the debate, "fundamentally rigged against defrauded borrowers." He is speaking on behalf of veterans. He could be speaking on behalf of young men and women across America who have been misled by these schools over and over again. The Bipartisan Policy Center Action, the NAACP, Third Way, 20 State attorneys general, and a host of others have joined me in urging the Senate to overturn this unfair rule.

The Senate has a chance today to show the country that we can come together and do the right thing for students and veterans. How many times have we given speeches about how much we care about veterans? Here is a chance to vote with the veterans, especially those who have been defrauded out of their GI bill of rights and have ended up with additional debt.

Secondly, how many times have people told us these student debts are too much, are ruining kids' lives, and to give them a chance? I am not for forgiving all loans to all students, but these students have been defrauded. They should have an opportunity to start life again and not be burdened with the debt that is going to make life impossible in their futures.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me. Regardless of what you think of the 2016 rule, we can certainly do better than what Secretary DeVos has come up with.

I have been advised that we are not quite ready for my request of the Chair. So I will say a couple of more words on the subject. I moved it along quickly, but I didn't have to.

Under the new Betsy DeVos rule, it turns out that, of the 100 percent of students who have been defrauded and are asking for relief, the estimate is that 3 percent will be successful but that 97 percent of these students will not have the opportunity to get this relief.

One of my colleagues whom I respect very much came to the floor here and said: If your car is a lemon, you don't sue the bank; you sue the dealer. A college can be a lemon just like a car can be. In his scenario, the school is the dealer, and the Department of Education is the bank. The case that he is making for a student who has been defrauded by a school is that one has been sold a lemon of an education and that we should go after the offending school.

Doesn't that sound right—that, if a school has defrauded you, you would go after it?

It turns out that the rule that Secretary DeVos has promulgated ties the hands of a student who is going after the school. It requires forced, mandatory arbitration. So you can't take it to court. It eliminates class actions so that students from the same school, like the Corinthian Colleges, which went bankrupt, can't even come together as a class. No, you have to lawyer up individually. You have to get ready to fight in some room that has been set aside in which the for-profit school and the Department of Education are going to argue against you.

Is that what we want to say to these students who have been through bad college experiences and want to get on with their lives, who found out that these credit hours from these for-profit colleges didn't transfer anywhere, and who found out the courses that were supposed to lead to jobs didn't lead to jobs?

These students were misled by these schools, and these schools are notorious for it. The question is this: Are we going to stand up for the students, many of whom are veterans, or are we going to stand up for the schools that have been affected by this?

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I rise in support of S.J.Res. 56, a resolution of congressional disapproval for the Department of Education's, Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability rule.

It is inconceivable to me that the Federal Department of Education would choose to protect the profits of predatory corporations instead of the students they ripped off, but sadly, that is exactly what Secretary DeVos's borrower defense regulation does. It is now up to Congress to step in and re-

verse the harm that her Department is seeking to do.

Four years ago, the Obama administration took action when it became clear that a number of for-profit colleges were defrauding students, leaving them on the hook for massive loans without an education or a job. The borrower defense rule established under President Obama made sure that students who had been hurt by these schools could access debt relief and get a chance at restarting their education. Unfortunately, Secretary DeVos chose to gut that regulation, making it nearly impossible for defrauded students to get any kind of debt relief from the loans they took out to attend colleges that were later found to be bad actors. To make matters worse, Secretary DeVos also rescinded existing protections and ended forgiveness pathways that were included in the 2016 borrower defense rule. Secretary DeVos took what was a fair and transparent process and rigged the deck against students.

Because of the new barriers to debt relief established by Secretary DeVos's new borrower defense rule, only an estimated 3 percent of loans associated with school misconduct will be discharged. The DeVos rule eliminates the ability for borrowers to file for relief in groups and requires individuals to meet an unreasonably high standard of evidence that the school intended to mislead them. In addition, the rule only gives borrowers 3 years from the time they leave school to file a claim. In a large number of previous cases, it has taken many years to gather evidence of and establish fraud. Finally, the DeVos rule prohibits borrowers from appealing the decision on their claim, even if new evidence of a school's misconduct comes to light.

This new rule might be good for corporate profits, but it will have a cruel impact on many vulnerable people who can afford it the least. I hear often from Connecticut residents who have been crippled by massive debt accrued while attending what turned out to be a valueless institution and who desperately need access to debt relief through a borrowers defense claim.

I have heard from a number of students in Connecticut who joined a lawsuit in the bankruptcy case of ITT Technical Institute after its closure left 40,000 students in limbo. Students described falsified job placement rates, lack of career connection with industries associated with their degree programs, unqualified teachers, and inaccurate information about their loan terms.

Meanwhile, the Department holds those with claims in financial limbo as they wait years for a decision. Natarsha Morales, who attended Briarwood College in Southington, CT, filed a claim on \$39,000 in outstanding Federal student loans. Natarsha filed this claim nearly 4 years ago and has yet to receive a decision. During this time, Briarwood College, which later

became Lincoln College, closed permanently after a history of defrauding students like her. As the Department neither grants nor denies her request, the interest on her loans continues to grow. As a result, Natarsha has struggled to plan for her financial future. She has been unable to buy a home and unable to enroll in another educational program.

These students were just trying to do the right thing; they made sacrifices to try to get an education, better themselves, and get on a path to a better-paying career. Tragically, we now know that the degrees these students obtained—or sought to obtain—were worthless, and they were taken advantage of by predatory institutions that cared only about taking as much money as possible. The least we can do for these students is to give them a chance at loan forgiveness.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of S.J.Res. 56 and repeal the DeVos Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability rule that turns its back on borrowers and reduces the culpability of risky institutions.

Mr. DURBIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I understand there is a discharge petition at the desk for S.J. Res. 56 that has been signed by at least 30 Senators, which will cause the joint resolution to be discharged under the Congressional Review Act; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, it is.

MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 439, S.J. Res. 56, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 69 Leg.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Harris	Portman
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Hawley	Rosen
Booker	Heinrich	Schatz
Brown	Hirono	Schumer
Cantwell	Jones	Shaheen
Capito	Kaine	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Sullivan
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	McSally	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murkowski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murphy	Murray
Gardner	Peters	Young
Gillibrand		

NAYS—41

Alexander	Fischer	Risch
Barraso	Graham	Roberts
Blackburn	Grassley	Romney
Blunt	Hoehn	Rounds
Boozman	Inhofe	Rubio
Braun	Johnson	Sasse
Burr	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Shelby
Cotton	Loeffler	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	Moran	Toomey
Daines	Paul	Wicker
Enzi	Perdue	

NOT VOTING—4

Cruz	Sanders
Hyde-Smith	Warren

The motion was agreed to.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELATING TO BORROWER DEFENSE INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Calendar No. 439, S.J. Res. 56, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ACCURACY AND TECHNOLOGICAL AVAILABILITY ACT

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I rise in support of S. 1822, the Broadband DATA Act, and in a moment I will make a unanimous consent request with regard to that legislation.

This bill will ensure that the FCC has the most accurate broadband coverage maps in the world today to deploy 5G networks. As you know, we were in a race to win that race globally, and I think we can still do it.

In December, the Senate unanimously passed this measure, S. 1822, but because the House passed a slightly

amended version last week, we need to act again to get this bill across the finish line.

We have a digital divide in this country which threatens to leave rural America behind. We have done a lot to address that divide. However, an estimated 20 million Americans still lack access to broadband—Americans like those in Arizona or Mississippi or other States across our heartland. Every year, the FCC spends billions of dollars to promote deployment of broadband across the United States. S. 1822 will result in highly detailed and accurate maps so that the FCC can direct support to areas most in need.

This legislation represents extensive negotiation and work on a bipartisan and bicameral basis, for which I congratulate this Senate. My hat is off to our colleagues in the other body and thanks to all the staff who have helped on both sides of the aisle.

Madam President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 1822.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1822) entitled "An act 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," do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELATING TO BORROWER DEFENSE INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I want to thank my colleague, Senator DURBIN, for leading efforts this week to undo Betsy DeVos's harmful rollback protections for millions of Americans with student loans ripped off by for-profit colleges. This is an example where the Senate stood up to the President, stood up to the billionaire Secretary of Education whose mission in that job is to privatize public education and turn profits for her and her friends and her allies. This bipartisan Senate stood up to her and stood up to the President, stood up to the majority leader, and did the right thing.

We have seen these for-profit colleges in Ohio. Schools like Corinthian and

ITT, which make big promises with fake—and this time the word "fake" is accurate—they make big promises with fake or deceptive job placement rates. They spend millions on marketing, and they trick students into taking out huge loans, only to close up shop and leave them with meaningless degrees or, worse yet, just credits but always mountains of debt.

These are people trying to get an education to improve their job prospects to build a better life for themselves and their families. Too often these predatory schools target Black students, Latino students, immigrants, low-income students, and first-generation college students. Many of them are veterans returning from serving our country and looking to start a new career.

These for-profit colleges are willing to exploit people who have taken out loans to go there who are veterans. Sometimes they go to school. They served their country and then they go to school, and these for-profit colleges are willing to take advantage of them. These for-profit schools are all about lining the pockets of their CEOs.

We need to stand with the defrauded student borrowers and hold these for-profit schools accountable. Of course, we have learned not to hold our breath when it comes to the Trump administration holding anyone accountable—at least anyone rich accountable. Instead of figuring out how to provide relief for students, Secretary Betsy DeVos went to work figuring out how to let the schools that scammed them off the hook.

Three hundred thousand people had submitted borrower defense claims as of last December. More than 200,000 of those requests are still pending. More than 7,700 Ohioans—7,700 people in my State—are waiting for relief.

In 2016, the Obama administration announced a rule to help these students get their loans canceled, but the DeVos Department of Education—the Trump Department of Education—dragged its feet on processing borrower defense claims. They rewrote the rule to make it damn near impossible for defrauded students to get the relief they were promised. They are throwing up hurdle after hurdle: narrow time limits, making students gather all kinds of unnecessary paperwork, and banning students from appealing a decision.

DeVos's rule opens up the doors for schools to once again use mandatory arbitration. I am not a lawyer, but I know from seeing this done to far too many of my constituents. Its legal fine print that for-profit schools sneak into their enrollment agreements deny students their day in court. Students don't know they are part of these agreements. They are, and they lose their day in court.

I hear from Ohioans all the time who have been scammed by these schools.

Tasha Berkhalter came to Washington last month to bring attention to

this important issue. She is an Army veteran. She served our country with honor. She is a mother of four. She returned home. She wanted to do forensics with the FBI, so she enrolled in ITT's criminal justice program. She didn't think of it as a for-profit school. She didn't know she was about to get scammed.

She had served our country. She wanted to serve our country. She went to this for-profit school. ITT told her that her GI benefits would cover the full tuition and that they would help her get a job after graduation. But when she began to suspect the program wasn't the high-quality education that it claimed and tried to transfer, she found out that no other schools—no other legitimate schools—would accept her ITT credits. The supposedly high-tech school was using outdated books.

Faced with a choice of continuing at ITT or starting completely over, she finished her degree. She ended up \$100,000 in debt. Remember, ITT told her the GI bill would cover everything—well, except for \$100,000. She ended up \$100,000 in debt with a degree that, unfortunately, employers didn't take seriously.

Those are the people whom Secretary DeVos and those are the people whom President Trump, with his own Trump University, want to take over our higher education system.

Now she has lost her shot at using the GI benefit she earned, and she is drowning in debt.

Ms. Berkhalter and other student veterans defrauded by shady schools deserve better than the treatment they are getting under Betsy DeVos. Not only is Betsy DeVos refusing to help, her new borrower defense rule will let other for-profit colleges continue to run the same scams on other students and student veterans.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is supposed to crack down on these schools and on loan-servicing companies that handle people's student loans. That is why we created the CFPB—to look out for people like Ms. Berkhalter. But under President Trump, under Betsy DeVos, they refuse to let the CFPB look into loan services that are scamming students.

I asked the CFPB Director today about this. We have been asking her for a year to take this over and make it work. She continues to yield to her billionaire friend in the Cabinet, Secretary DeVos, who is a billionaire friend of the billionaire President and has no interest in making him accountable. President Trump's CFPB Director is rolling over, refusing to do her job protecting the tens of millions of Americans with student loans.

It comes back always to whose side you are on. Are you going to stand with student veterans, or are you going to stand with these for-profit CEOs, these CEOs of for-profit schools who are making literally millions of dollars a year? Are you going to fight for defrauded Americans saddled with stu-

dent loans or the shady schools ripping them off? It is pretty clear with whom President Trump and Betsy DeVos are standing. Over and over and over, President Trump and his administration betray the people he promised to fight for.

I am glad my colleagues stood up today. It was a bipartisan victory. It said to President Trump and Betsy DeVos and Majority Leader McConnell that that kind of fraud, that kind of exploitation of our veterans and our students who are defrauded by these for-profit colleges is something we will no longer accept.

REMEMBERING NATHANIEL JONES

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I rise to honor a leader in the fight for justice, a great Ohioan whom we lost last month, Judge Nathaniel Jones.

At a ceremony dedicating the Federal courthouse in honor of Judge Jones in 2003, former Congressman Louis Stokes said that the courthouse served as a testament to the outstanding public service by "a local who made good." Judge Jones certainly was that.

Born in Youngstown in 1926, he served a country that did not yet recognize his full legal equality. He served his country in World War II. He went on to become a respected lawyer. He went on first to be a journalist who worked for the Youngstown and Pittsburgh News. He worked for the Youngstown newspaper. He covered Jackie Robinson when Jackie Robinson played in AAA and became a friend of his. He went on to become a respected lawyer, a Federal judge, and an international civil and human rights advocate. He was a local who made good, but more importantly, he was a man who did good. He committed his life to the pursuit of justice and equality. We are all the better for it.

He led efforts to end employment discrimination as the Executive Director of the Fair Employment Practices Commission. He was the first African-American U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. He served as Assistant General Counsel for President Johnson's Kerner Commission. That Commission issued a landmark report warning that racism and poverty were the root causes of violence in our Nation's cities during the 1960s.

As general counsel for the NAACP, Judge Jones directed efforts to fight discrimination faced by African-American soldiers and worked to desegregate public schools in the North, stepping in personally to argue several cases.

Nominated by President Carter, he was confirmed in 1979 to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals—one of only 39 African Americans to ever serve on the Federal Circuit. As a judge, he felt it was his duty to be an instrument of change in a system that too often denied justice to people of color. In many of the cases that came before the court, he so often sided with those taking on powerful interests and fighting for

their rights—something we see far too little of in this body and in this government.

As South Africa began to move beyond the dark days of apartheid and chart a new future of inclusion and equality, Judge Jones was called to help draft the country's new Constitution.

In Cincinnati, which he called home for some 45 years, the footprints of his good work can be seen across the city. Some of my favorite times were sitting in Judge Jones's office and listening to him tell about his days as a reporter knowing Jackie Robinson, talking about his days at the NAACP, and talking about his belief in justice and his passion for fair play.

He was one of the early supporters of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. He mentored numerous young lawyers who served as his law clerks. He offered his assistance to local leaders seeking to address the lingering stigma of racism still far too present in our society. Judge Jones was a brilliant legal thinker. He was a dogged advocate for civil rights.

Judge Jones was a wonderful husband and father. I am privileged to know well Stephanie, his daughter, who worked in the House of Representatives some years ago. He was a good friend, and he was a mentor to so many. He was also a relentless optimist who never—never—ceased to believe in the promise of our great country.

The legacy of Judge Nathaniel Jones will live on through his far-reaching work for justice and through the many, many lives he touched.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, my colleague from Ohio just spoke about Nathaniel R. Jones, who was a circuit judge with the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati and had a distinguished career as a judge but a long, distinguished career as a true champion of civil rights going back to the 1960s and was also general counsel of the NAACP when landmark cases were decided. I also happened to have had the privilege of getting to know him over the years and considered him a dear friend.

We have a resolution that passed the Senate last month with regard to Judge Jones, and I am pleased to join my colleague SHERROD BROWN today in paying tribute again to Nathaniel R. Jones. That resolution is now in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and therefore the agent for all of us to be able to understand the importance of the work he did and for future generations to understand the importance of the march to freedom that he represented.

GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

Madam President, I am also here on the floor today to highlight the introduction of landmark new legislation called the Great American Outdoors Act. It is to ensure that some of our country's greatest resources and our greatest treasures, including our national parks, are taken care of for generations to come.

I am proud to help lead the introduction of this bill along with my colleagues Senator GARDNER, Senator MANCHIN, Senator DAINES, Senator WARNER, Senator ALEXANDER, and Senator KING. I also want to thank President Trump and his administration, first for President Trump's support of the Restore Our Parks Act, which is part of this legislation, over the past few years but also for their support of this broader legislation, the Great American Outdoors Act.

In the spirit of President Teddy Roosevelt over 100 years ago, Federal land management agencies like the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and others have worked to designate and preserve some of the most beautiful and historic parks of our country. Those lands, of course, include those we all know of as our national parks—Yosemite, Yellowstone, some of the great ones, Glacier—but also more modest sites like the boyhood home of President Taft in my home State of Ohio.

In all, the National Park Service and its system include more than 84 million acres of parks and historical sites that now attract 330 million visitors annually. Actually, that is a record. More people are going to the parks than ever. That is great. The concern is, when they get to the parks, sometimes the parks aren't working for them because of the huge infrastructure needs and the deferred maintenance problems.

We have eight of these national parks in Ohio, including Cuyahoga Valley National Park, which is our largest single park and actually is the 13th most visited national park in the country. It is a great park. Whether it is for biking, hiking, fishing, or kayaking, I am one of those 2.7 million visitors to Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Ohio's national parks every year. I want to be sure these public lands are preserved so more Americans can visit these incredible sites into the future.

Going back to my days as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in the George W. Bush administration—going back about a dozen years—I have taken the lead on figuring out ways to help protect our national park sites throughout the country. At that time, we proposed—in the Bush administration—a centennial bill. We were coming up on the 100th anniversary of our national parks, and the notion was to get more public-private partnerships involved in the parks. President Bush and his Secretary of the Interior at the time were very sup-

portive of this effort, as was the Office of Management and Budget.

After my time in the Bush administration, I was a member of the Centennial Commission on the National Parks, and here in the Senate, I am the author of what is called the National Park Service Centennial Act, which was signed into law in 2016, on the 100th anniversary, to establish the Centennial Challenge Fund for the national parks.

By the way, that Centennial Challenge Fund has done pretty well—\$113 million has been appropriated, but it has been leveraged by an additional \$147 million from the private sector. So it has worked exactly as we intended it to—in fact, even better; it has been even more than a one-to-one match—the notion being, you put a challenge fund out there and say, if you care about the parks, the Federal taxpayer will put in some money, and you hope the private sector will also match it, and it has been more than matched.

We also established the centennial endowment at what is called the National Parks Foundation. This endowment is intended to fund projects to address things like deferred maintenance at our parks. Separately, that centennial endowment has now \$31.5 million in it.

We know there is more work to do, though, to protect our national lands to ensure they are going to be there to enjoy for the future. The Great American Outdoors Act will help us in moving forward with this mission through two main initiatives.

First, it will permanently fund what is known as the Land and Water Conservation Fund through a provision offered by Senators GARDNER and MANCHIN—a \$900 million initiative. The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides resources to State and local governments, as well as the Federal Government, to acquire land and water so that they can be protected. Often this is your city park back home, so sometimes it is neighborhood land. Sometimes it is land that connects to a national park or a national forest. Sometimes there is a checkerboard pattern of private ownership and public ownership, and it helps to connect those together to preserve some of our existing public lands.

In any case, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been successful over the years. Since its creation in 1965, over \$330 million in LCF funding has gone to protecting land in Ohio, as an example, and ensuring recreational access to those lands.

The second part of this legislation is that, along with the LWCF, the Great American Outdoors Act includes our bipartisan Parks Act. It is called the Restore Our Parks Act. I authored this along with Senator WARNER, Senator KING, and Senator ALEXANDER.

As I said, the parks and public lands are some of our greatest treasures in this country. The problem is that, over time, we have allowed this mainte-

nance backlog to build up, meaning that a lot of the buildings and infrastructure, the roads, the bridges, and the water systems are deteriorating to the point that a lot of them are completely unusable.

Again, it is great that a lot of folks are going to the parks now, but when they get there, sometimes the trail is closed, the bathroom is not working, and the visitor center has a leak in the roof and can't be used. So it is time for us to put some funding into these deferred maintenance expenses. Some would call them, perhaps, capital expenses.

Why has this happened? Well, because although every year we appropriate funding for the parks, the funding is for the operations of the park—for the nature programs, for the rangers, for just the day-to-day activities—not for these infrastructure or capital expenses or what we call deferred maintenance.

I have seen this firsthand in Ohio, where there is more than a \$100 million backlog in long-delayed maintenance projects at our eight national park sites. Last fall I was at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. I go there frequently. It is a great park, but it badly needs more than \$15 million in repairs—renovations for shelters, for parking lots, for a bridge that is dangerous to cross, for railroad tracks. There is a scenic railroad that runs through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, but the railroad track is in such bad repair that it is dangerous—or will be soon—to go on that scenic railway. Trails have been falling apart because of erosion, and they don't have enough money to do it.

Let me give an example. The Cuyahoga Valley National Park has about an \$11 million budget every year. So the taxpayers of America come to us here in Congress and say: Let's fund our parks. We fund the parks for daily operations, and \$11 million goes to Cuyahoga Valley National Park—again, the 13th most visited national park. It is a great park. There are a lot of visitors. It is sort of a suburban and in some places almost an urban park as well as a rural park. It is exactly what we need more of. A lot of kids access it—a lot of schoolkids. Well, the deferred maintenance is over \$50 million, so at \$11 million a year, how do you pay for that deferred maintenance? That has been the challenge.

Elsewhere in the State, I have toured Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, which is on the shores of Lake Erie. This is at Put-in-Bay, so if you know Put-in-Bay—a famous spot for recreation, but the historic part of it is Perry's Victory Monument. It was established under those who fought in the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812, as well as to celebrate the long-lasting peace between Britain, Canada, and the United States. So it is an important historical marker.

There I saw some of the \$48 million in long-delayed maintenance needs at the

site, which includes millions in needed repairs to fix a concrete seawall that is literally crumbling. The high-water level of Lake Erie has been part of the problem. Part of the problem is that it is just old, and it is crumbling. There are sinkholes around it. You are not allowed to go near the seawall or therefore near the lake. The visitor center needs significant updates and needs to be made ADA accessible. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that they make it accessible, and they don't have the funds to do that.

In that case, there is a \$48 million price tag to do the maintenance repairs, and their annual budget is minuscule because it is a small park. It is a monument with a small visitor center. Yet they have this huge expense.

I have also been to the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in Chillicothe to see millennia-old burial mounds from the original Native Americans who were there and earthworks from the area's pre-Columbian inhabitants. Again, I also saw there about \$3.5 million in unmet maintenance needs, including needed repairs to the exterior of the visitor center and its trail system.

Parks have a lot of issues that over time have built up, and that is a huge problem for us. In a way, it is kind of like being a homeowner: If you allow the deferred maintenance to build up, if you don't take care of the roof, what happens? Your drywall gets wet, and you have mold in the drywall, and then the floor starts to buckle. But for being able to fix that roof, you have all kinds of other problems. That is what has been happening in our parks. The costs just keep mounting. The total backlog at the national parks is now believed to be over \$12 billion.

By the way, we require the parks to keep these lists: What are your most urgent needs, and what are the broad needs you have in terms of deferred maintenance? So we have good data on this one, and we know it is over \$12 billion.

It is a compounding problem. If you don't fix it, it gets worse and worse and worse, which only increases the cost to taxpayers. The longer we wait to address these maintenance needs—not fixing the hole in the roof creates a lot of other costs for taxpayers.

I like this legislation because essentially it is saying: These are debts unpaid. This is work that should have been done previously. So let's find a funding source that is appropriate to that. I think the funding source we found is the right one, which is the on- and offshore oil and gas revenues. Instead of going into the U.S. Government, some of these are going to be diverted to our national parks to pay for expenses that have been there for years that we should have paid for earlier but just don't have the method and the ability to pay for those kinds of capital expenses or those kinds of deferred maintenance projects in the annual budget.

So that is why we need to address this problem, and it is a problem that is growing. We don't want it to get worse. Again, it comes at a time when visitation is pretty good. From 2006 to 2017, annual visitation increased by more than 58 million people. Again, over 330 million people visited the parks last year. That has also put, I believe, more pressure on the parks and on this deferred maintenance we talked about.

The challenges of keeping up with it have stretched our land management agencies thin—not just the parks but the Forest Service, our fish and wildlife refuges, our other Department of Interior land. We have more issues now because so many of these lands have been using bandaids to kind of get through it, and that doesn't deal with the underlying issues, so the costs are mounting.

We initially introduced this common-sense solution to just deal with the parks, which, again, have reached over \$12 billion. Since then, I am pleased to say we have worked with our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol, who included these other lands, and also with the administration to include funding for other land management agencies that also have deferred maintenance issues—again, the Forest Service, the BLM over at the Department of Interior, the fish and wildlife refuges, and some of the Bureau of Indian Affairs lands.

To address this, the legislation before us creates what is called the Legacy Restoration Fund, which will provide \$1.9 billion per year for 5 years—it is a 5-year program—from unobligated on- and offshore energy revenue. So these are royalties from that energy, which is actually increasing as we do more exploration. So it is a total over 5 years—\$1.9 billion a year—of \$9.5 billion to be divided across the National Park Service, which gets the bulk of it, but also the Forest Service, wildlife refuge, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

It addresses only the priority needs because that is not enough to take care of all the needs. But the way the parks have analyzed this, they have priority needs of about \$6.5 billion, as an example, out of the \$12 billion, and all of those needs can be met with this funding. It is not all that is needed. We know we will have to go back at this again. But it is a very important bill—to do this for these 5 years to ensure that we can indeed have these treasures continue to be places where visitors can come from around the world, from around the country, from the Cleveland city schools right next to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and enjoy the majesty of our public lands.

I want to thank my colleagues again—Senators GARDNER, MANCHIN, and DAINES—for their support in helping to put this final package together. I want to thank our Restore Our Parks Act colleagues who have been at this a long time—4 or 5 years—Senator WAR-

NER, myself, and also Senator ALEXANDER and Senator KING.

Finally, I would like to once again thank President Trump for his strong support of the Restore Our Parks Act over the past few years and now of this new product that has come together. He understands the need to protect the natural beauty of our public lands. I spoke to him about it today.

To me, the Great American Outdoors Act is the next step in carrying out Teddy Roosevelt's legacy, Teddy Roosevelt's mission of protecting the environment for future generations.

I look forward to the ability to debate this on the floor of the U.S. Senate week after next and to then pass it with a strong bipartisan vote and send it to the President for his signature to ensure that this landmark legislation, this historic legislation, can be enacted into law.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I rise this evening to discuss the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, which is oftentimes referred to as the “Magna Carta” of environmental laws. When I think about our Nation's most illustrious documents, I am reminded of the true expression of America and its aspirations. I am reminded of our Declaration of Independence and its embrace of “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

I am also reminded of our Constitution. Delaware is known as the First State because we were the first State to ratify the Constitution, December 7, 1787—one week before anybody else. Our Constitution is the most replicated and enduring Constitution in the history of the world. It is not entirely unlike our more recent expressions of America's values and guiding principles, like the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, or NEPA. NEPA has served as one of our bedrock environmental laws for a half century now.

According to its six pages of statute, NEPA's purpose includes “efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man.”

NEPA enshrines democracy by giving the American people a voice to help decide the fate of Federal decisions. For 50 years, NEPA has sought to ensure environmental protection, public health, and the notion that the American people have a say in Federal decision making.

Like our Constitution, NEPA is one of our Nation's most replicated laws. The same principles of democracy and citizen participation that are enshrined in our Constitution are also enshrined in NEPA. We have made changes to our Constitution over the years, but those changes were made rarely and with great forethought.

However, just 60 days ago, the Trump administration proposed a rule that

would fundamentally change the NEPA regulation for the first time in its 50-year history.

Earlier this month, I testified at the Council on Environmental Quality's public hearing in Washington, DC. There, I stated that unlike the Ten Commandments, the NEPA regulations are not written in stone. I understand that.

In 1978, there was broad consensus to finalize the NEPA regulations. If we had that same kind of broad consensus today to update certain NEPA provisions, this would be another story. After all, I have said oftentimes that if something isn't perfect, let's make it better. But there is a reason that NEPA is one of the most imitated environmental laws on this planet—it has had a lot of success.

Any changes to the implementing regulations of this bedrock law—let alone such substantial changes proposed by the Council on Environment Quality to NEPA regulations—require careful thought, meticulous deliberations, and bipartisanship. Consequential changes should be made rarely and with great forethought.

Speaking of bipartisanship, one of our nominees before the Environment and Public Works last year, nominated for a senior position in the Department of Interior, said, in these words: Bipartisan solutions are lasting solutions. That is what he said. He is a Republican, from Wyoming. He said: Bipartisan solutions are lasting solutions.

NEPA was signed into law 50 years ago by a Republican President, Richard Nixon. NEPA was passed in this body by a bipartisan majority. NEPA was passed in the House by a bipartisan majority. The reason why it is still alive and well and functioning, protecting our environment, is because it is a bipartisan solution, and it has helped make it a lasting solution.

Any changes—any changes to the implementing regulations of this bedrock law, let alone the kind of changes sought by CEQ, require a lot more careful thought, deliberation, and bipartisanship.

CEQ simply has not aimed to address the needs of all the stakeholders. Witness the universal opposition of the environmental community, NEPA's most consistent constituency. Council on Environmental Quality has touted this proposal—their proposal now—as a way to “modernize” NEPA. However, the proposal is instead an anachronism, taking us back to a time when construction bulldozed and disconnected communities, before NEPA was enacted in 1970.

This proposal casts aside any consideration of frontline communities, as well as the severe environmental consequences that come with eliminating the requirement to consider cumulative environmental impacts and indirect effects.

Taking away that requirement is akin to creating a new NEPA mandate that would exclude the impact to air

quality—or water quality—from a proposed action. Simply put, it makes no sense.

Not only is removing these requirements a bad idea for public health and for our environment, but doing so will end up costing taxpayers more when projects aren't built to be resilient and, as a result, taxpayer investments are quite literally washed away by the next big storm or flood.

What is more, this proposal gives the fox the keys to the henhouse by allowing companies to write their own environmental impact statements. Think about that—by allowing companies to write their own environmental impact statements. That is a little bit like offering students self-graded, take-home exams. This proposal also creates loopholes to avoid environmental review and public input, which is especially harmful to environmental justice communities that are often the targets of industrial investments and projects.

I take no joy in saying this, but the proposal before us is one that is, sadly, myopic and ideologically driven. I have repeatedly called on CEQ to withdraw this proposal, and I do so again today.

Along with the policy, I must also mention CEQ's refusal to open this notice to proposed rulemaking to greater public involvement that is commensurate with its gravity and scope.

In rebuttal to repeated concerns from more than 160 Members of Congress, and literally hundreds—hundreds—of stakeholder organizations, CEQ stated that it is “engaging in extensive public outreach, including through requests for public comments, two hearings and other outreach”—two hearings in the whole country.

Just last week, with only three full business days prior to the close of the comment period, CEQ finally told 166 other Members of Congress and me that it would refuse to extend the public comment period, thus providing the public as little opportunity as possible to have their voices heard.

Both CEQ's reply and its public statements make clear that CEQ believes it somehow deserves extra credit for allowing the public to participate in this rulemaking. Public involvement means not only an opportunity to comment, it means taking those comments seriously by CEQ.

Let me be clear. Neither this CEQ nor any Council on Environmental Quality gets extra credit for the mere act of requesting public comments on America's bedrock environmental law.

CEQ certainly does not deserve extra credit for allowing only 60 days to review and comment on this massive environmental protection rollback. CEQ also does not get extra credit for only two hearings in the entire country—two hearings—to receive public comment.

At these hearings, the public needed a ticket and only got 3 minutes to speak. Think about that: 3 minutes for a law that has been around for a half century that is a basic bedrock envi-

ronmental law, 3 minutes; constraining comments to a couple of minutes; the idea of requiring tickets, as if it is some kind of prize to participate in something that should be a democratic norm; and the idea of CEQ failing to engage a single speaker in Denver or Washington, DC. Think about that: not engaging even one speaker in the two places where the public actually had the opportunity to comment. Not one. That doesn't constitute an open process, not where I come from. I think it probably doesn't for most other folks as well. It doesn't come close. What we have here is a clear sign that CEQ is limiting the involvement of the public and wants the clock to expire before the public can find out what is actually in the massive rewrite. That is what it is.

To say I am disappointed with CEQ's response is an understatement. NEPA is a 50-year-old law, but Americans have only been given 60 days to defend it.

I will go back to what I said before. No law is written in stone. The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of our country are not written in stone. Everything we do, I know we can do better. But the way CEQ has approached this task, this undertaking, is not just disappointing, I think it is shameful.

NEPA reminds us that our government is one that is of the people, for the people, and by the people. But this proposal and this process bear—what I just described—little resemblance to those words of Abraham Lincoln. Sadly, they make a mockery of them.

Let me be clear. I will continue to fight to defend NEPA and the democratic tools it avails to the American people.

I yield the floor to my friend from Oklahoma.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

EMBRACE HOPE

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I come to the floor today to unashamedly brag on the people of Southwest Oklahoma. It is a pretty remarkable group of folks. In the community around Lawton, OK, and surrounding communities, there are people who serve their neighbors every day. There is a remarkable group of churches and nonprofits, ministries, Federal workers, State, city, and county staff who are there and do a pretty amazing job of taking care of their neighbors.

This weekend is above and beyond. This weekend, Southwest Oklahomans organized what they call Southwest Oklahoma Embrace Hope—so 1 day, on Saturday, where the whole community will be having neighbors serving neighbors to see what they can do to help each other.

Serving your neighbor is not about how much money you have or a title you hold or a certain house you live in. Taking care of your neighbor is just basic honoring each other and finding a way to love your neighbor. The vision

behind the Embrace Hope event is about stepping up and saying as individuals that we can do more if we do it together.

The Embrace Hope community event in Lawton will offer Oklahomans an opportunity to access a lot of free services and some basic help. There are partners from all over the State of Oklahoma who have donated their time, their services, their finances to help those in need all over Southwest Oklahoma—all in one place, all at one time. If someone needs housing—shelter, information, or a referral, food—there will be folks there who can help them.

There will be agencies there to talk about long-term needs and people needing short-term needs. If someone needs a job, there will be folks there who will show them opportunities for hiring. If someone needs to get their resume together so they can get a job, there will be folks there who can take a picture so they can use it with their resume. In fact, if folks need a suit to wear to an interview, there will be folks there to help them get a suit so they are able to prepare themselves for a job.

There will be health services there. You can schedule an appointment with a local health center, and there will also be ways to get dental services, optometry, pregnancy resources, or even a breast exam, if that is needed.

There will be folks there who can give them a haircut if they need a haircut and haven't been able to get access to that.

There will be folks there who are mental health professionals and counselors so they can interact with folks who may struggle with substance abuse or dealing with the stress of life. There will be folks there who can help them with legal assistance. These are communities coming together; ministries, churches, organizations, and government agencies are all coming to one place at one time to help.

There are a lot of needs in the area. In fact, in Oklahoma, according to DHS statistics just from this last year, we had 78,000-plus households that needed winter heating assistance in our State. More than 378,000 Oklahomans receive food benefits, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. These are Federal resources and Federal programs.

As Members of Congress, we work together to help in whatever way we can to help those in greatest need to be lifted out of poverty and to be able to walk through some of their low points in life. But a government check or a check-in with a Federal entity is no substitute for a neighbor helping a neighbor. When you are at your low point of life, a check is helpful to get you through a hard time, but you need a person; you need a mentor; you need a friend; you need a neighbor.

The Embrace Hope event is all about that. It is neighbors helping each other to be able to walk through this process, but it is also about opportunities for

people who live in Southwest Oklahoma. It is not just to help someone one day, but also to understand that we could do this throughout the course of the year because there are lots of folks who say: I want to be able to help.

They just don't know where to go to be able to help their neighbors. They might help the folks who are around them; they might help people in a small group at their church; they might have family members they help, but they say that they want to be able to do more.

The Embrace Hope event allows volunteers by the hundreds who have signed up to serve their neighbor one day, but it also allows them to take a test drive with a bunch of other ministries and nonprofits in the area and say: What do you do that I can volunteer one day to help people, but maybe I can plug in and help you at other times?

It allows those nonprofits and ministries to reach out to a whole pool of people, who maybe are not involved all the time, to say: If you enjoyed helping your neighbor that day, why don't you come work with us the rest of the year?

It is a way for them to meet each other. Quite frankly, it is a way for us to build a stronger State, a stronger community, and stronger connections with our neighbors so that we don't default by saying "They get help from the government, so that is probably all they need," when we know in our heart it is not. They need help from somebody local. They need a friend, and they need somebody who can look them in the face and say: How can we help? That is Embrace Hope.

There have been hundreds of people who have volunteered already, and as they are preparing for this Saturday, it will probably be a cold and wet day, which is a perfect day to help people in need.

As we get together on this Saturday with all the volunteers and all the folks, there will be one person who will be in the background whom the whole event will circle around, but a lot of folks will not know it. Her name is Brenda Spencer-Ragland. She is the lead event coordinator for Embrace Hope. I can't even imagine how many hundreds of hours she has put in behind the scenes to be able to bring this to reality. Her title is event coordinator, but that title doesn't remotely do justice for the work she has done to bring Embrace Hope to reality.

She is one of those incredible individuals who everyone wishes lived around them, but Southwest Oklahoma actually has her. She has a servant's heart and a servant's attitude. It is who she is, quite frankly, more than just what she does.

Brenda served our Nation as a civilian with the U.S. Army for 32 years before assuming her current role. She was Director of the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Program at Fort Sill in Lawton. Her title was a

fancy way of saying that she took care of military families in whatever way she possibly could, and she did it well. She loved serving those who serve us. On her retirement, she grieved because she loved serving those folks at the post.

Now, after dealing with morale at Fort Sill and after serving also as the Housing Director at Fort Sill, she has found a new way to serve—Embrace Hope. She has built around that same mission. She came to Oklahoma City, and she saw an event called Love OKC, which was similar to this. She brought a whole group of volunteers to come take a look at what was happening in Oklahoma City and the remarkable Love OKC event that has happened for 7 years in a row. She took that vision back to Southwest Oklahoma and created Embrace Hope. Meeting after meeting, donor after donor, long night after long night of organizing—it is about to happen.

Brenda, for all of the folks in Lawton who don't know you, they should because, if they did, they would give you a warm hug and a very grateful thank-you for blessing so many people. Thank you for answering the call to serve your friends and neighbors and stepping up when you saw a need and tirelessly giving back to Southwest Oklahoma and the community that you love. It is an honor to call you a friend and a neighbor. I look forward to serving alongside you this weekend in Embrace Hope, doing whatever you need me to do to help you as we love our neighbors together.

God bless you. I look forward to seeing you there, Brenda. I love getting a chance to be able to brag about what is happening in the great Southwest Oklahoma.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RECOGNIZING THE ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE FIRE AND RESCUE SQUAD

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I want to take a moment to recognize the brave and selfless individuals from the St. Michael's College Fire and Rescue Squad, based in Colchester, VT. These young men and women respond to emergencies on a moment's notice to help those in need—all while balancing the demands of their full college course load. St. Michael's College Fire and Rescue helps bring a greater degree of safety to residents in Chittenden County, and we are thankful for their efforts. Today, I would like

to commemorate their 50 years of service.

St. Michael's Fire and Rescue Squad was founded in late 1969, after a local student died while waiting for emergency medical services to arrive. The community recognized that in order to prevent further tragedies of this nature, greater resources must be dedicated to emergency responders. Students rose to this challenge, and with the help of Donald "Pappy" Sutton, the former dean of students, they formed the squad. Despite starting out with only minimal equipment, this remarkable group now serves 385 square miles of Chittenden County, spanning their reach into surrounding towns and along 26 miles of Interstate 89. The territory covered far exceeds what we might expect from a group of college volunteers, but their capacity to serve only goes to show just how dedicated the St. Michael's Fire and Rescue team truly is.

Perhaps one of the most impressive aspects of this team is the fact that they are all between the ages of 18 and 22. The maturity and grace displayed by these young individuals while fulfilling their duties is nothing short of inspiring. These are people who, for some, have just left home for the first time and yet are successfully responding to crisis situations which would tax even the most experienced of us. These responders will sometimes be the first on the scene for a car crash, overdose, fire or medical emergency, and a split-second decision could make the difference between a life saved and a life lost. And we should not forget: these responders are all students managing their college classes in addition to volunteering. Emergencies give no credence to a student's sleep schedule; sometimes these students will get woken up in the late hours of the night or early hours of the morning to put out a fire, despite having class the following morning. Those who receive credit for their volunteer work are on call for 24 hours a week, taking turns sleeping in the designated volunteer bunks.

The work done by the St. Michael's Fire and Rescue team is not always glamorous, but it has kept the community remarkably safer. On average, the squad responds to more than 3,000 calls each year—some just false alarms, others far more severe in nature. But what has remained consistent is the relief that these volunteers have offered to local emergency responders and the peace of mind they have bestowed upon our residents. By offering support to our hard-working first responders, they inevitably ensure that more Vermonters get the help they need in the nick of time. In the process, they have inspired other college campuses around the Nation to form their own volunteer response teams, who can then help their own communities in times of need.

This is the type of bravery and selflessness that we are proud to see exem-

plified in our young citizens, and I am honored to have them recognized today.

RECOGNIZING ELMORE MOUNTAIN BREAD

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I want to take a moment to recognize a Vermont gem, Elmore Mountain Bread, a small business founded by a wife and husband team. Blair Marvin is a native Vermonter, who met her husband, Andrew Heyn, in Seattle, where she attended culinary school and worked. Blair brought Andrew to Vermont, where after working in several local restaurants, they took over a small bakery. Their work has been recognized locally, regionally, and nationally, in publications including *Kids VT*, *Yankee Magazine* and over the airwaves on National Public Radio. An article by Amelia Nierenberg in the February 18, 2020, edition of the *New York Times* focuses on Blair and Andrew's development of soft, sliced organic loaves, inspired by Blair's effort to provide healthier bread to their son Phineas's classmates at a local one-room schoolhouse. Small businesses like Elmore Mountain Bread are the cornerstone of our local economies, are fixtures in our communities, and are at the very heart of the American dream. In recognition of Blair and Andrew's efforts, I ask that the article "The Whole-Grain Grail: A Sandwich Bread With Mass Appeal," be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the *New York Times*, Feb. 18, 2020]

THE WHOLE-GRAIN GRAIL: A SANDWICH BREAD WITH MASS APPEAL

(By Amelia Nierenberg)

ELMORE, VT.—When Blair Marvin started making and selling bread 15 years ago, she promised herself three things: She would never preslice it. She would never bake it in a pan. And she would certainly never sell it in plastic.

But three years ago, as she was helping out in the one-room schoolhouse where her son, Phineas, attended first grade, she realized she had a problem. At lunch, his friends weren't eating sandwiches made from the stone-ground, organic loaves she and her husband baked at Elmore Mountain Bread, and sold in local supermarkets. Sure, the students had Vermont-churned cheese from Vermont-raised cows. But their bread often came from a national bread company, made from white flour or laced with preservatives.

"All of these preconceived notions and standards I set for myself," said Ms. Marvin, 39. "None of it mattered. If Phineas's peers weren't eating our bread, then we were doing something wrong."

So she broke her vow. Using mostly whole-wheat flour, stone-ground in a mill made by New American Stone Mills, a company owned by her husband, Andrew Heyn, she developed a new loaf—soft, sliced and sealed in plastic.

"Everybody should have access to healthy food," she said. "We're trying to make something that is recognizable to the general population. It's a way of getting real bread into people's diets." Ms. Marvin and Mr. Heyn are

part of a collective of about 40 bakers, millers, teachers and wheat-breeders who work with the Bread Lab, a famed research center affiliated with Washington State University that has long focused on developing wheat varieties specific to regions of the country. Since last April, using guidelines established by the lab, the collective has pursued a common goal: making a whole-grain loaf that's familiar-looking and affordable enough to appeal to a mass audience.

The Bread Lab calls it "the approachable loaf," but each bakery in the Bread Lab Collective makes a slightly different version, informed by local tastes and local grains. Elmore Mountain Bread calls its bread the Vermont Redeemer, after a type of local wheat. Zingerman's Bakehouse, in Ann Arbor, Mich., calls its loaf State St. Wheat. King Arthur Flour, an employee-owned company in Norwich, Vt., christened its version Just Bread and published a recipe for home bakers on its website. It sells 350 of the loaves a week and donates others to a food pantry, said Karen Colberg, a chief executive at King Arthur Flour.

Whatever the name, the approachable loaf is made in 20 states, from Kalispell, Mont., to New Haven, Conn., as well as in England, Canada and Australia. For each loaf sold, 10 cents goes back to the Bread Lab to help fund grain research.

The loaf is something of a Trojan horse, a way to sneak healthy ingredients onto the taste buds of a younger generation. Its disguise as a standard-issue sandwich bread might be just the guerrilla tactic needed to get regional whole grains integrated into the developed world's diet.

"If it's crusty, you're not going to get soccer moms saying, 'Hey, we need to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches out of this,'" said Anthony Ambeliotis, a member of the collective who sells a version of the approachable loaf for \$4.50 at Mediterra Bakehouse, his family bakery outside Pittsburgh.

Despite a growing interest in baking bread and declining consumption of white bread, most loaves sold in America are still less than ideal in nutrients and fiber. Even the whole-grain breads that have reached a national market sometimes contain chemical preservatives or additives, like flavor enhancers or sugars.

"Why is it that 'affordable' has to be this hyper-centralized, hyper-processed product?" said Stephen Jones, the director of the Bread Lab, standing in its flour-covered research kitchen in Burlington, Wash., about 70 miles north of Seattle.

Since he founded the lab in 2011, Dr. Jones has tried to reinvent bread by promoting regional grain, breeding wheat varieties that taste good, like heirloom strains, but have a strong yield, like most modern hybrids. At the Grain Gathering conference, an annual meeting he hosts at the lab, enthusiasts and members of the collective come together to discuss how to incorporate the lab's research into craft baking.

"Once, if you said, 'I want to put my bread in a plastic bag and I want it sliced,' people would be like: 'I think you're at the wrong conference,'" said Louie Prager, an owner of Prager Brothers Artisan Breads in San Diego, which sold 4,800 approachable loaves last year, at \$5 apiece. "But now, it's fine to make a bread that works better for more people."

In summer 2018, Dr. Jones laid out his new vision. Like Ms. Marvin, he recognized that the collective needed to pivot and work with, rather than against, an American palate shaped by generations of white-bread sandwiches. To build the base formula for the new bread, he turned to Jeff Yankellow, a baker and the western region sales manager for King Arthur Flour.

"It's not the bricks of whole wheat bread that you think of from the hippie days," Mr. Yankellow said. "We're making really good stuff."

The Bread Lab has set three strict parameters for the approachable loaf: More than 60 percent of the flour must be whole wheat; it can't have more than seven ingredients, all of which have to be real food, not chemical additives; and it can't cost more than \$6.

"It's local, and I know the people who make it," said Elaina Lefevre, 27, who regularly buys Ms. Marvin's loaf for her young daughter at the Hannaford supermarket in Morrisville, Vt. "Five ingredients or less on a label is what I aim for."

Bread is among the simplest and most mundane things humans eat. It's in our prayers: Give us this day our daily bread. It's in our wallets: our bread and butter.

But bread has also been a catalyst for change. In 1789, the high price of bread brought angry protesters to the streets of Paris. In 2011, it did again, in Cairo's Tahrir Square.

"There's nothing more revolutionary than bread," Dr. Jones said. "But there's also nothing more mundane or pedestrian than bread. It's who we are."

Dr. Jones often works in an apron branded with a skull and the words "White Sliced Death," armor in his crusade for whole grains. Still, his no-hostages approach to white flour and regional grains has earned him the respect of many in the local-food movement.

"I think what we're doing is radical," Mr. Prager said. "It's radical to make good, organic, clean food affordable to more people."

The collective has a point. It is a curious quirk of contemporary America that a 6-year-old from Burlington, Vt., and a 6-year-old from Burlington, Wash., can eat entirely identical sandwiches for lunch. Once, that would have been impossible. Vermont bread was made with Vermont wheat, and Washington bread was made with Washington wheat, made from local grains ground in local mills.

But in the late 19th century, a new technology arrived from Europe, changing American flour: roller mills, which separate the bran—the "whole" part of whole wheat—from the kernel. Without the bran's oils and proteins, the chalky "all-purpose flour" that most Americans would recognize today is inert and easier to preserve.

Although it keeps longer, white flour is less nutritious, as the bran holds most of the kernel's fiber. Dr. Jones also thinks it is wasteful in an agricultural system struggling to adapt to climate change.

"If you're a farmer and you grow 100 pounds of wheat, only 70 of it is going to be made into food," Dr. Jones said. "If you wanted to raise the yield of wheat tomorrow, just eat the whole kernel."

Without added chemicals to keep the bread soft and mold-free, the approachable loaf has a shelf life of about a week before it goes stale. This requirement also helps ensure that the bread stays local; any time spent traveling to a store would waste precious freshness.

"There's no reason that bread should keep for this long," said Dr. Jones, shaking a mass-produced loaf with a sell-by date of June 2018 that is still soft. He keeps it in the lab to help make his case.

Today, after millenniums as a daily staple, good bread has almost become a luxury item. Whole-wheat flour can be expensive, especially if it's organic. Loaves baked by hand cost more, as bakers need to be paid for their time and labor.

Even \$6 for the approachable loaf can be a steep price for many families. But though it's not as cheap as Wonder Bread, the loaf is

close in price to most other whole-wheat options sold in supermarkets. Members of the collective hope that, together, they get Americans to take bread more seriously.

"People care about their hops and their cheese and their coffee and their dairy and their meat, but they don't even think twice about their grains," Ms. Marvin said. "But bread is the most broken."

RECOGNIZING KING ARTHUR FLOUR

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, Vermont's King Arthur Flour has long been a worldwide leader in culinary circles. Today, I would like to recognize the company's effort to produce a healthier bread, called Just Bread. King Arthur Flour, which is an employee-owned company in Norwich, VT, sells 350 loaves of Just Bread each week and also donates loaves to a local food shelf, in the true tradition of Vermonters reaching out to help others. In recognition of these efforts, I ask that the February 18, 2020, article "The Whole-Grain Grail: A Sandwich Bread With Mass Appeal," by Amelia Nierenberg from the New York Times, be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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"Everybody should have access to healthy food," she said. "We're trying to make something that is recognizable to the general population. It's a way of getting real bread into people's diets." Ms. Marvin and Mr. Heyn are part of a collective of about 40 bakers, millers, teachers and wheat-breeders who work with the Bread Lab, a famed research center affiliated with Washington State University that has long focused on developing wheat varieties specific to regions of the country. Since last April, using guidelines established by the lab, the collective has pursued a common goal: making a whole-grain loaf that's familiar-looking and affordable enough to appeal to a mass audience.

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ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JOSEPH VICTOR SHELDON III

• Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, today, I would like to recognize Capt. Joseph Victor Sheldon III, command chaplain, 4th Marine Division, for his 32 years of service in the U.S. Navy as he approaches his retirement ceremony. Captain Sheldon will be dearly missed by those who served with him, and our country thanks him for his dedicated service.

Captain Sheldon served in a unique and critically important role as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy. His recognition of the importance of this role allowed him to effectively serve the soldiers he served with, as well as their families and civilian military workers. Military chaplains are also charged with forging relationships with their counterparts around the world when they serve abroad. Captain Sheldon took this responsibility in stride and provided a blueprint on how military chaplains should build relationships with their religious counterparts.

His service included time in the Middle East following 9/11, Germany, the Pentagon, as well as serving as the Director of Religious Affairs of the Combined Joint Task Force in the Horn of Africa, CJTF-HOA. Louisiana and the entire Nation are grateful for Captain Sheldon's life of service to our great country.●

RECOGNIZING MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the city of Minot. It has been 60 years since the U.S. Air Force and Minot began working together to establish the Minot Air Force Base in northwestern North Dakota. This was in the late 1950s, when Minot leaders stepped up to buy the land where the air base now stands. Throughout the ensuing decades of growth and change in the Minot community and the base itself, this co-operation has continued.

This year, the Air Force Global Strike Command has recognized this solid partnership by awarding its Barksdale Trophy to the city of Minot. This honor is given to the community providing the most outstanding support to one of its bases. Minot Air Force Base's 5th Bomb Wing and 91st Missile Wing support the Air Force Global Strike Command. The trophy is awarded by Shreveport and Bossier, LA, which are home to the command and the Barksdale Air Force Base.

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce submitted the city's nomination for this award and in it detailed many notable projects and partnerships over the years. This includes a community auction, which for 30 years has raised \$800,000-plus for programs supporting the morale of those at the base. Another 30-year event is a Military Ball,

bringing airmen and their spouses and area residents together for a special evening. A favorite holiday tradition is the thousands of home-baked cookies delivered to airmen who are spending their first year in Minot and are unable to be home for Christmas. Those stationed at the base and their families reciprocate by volunteering to help with Minot's many programs and annual events, including the North Dakota State Fair and the Norsk Hostfest.

In North Dakota, we take pride in the two Air Force bases within our borders that help to safeguard world peace. The support we give to those who call North Dakota home while stationed at these bases is not done for recognition nor awards. Yet, receiving the Barksdale Trophy is a well-deserved nod to North Dakota's legendary hospitality and its steadfast support of the Minot Air Force Base.

Mr. President, I congratulate the residents of the Minot area for being awarded this prestigious Barksdale Trophy. On behalf of all North Dakotans, I thank them for their support of our Nation's military and for welcoming those who are called to serve in this noble mission.●

TRIBUTE TO TERRY HILL

• Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I am speaking today to highlight a service-disabled veteran and my constituent, Terry Hill, who is the CEO and co-founder of Rapid Application Group, an additive manufacturing facility just outside of my hometown of Tulsa in Broken Arrow, OK. Mr. Hill is a hero who served his Nation nobly as a UH-60 Black Hawk medical evacuation pilot, flying more than 750 combat missions serving in the U.S. Army.

Due to Mr. Hill's experience, he knows better than anyone just how essential the technology of additive manufacturing can be in the field to support nonflight-critical parts to increase the overall readiness and force of our military. Additive manufacturing has improved military readiness and enabled the military services to be more self sustainable. Continued advancement in this area will further improve our military's readiness and overall ability to accomplish the mission at hand.

When Mr. Hill returned home and started his business, he continued to serve our Nation by taking care of his fellow veterans. He is committed to hiring veterans to work in his facility and is known within our community for seeking out opportunities to help those who have worn the uniform. I take this opportunity today to highlight and thank Mr. Hill for his service in the U.S. Army, but also for his continued service in delivering needed tools to the warfighter and for supporting our veterans.●

REMEMBERING DR. THOMAS L. MORIN

• Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, on February 25, Indiana lost a great Hoosier when Dr. Thomas L. Morin passed away at the age of 76. Today, I rise to pay tribute to Tom's remarkable legacy as a husband, father, and professor and to recognize his educational service to our State.

In 1965, Tom earned his bachelor's degree at Rutgers University, followed by a master's degree from the University of New Mexico in 1967. While on a full NASA scholarship, Tom subsequently earned a second master's degree and a PhD in Operations Research from Case Western Reserve.

For nearly 45 years, Tom served as a professor of industrial engineering at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. While at Purdue, he won the admiration and respect of his students and colleagues alike. As a professor and researcher, Tom changed the way young Hoosiers think, pushing students to pursue an analytical and practical approach to solving the world's wide-ranging issues. A lifelong educator and Fulbright scholar, Tom was a gifted mentor to his students and a valued member of the scholarly community. Tom is one of those remarkable people that made Purdue University what it is today: the national destination for pioneering research and education in engineering, research to which Tom was a key contributor.

To his family, Tom was a man of remarkable character and passion. He was utterly devoted to his children, grandchildren, and the love of his life, Susan, whom he met in 1962 and with whom he remained inseparable for 58 years. As avid travelers, Tom and Susan toured the world together, from Las Vegas, to the Sahara and the Greek Isles. Beyond his own family, Tom served as a role model and a leader in his community. On behalf of the Hoosier State, I recognize how fortunate we are that Tom dedicated his life, passion, and knowledge to Indiana.

While West Lafayette has lost a pillar of its community with Tom's passing, I believe that his work will serve as a legacy for future generations. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sympathies to Tom's wife, Susan; two children, Michael and Marisa; and four grandchildren, Andrew, Gaby, Charlie, and Kennedy, as they remember the great life of Dr. Thomas L. Morin.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1771. An act to require consultations on reuniting Korean Americans with family members in North Korea.

H.R. 2444. An act to authorize the Secretary of State to make direct loans under

section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2877. An act to add Ireland to the E-3 nonimmigrant visa program.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1365) to make technical corrections to the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1771. An act to require consultations on reuniting Korean Americans with family members in North Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2444. An act to authorize the Secretary of State to make direct loans under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators in accordance with Chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 56, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability", and further, that the joint resolution be placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Tom Udall, Tina Smith, Dianne Feinstein, Patty Murray, Jon Tester, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jacky Rosen, Tammy Baldwin, Sherrod Brown, Margaret Wood Hassan, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert Menendez, Jeanne Shaheen, Edward J. Markey, Martin Heinrich, Doug Jones, Angus S. King, Jr., Jack Reed, Patrick J. Leahy, Thomas R. Carper, Richard Blumenthal, Ron Wyden, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Amy Klobuchar, Tim Kaine, Mazie Hirono, Jeff Merkley, Gary C. Peters, Charles E. Schumer, Christopher A. Coons, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 56. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability".

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3422. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Parks

and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Indian Education, and to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Finance: Sarah C. Arbes, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Matthew Bassett.

On request by Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Finance: Jason J. Fichtner, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2024, vice Lanhee J. Chen.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4237. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs" (RIN0560-AI50) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4238. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-4239. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual National Defense Stockpile Operations and Planning Report"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4240. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Promotion" (RIN0790-AK25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4241. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting a legislative proposal entitled "The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Whistleblower Award Incentive Legislative Proposal"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4242. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, a policy statement entitled "Responsible Business Conduct: Self-Assessing, Self-Reporting, Remediating, and Cooperating" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office

of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4243. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Public Unit and Nonmember Shares” (RIN3313-AF00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4244. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Military Lending Act Limitations on Terms of Consumer Credit Extended to Service Members and Dependents” (RIN0790-ZA14) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4245. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Exemptions From Investment Adviser Registration for Advisers to Certain Rural Business Investment Companies” (RIN3235-AM68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4246. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal relative to the “Department of Energy (DOE) Organization Act of 1977 (as amended)”; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4247. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal relative to the “Energy Policy Act of 2005”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4248. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal relative to the “Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS)”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4249. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Thailand to support the sale, delivery, operation, and maintenance for S-70i helicopters in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19-039); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4250. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to sections 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to Australia to support the design and manufacture of the Aerosonde Mk 4.7G unmanned aircraft system and associated equipment in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19-043); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4251. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to the Republic of Singapore to support the maintenance, repair, and overhaul of F100 engines in the amount of \$50,000,000

or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19-084); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4252. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions Lists of 9mm semi-automatic pistols to Oman in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19-057); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4253. A communication from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Justification”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4254. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-219, “Housing Conversion and Eviction Clarification Amendment Act of 2020”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4255. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-220, “Tingey Square Designation Act of 2020”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4256. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-221, “Alethia Tanner Park Designation Act of 2020”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4257. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-222, “Accounting Clarification for Real Estate Professionals Amendment Act of 2020”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4258. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-223, “Polystyrene Food Service Product and Packaging Prohibition Amendment Act of 2020”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4259. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-224, “Abandonment of the Highway Plan for a Portion of 39th Street, N.W., S.O. 18-41885, Act of 2020”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4260. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-225, “Abandonment of the Highway Plan for Eastern and Anacostia Avenues, N.E., S.O. 19-47912, Act of 2020”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4261. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-226, “Urban Farming Land Lease Amendment Act of 2020”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4262. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-227, “Student Access to Treatment Amendment Act of 2020”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4263. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 23-228, “Closing a Portion of 4th Street, N.E., and a Public Alley in Square 3765, S.O. 18-41561, Act of 2020”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4264. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-243, “Direct Support Professional Payment Rate Act of 2020”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4265. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s fiscal year 2019 annual report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4266. A communication from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4267. A communication from the Director of External Affairs, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Cost-of-Living Adjustments and Identity Verification” (5 CFR Parts 1630, 1632, and 1650) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4268. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s fiscal year 2019 Buy American Act Report for the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHRC); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4269. A communication from the Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Solriamfetol in Schedule IV” ((21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-504)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4270. A communication from the Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Additions to Listing of Exempt Chemical Mixtures” ((RIN1117-ZA05) (Docket No. DEA-505F)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4271. A communication from the Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Lasmiditan in Schedule V” ((21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-558)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4272. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, two reports entitled “2019 Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts” and “Judicial Business of the United States Courts”, and their accompanying Uniform Resource Locators (URLs); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4273. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of the Class E Airspace; Rifle, Colorado" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0328)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4274. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of the Class E Airspace; Gunnison, Colorado" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0341)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4275. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of the Class E Airspace; Missoula, Montana" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0761)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4276. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of the Class E Airspace; Astoria, Oregon" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0315)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4277. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0871)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4278. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0868)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4279. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0526)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4280. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness

Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0872)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4281. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0877)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4282. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0727)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4283. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0016)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4284. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Defense and Space S.A. (Formerly Known as Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A.) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0869)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4285. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (40); Amendment No. 3893" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31298)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4286. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (61); Amendment No. 3894" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31299)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4287. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Office of Economics and Analytics, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Auction of Priority Access Licenses for the 3550-3650 MHz Band; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 105; Bidding in Auction 105 Scheduled to Begin June 25, 2020" ((AU Docket No. 19-244) (FCC 20-18)) received

during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4288. A communication from the Associate Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expanding Flexible Use of the 3.7 to 4.2 GHz Band" ((GN Docket No. 18-122) (FCC 20-22)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-188. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of New Jersey respectfully urging the United States Congress to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to prohibit the use of slavery or indentured servitude for individuals convicted of a crime; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas, The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was adopted in 1865, and is commonly understood to have abolished slavery and indentured servitude in the United States; and

Whereas, The Thirteenth Amendment reads: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction"; and

Whereas, The Thirteenth Amendment did not completely abolish slavery and indentured servitude, but rather allowed both slavery and indentured servitude to remain legal as punishments for individuals convicted of a crime; and

Whereas, Twenty-Five percent of the worlds incarcerated population, roughly 2.3 million people, currently reside in the United States; and

Whereas, Nearly 20 percent of federal prisoners and seven percent of state prisoners are held in private correctional facilities; and

Whereas, The private correctional facility industry is a \$4.8 billion industry; and

Whereas, In order to make a profit, private correctional facilities often rely on low cost labor provided by prison workers; and

Whereas, According to the Seventh Circuit Appeals Court, prison workers are not entitled to receive the minimum wage under the "Fair Labor Standards Act," and the average working inmate's wage is 93 cents per hour; and

Whereas, Incarcerated workers in states such as South Carolina and Texas are not paid for the work that they are forced to perform; and

Whereas, According to the Solidarity Research Center, the California prison system made a \$58 million profit from the work of prison inmates, where 4,000 California prison workers earn \$2 per day; and

Whereas, Most of the work performed by incarcerated individuals does not develop skills that are translatable to the labor market outside of prison; and

Whereas, Therefore, it is appropriate for Congress to adopt an amendment to the United States Constitution to prohibit the use of slavery and indentured servitude for incarcerated individuals: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House urges Congress to propose an Amendment to the United States Constitution to prohibit the use of slavery, indentured servitude, and involuntary servitude within the United States or any of its territories.

2. Copies of this resolution as filed with the Secretary of State shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-189. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to provide funding and other incentives to states to promote hydrogen fuel cell vehicle usage; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 38

Whereas, There is a vital need to support transportation energy sources other than imported and domestic fossil fuels, which adversely affect economic growth, cause air pollution, and contribute to climate change; and

Whereas, The promotion of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and the infrastructure needed to refuel them would reduce the billions of dollars that New Jersey citizens, businesses, and institutions pay each year to foreign oil suppliers for the gasoline and diesel fuels needed to support an estimated 77 billion on-road vehicle miles traveled annually in the State; and

Whereas, Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and related refueling infrastructure can be used to attract new business and industries to the State; and

Whereas, New Jersey residents continue to breathe unhealthy levels of air toxins, such as oxides of nitrogen and ozone, which can compromise their health; and

Whereas, Air pollution is particularly harmful for children with asthma and seniors with breathing problems or other health issues, resulting in missed school days, asthma attacks, and even premature deaths; and

Whereas, Air quality will continue to deteriorate if practical approaches to transportation energy sources and transportation infrastructure in the State are not adopted; and

Whereas, Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles are zero emission—they run on compressed hydrogen fuel cells that produce electricity to propel the vehicle—so operating them does not produce air pollution; and

Whereas, Global warming is a serious threat to New Jersey, putting the State's beaches, waterfront communities, and tourism industry at risk from sea-level rise, and threatening to cause dramatic and costly interruptions in vital transportation and shipping infrastructure; and

Whereas, The State of New Jersey set strong standards to reduce global warming and air pollution and to increase renewable energy production through the passage of the "Global Warming Response Act" and the adoption of a strong renewable energy mandate on the State's utilities; and

Whereas, Hydrogen can be produced using only electricity and water, so hydrogen fuel cell vehicles can be fueled and operated without generating carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases; now, therefore, and be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House respectfully urges the United States Congress and the President of the United States to provide financial support

and other incentives to the states to promote and incentivize the local adoption of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles as a means of reducing the nation's dependence on fossil fuels, particularly imported fossil fuels, which would also serve to mitigate the detrimental effects of global warming and air pollution caused by vehicle emissions.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the President and Vice President of the United States; the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate; The Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives; and every member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-190. A report from the Housing Authority of the City of High Point, North Carolina entitled "Housing Authority of the City of High Point 2019 Annual Report"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3423. A bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library, in accordance with section 1831 of the Revised Statutes, to accept a statue depicting Harriet Tubman from the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission of Maryland and display the statue in a prominent location in the Capitol; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3424. A bill to end preventable maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity in the United States and close disparities in maternal health outcomes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3425. A bill to provide incentives for businesses to keep jobs in America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3426. A bill to deter anticompetitive exclusionary conduct that harms competition and consumers, to enhance the ability of the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to enforce the antitrust laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 3427. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3428. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve Federal agency telework programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 3429. A bill to amend the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 with respect to assessments of conservation programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 3430. A bill to promote diversity at the Department of State, to direct the Secretary of State to review the termination characterization of former members of the Department who were fired by reason of the sexual orientation of the official, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 3431. A bill to require online marketplaces to disclose certain verified information regarding high-volume third party sellers of consumer products to inform consumers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3432. A bill to support the advanced manufacturing technologies program of the Food and Drug Administration, to establish National Centers of Excellence in Advanced Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3433. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. Res. 537. A resolution encouraging the Trump Administration to maintain protections under the National Environmental Policy Act and reverse ongoing administrative actions to weaken this landmark law and its protections for American communities; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 538. A resolution authorizing the use of the atrium in the Philip A. Hart Senate Office Building for the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, a semiannual event for the Drug Enforcement Administration; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 117

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 117, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms.

MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

S. 182

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 182, a bill to prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 208

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 208, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 237

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes.

S. 259

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 259, a bill to impose criminal sanctions on certain persons involved in international doping fraud conspiracies, to provide restitution for victims of such conspiracies, and to require sharing of information with the United States Anti-Doping Agency to assist its fight against doping, and for other purposes.

S. 959

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 959, a bill to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, and for other purposes.

S. 1015

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1015, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to review and make certain revisions to the Standard Occupational Classification System, and for other purposes.

S. 1125

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr.

SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1125, a bill to amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

S. 1381

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1381, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 1421

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1421, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company in recognition of their unique and distinguished service as a "Ghost Army" that conducted deception operations in Europe during World War II.

S. 1835

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1835, a bill to reauthorize the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

S. 1918

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1918, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require alternative options for summer food service program delivery.

S. 2461

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2461, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2539

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2539, a bill to modify and reauthorize the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 2748

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2748, a bill to repeal the section of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 that requires the Federal Communications Commission to reallocate and auction the T-Band spectrum.

S. 2766

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2766, a bill to support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of adolescent girls around the world, and other purposes.

S. 2783

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr.

BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2783, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 3103

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3103, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program.

S. 3144

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3144, a bill to establish a competitive grant program to support out-of-school-time youth workforce readiness programs, providing employability skills development, career exploration, employment readiness training, mentoring, work-based learning, and workforce opportunities for eligible youth.

S. 3167

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3167, a bill to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair.

S. 3242

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3242, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to protect privacy rights, and for other purposes.

S. 3350

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3350, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deem certain State Veterans homes meeting certain health and safety standards as meeting conditions and requirements for skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. 3360

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3360, a bill to establish the National Center for the Advancement of Aviation.

S. 3372

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added

as cosponsors of S. 3372, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for treatment of certain respiratory protective devices as covered countermeasures for purposes of targeted liability protections for pandemic and epidemic products and security countermeasures, and for other purposes.

S. 3391

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3391, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out an active transportation investment program to make grants to eligible applicants to build safe and connected options for bicycles and walkers within and between communities, and for other purposes.

S. 3415

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 3415, a bill to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. 3419

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3419, a bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to provide for the establishment of a trust for the benefit of all unpaid cash sellers of livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 3422

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3422, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Indian Education, and to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 6, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S. RES. 536

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 536, a resolution recognizing the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the 30th anniversary of the restoration of their independence.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 537—ENCOURAGING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO MAINTAIN PROTECTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT AND REVERSE ONGOING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO WEAKEN THIS LANDMARK LAW AND ITS PROTECTIONS FOR AMERICANS COMMUNITIES

Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 537

Whereas the National Environmental Policy Act is one of the Nation's bedrock environmental laws that has helped protect the Nation's environment and public health for half a century;

Whereas the National Environmental Policy Act was passed by an overwhelming bipartisan majority in Congress and has long enjoyed widespread public support;

Whereas the National Environmental Policy Act has a basic but critical purpose of directing Federal agencies to identify and disclose the significant environmental and public health impacts of major Federal actions before such actions are taken, encouraging a "look before you leap" approach in Federal decision making;

Whereas the National Environmental Policy Act appropriately gives the public a chance to review and give input on major projects before building and development starts, resulting in improved, more democratic government decision making on everything from fossil fuel, transportation, and water infrastructure decisions to habitat and ecosystem conservation;

Whereas the National Environmental Policy Act is one of the most important tools available in the fight against the climate crisis;

Whereas efforts to block the enforcement of the National Environmental Policy Act will make it easier for corporate polluters to hide the air, water, and climate impacts of major projects;

Whereas efforts to block the enforcement of the National Environmental Policy Act will undermine critical building requirements that make our roads, bridges, and other infrastructure safer and better prepared to withstand natural disasters such as wildfires, floods, and storms, which are getting more destructive and severe as a result of climate change;

Whereas efforts to block the enforcement of the National Environmental Policy Act will require the United States to spend billions more taxpayer dollars on infrastructure projects that won't survive the effects of climate change;

Whereas the National Environmental Policy Act is a critical civil rights tool that

gives all Americans a voice in Federal decision making by allowing communities to be informed and weigh in on major proposed projects affecting their communities;

Whereas the National Environmental Policy Act requires Federal agencies to evaluate the degree to which proposed projects affect air quality, water quality, public health, and public safety in nearby communities and consider alternative approaches that would be better for nearby communities and the environment;

Whereas before the enactment of the National Environmental Policy Act there was often no way for people living in disadvantaged communities to become aware of, much less have their voices heard on, major projects that would result in disproportionate health and environmental impacts in their neighborhoods;

Whereas that when the National Environmental Policy Act's public input process is cut short or weakened, ill-conceived projects advance that can have devastating public health and environmental consequences for American communities; and

Whereas the National Environmental Policy Act's charge to "foster and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony" is timeless and its insistence on meaningful local involvement, sustainable development, and deliberate Federal decision making was, and remains, visionary: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the value of the National Environmental Policy Act;

(2) supports the continued enforcement of longstanding legal requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, including the required consideration of climate change when developing and planning Federal infrastructure projects; and

(3) opposes the Trump administration's ongoing efforts to undermine the National Environmental Policy Act through the regulatory process.

SENATE RESOLUTION 538—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ATRIUM IN THE PHILIP A. HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING FOR THE NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY, A SEMI-ANNUAL EVENT FOR THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 538

Resolved,

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ATRIUM IN THE HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING FOR TAKE BACK DAY.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The atrium in the Philip A. Hart Senate Office Building is authorized to be used on April 22, 2020 for the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, a semiannual event of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet

during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Matthew P. Donovan, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, and William Jordan Gillis, of Georgia, and Victor G. Mercado, of California, both to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nomination: James E. Trainor III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed roundtables.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

The Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Subcommittee on Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 11, 2020

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 11; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration S.J. Res. 56 and that all time expire at noon; finally, that following disposition of S.J. Res. 56, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:37 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CHRISTOPHER DIAZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christopher Diaz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Christopher Diaz is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christopher Diaz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christopher Diaz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING SGM KEVIN MILLER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, today I recognize SGM Kevin Miller, of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication and service to our Nation. SGM Miller is retiring after over 30 outstanding years of service.

SGM Miller answered the call to serve our great Nation in March of 1990 as a Non-communications Interceptor and Analyst. SGM Miller has had an impressive career and has held every leadership position from team leader to Command Sergeant Major. His service took him all over the world, including assignments to Germany, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Baghdad. His service earned him numerous accolades, such as the Military Intelligence Corps' Knowlton Award, the National Military Intelligence Association's Academic Excellence Award, and the Bronze Star Medal.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of SGM Miller. I hope he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL NENG
VANG

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lieutenant

Colonel Neng Vang, a true American hero and inspiration to many throughout North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District.

Lt.Col. Vang was born on January 5, 1942 in Phuv Luam, Xieng Khouang Province, Laos. After graduating from Nai Leoui Dong Heng Military Academy in 1963, he felt compelled to defend his country from the rising threat of communist forces.

Lt.Col. Vang proved to be instrumental in many American operations throughout the region and assisted the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in rescuing fallen American pilots, securing U.S. radar stations, and preventing Northern Vietnamese assets from reaching South Vietnam. He served alongside the United States at great personal risk until the fall of Laos on May 15, 1975.

Following the war, Lt.Col. Vang led a refugee camp in Thailand where he established post offices, implemented a system of law and justice, and provided valuable vocational training to fellow refugees.

Lt.Col. Vang fled with his family to the United States on December 24, 1982 and later settled in Troy, North Carolina. He became an American citizen on April 2, 1993 and dedicated the remainder of his life to the preservation of Hmong heritage and tradition.

I am honored to join our community today in remembering his remarkable life and service.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Lieutenant Colonel Neng Vang.

HONORING ANA POTTRATZ
ACOSTA

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ana Pottratz Acosta, a tireless attorney, advocate, and organizer, as she receives the International Institute of Minnesota's Olga Zoltai Award. I cannot imagine a better person to be recognized with this award.

Ms. Pottratz Acosta wears many hats in the Twin Cities—a clinical instructor at Mitchell-Hamline School of Law, vice chair of the regional American Immigration Lawyers Association chapter, a pro-bono mentor at the Advocates for Human rights, and more. She's also at the forefront of community response to major immigration policy changes, such as the Central American Minors refugee program and the recent Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act. Connecting these threads is a deep passion for immigration justice—a commitment that our openness and acceptance of immigrants and refugees is a non-negotiable principle of our country. Ms. Pottratz Acosta has approached this work not as a savior—but rather a partner in our common fight for liberation.

To me, Ms. Pottratz Acosta represents the best parts of America: someone who is using

all the tools at her disposal to fight for a world that is more filled with love, more connected, and more beautiful. When I see Ms. Pottratz Acosta, I also see in her face the faces of all the immigrants she has helped start a better life in our community. Because of her, I know that our future is brighter.

I thank Ms. Pottratz Acosta for her service to our community. It is an honor to get to work alongside her for justice for all of our neighbors.

BREANN GONZALES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Breann Gonzales for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Breann Gonzales is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Breann Gonzales is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Breann Gonzales for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO ESTHER BAUM—28TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Esther Baum of West Hollywood, California.

Esther was born and raised in Los Angeles and has called West Hollywood home for the past thirty years. Upon graduating from high school, Ms. Baum attended college and majored in accounting. With an abundance of talent and skill, Esther had a successful career spanning across decades. She worked for public accounting firms, and as an accountant for several businesses including a garment

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

manufacturer, women's sportswear shop, a beauty salon chain and an oral surgery practice. She retired in 2017.

While Ms. Baum had a successful career, she never lost sight of the importance of volunteering and giving back to the community. Esther volunteered at a cancer center in Santa Monica, California where she reconstructed the files and payroll records after the building caught on fire. She also volunteered at Project Angel Food, The Maple Counseling Center in Beverly Hills, and AARP, where she did tax preparation for senior citizens.

At ninety-four years old, Esther continues to be a dynamic force in the community. She is currently serving on the City of West Hollywood Senior Advisory Board and is active in the West Hollywood Seniors in Action program, where she plans programs for senior citizens to come together, make friends and share memories. In addition, Esther is a Neighborhood Watch block captain in her area and enjoys hosting National Night Out gatherings in her neighborhood, which she has done for the past twenty-nine years. She has made it a tradition to take all the remaining food to serve to the homeless. Esther is also a longtime and valued member of Congregation Kol Ami.

Esther and her late husband, Robert, have one daughter who followed in Esther's footsteps and is an accountant.

The entire community has benefitted immensely from the generosity and invaluable contributions of Ms. Baum.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Esther Baum.

CELEBRATING CHARLY SKAGGS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I celebrate the extraordinary work and legacy of Charly Skaggs, who has led a life of continual service to the state of Texas. His leadership, vision, and commitment to hard work has made a difference to countless lives within Williamson County.

Charly's three-plus decades of public service have helped grow the juvenile services department in Williamson County into the program it is today. Knowing the hardships of being a small department with limited resources, Charly devoted his leadership abilities to staying on the cutting edge of programs and brought a state-of-the-art juvenile service department to his beloved community. His efforts speak to the dedication of an innovator unafraid to embrace the challenges of today in order to make a better tomorrow.

Throughout his life, Charly has unselfishly devoted countless hours to help others with teambuilding workshops and to volunteer efforts that serve the youth in his community. As Como Santa, he's beloved by children of all ages as he works to support the military community of Central Texas during the holiday season. His commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities in service of his nation is a deeply held creed that speaks to the generosity of a true and devoted leader.

Many go through life wondering if they've made a difference; Charly Skaggs doesn't have that problem. He's led Williamson County to new heights and has helped lead many individuals into a brighter future. I salute his work, congratulate him on his achievements, and wish him nothing but the best for his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING GEORGE J. LEDERER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to mark a tremendous milestone for one of my constituents, George J. Lederer, who is celebrating his 100th birthday on March 21, 2020.

George J. Lederer was born on March 21, 1920, in Vienna, Austria, to Felix and Helene Lederer. At the age of 18, he left Vienna and went, via Zurich, Switzerland, to England. He lived in Leicester until May 10, 1940, when, as a refugee, he was interned under General Orders in Edinburgh, Scotland. Transferred to a larger camp near Huyton, George was detained for approximately 8 weeks. He was subsequently transported to Australia on July 10, where he remained in internment camps for nearly two years. After his return to the United Kingdom, in September 1942, George lived in Leicester and London, employed by an Indian railway company, until his U.S. Immigration visa was ready.

In July 1942, he left England and was landed, unexpectedly, in Halifax, Canada, from where he finally entered the United States of America in Van Buren, Maine on July 30, 1943. Rejoining his family in New York City, George eventually enrolled in the College of the City of New York, and graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering degree in 1951. George later earned the designation of "Professional Engineer".

After various positions in engineering design and construction work, he formed his own firm, George J. Lederer Construction Service Inc. in Scarsdale, NY, which engaged in military and civilian work. He retired in 2002. George plans to celebrate his birthday among his family and friends.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize George J. Lederer on this special occasion. I wish George a happy birthday, and many more happy and healthy years to come.

ASHLEY KUCLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ashley Kucler for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ashley Kucler is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ashley Kucler is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ashley Kucler for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE BOGAARD— 28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Claire Bogaard of Pasadena, California.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Claire Whalen attended the University of San Diego, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts in History. She and her husband, Bill Bogaard married in 1961, lived overseas and in various cities in the United States before moving to Pasadena in 1970.

Claire has made her mark in the community through her stellar leadership in the historic preservation arena. She is a Founding Member of Pasadena Heritage, which was established in 1976 and incorporated in 1977 by citizens who were concerned about the demolition of historic structures in Pasadena. Now one of the largest preservation groups in California, its mission is to identify, preserve and protect the architectural, historic and cultural resources of Pasadena through education and advocacy, and is best known for the preservation and rehabilitation of Old Pasadena, the once-derelict but now commercially successful original downtown, and the 1912 Colorado Street Bridge. Executive Director from 1981 to 1993, Ms. Bogaard assisted with the creation of urban design guidelines and design plans for historic residential neighborhoods and commercial districts, obtaining historic preservation easements and the nomination of buildings to the National Register of Historic Places.

Some of the many organizations and committees Claire has served on include as an Advisor and Trustee for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the California State Historical Resources Commission, Advisory Committee for the Restoration of Pasadena City Hall, St. Andrew Catholic Church Restoration Committee, Pasadena Planning Commission, Neighborhood Associations' Board of Directors, and Chair of the No 710 Action Committee. Ms. Bogaard also chaired the effort to clean up and develop a Master Plan for Central Park and the highly successful restoration of the "New Deal" era mural at McKinley School in Pasadena. In addition, Claire was a PTA President, a member of the Junior League of Pasadena and served on the Board

of the West Pasadena Residents' Association for several years.

Claire and Bill have four children: Michele, Jeannine, Joseph and Matthew and eight grandchildren.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Claire Bogaard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENVER RIGGLEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on March 9, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 91 and YEA on Roll Call No. 92.

RECOGNIZING SHELLY & SANDS INC.

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the entire Shelly & Sands Inc. team of my hometown, Zanesville, Ohio, on winning the National Asphalt Pavement Associations' Sheldon G. Haynes Award.

To be eligible for the Sheldon G. Haynes award, a paving company must first win the Pavement Associations Quality in Construction award for a project using more than 50,000 tons of asphalt. Paving companies must submit projects from across the United States to be judged by an independent pavement consultant. The projects are then judged on pavement smoothness, safety, and durability, and innovative techniques used during the projects. Of the thousands of large-scale paving projects submitted every year, four companies are considered finalists and only one company wins.

The I-77 roadway in Guernsey County, Ohio presented a unique paving challenge for the Shelly & Sands team. Shelly & Sands began paving in the middle of a bridge construction project. The team used innovative thermal cameras to ensure even asphalt cooling for surface smoothness and durability. This was just one of many masterful techniques used by the Shelly & Sands team to achieve success in this project.

I again extend my warmest congratulations to the Shelly & Sands team on their prestigious award. I look forward to hearing more about their future endeavors and wish them continued success in paving high quality, largescale projects throughout Ohio.

CHLOE LINGEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chloe Lingen

for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Chloe Lingen is a student at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chloe Lingen is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chloe Lingen for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE SHANNON GEANEY—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Detective Shannon Geaney of Hollywood, California.

Detective Shannon Geaney is an exemplary career public servant. She served as an Officer in the United States Marine Corps and has over two decades of service with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). During her time in the Marine Corps, Shannon faced an inconceivable challenge during the initial years of the Global War on Terrorism, when she served as the Officer in Charge of the forward deployed Casualty Assistance and Hospital Liaison Teams in the hospitals tending to the injured, ill and deceased Marines being evacuated from Afghanistan and Iraq. Major Shannon Geaney's information management database and processes were so effective that the Department of Defense adapted and implemented it as the Defense Casualty Information Processing System.

Since her return to the LAPD in 2004, Detective Geaney has been a leader and worked on numerous issues with the LAPD. She tackled the issue of homelessness by volunteering to begin a unit to strategically and successfully address the issue; the unit is now known as Hollywood's Coordinated Outreach Resource and Enforcement (CORE) Unit. Detective Geaney spearheaded the design of the Archangel Critical Asset Management System that identifies and protects critical infrastructure and key resources in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The system's overarching goal is to defend likely targets against terrorist attacks through inter-agency/departamental cooperation and coordination. In addition, Shannon worked for a decade as a member of the Los Angeles Regional Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, where by her immersion into the disturbing world of child sexual exploitation, she saved thousands of innocent victims with

a nearly 100 percent conviction rate on the search warrants and arrests effected by the task force. Last year in 2019, Shannon was promoted to Detective III at the Hollywood Division and placed in charge of both the CORE Unit and the Narcotics Enforcement Detail, whose cooperative strategy was due in part to Detective Geaney's innovation and candid assessment of the convergence of mental illness and addiction as a dominant factor in the homelessness crisis.

Detective Geaney is a remarkable role model, and proud resident of the community in which she serves. She is a member of The American Legion Hollywood Post 43 and volunteers with the non-profit organization, Arts Bridging the Gap which creates murals through curriculum that offers arts enrichment for youth in under-served areas. These community art pieces are sources of pride to the community and help foster connections between the youth and police officers.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Detective Shannon Geaney.

IN HONOR OF KATHY L. SEAVER

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Kathy L. Seaver, who is being honored today for her retirement after 45 years of service to the Town of Farmington. She has served as tax collector since 1974 and became the joint town clerk and tax collector in 1979. Kathy has served the Town of Farmington with distinction and is revered by her peers for her expertise.

Kathy L. Seaver was born and raised in Farmington, New Hampshire. She attended Farmington High School and what was then known as New Hampshire College. After graduating in 1971, she joined multiple generations of her family who worked for the Town of Farmington, including her great-grandfather, grandmother, and mother. In 1974, Kathy was appointed tax collector. In 1979, she was elected to the joint role of tax collector and town clerk. Since 1990, Kathy has also served as the school district clerk.

Throughout her career, Kathy has been an incredibly important member of her professional community. She was the first vice president of the New Hampshire Tax Collectors' Association Executive Board in 1982. Kathy then served as president in 1983 and became director-at-large in 1984. Since 1985, she has served as the director of public relations.

Since 1992, Kathy has served as the chairperson of the NHTCA/NHCTCA Joint Certification Program. She graduated in 2000 from the State of New Hampshire Certified Public Managers Program and was one of the first two town clerk-tax collectors to do so. Kathy has also been an active member of the New Hampshire City & Town Clerks' Association Executive Board, serving in multiple roles.

As a dedicated public servant, Kathy has been awarded a multitude of honors. Kathy's hard work and dedication has been recognized by several New Hampshire public officials. Kathy has also received awards from

many local organizations, including being named the 2018 Farmington Women's Club Woman of the Year.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank Kathy for her decades of service to our community. I congratulate her again on her incredible career and this well-deserved honor, and I thank her for all that she has done to make our state such a wonderful place to learn, live, and grow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, on March 9, 2020, I missed Roll Call votes 91 and 92. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on both measures.

TRIBUTE TO MARY O'KEEFE—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Mary O'Keefe of La Crescenta, California.

Mary O'Keefe is an esteemed community volunteer and reporter for the Crescenta Valley Weekly, and her contributions, both personal and professional, have positively impacted the lives of many people in the greater La Crescenta community.

A consummate volunteer, Ms. O'Keefe's contributions to her community date back to being a Girl Scouts troop leader when her daughters were young. As an enthusiastic Parent Teacher Association (PTA) member and room mom, she quickly became known as a sought-after volunteer for whatever events and activities the PTA was planning. When her son was attending high school, Mary became a vital member of Prom Plus, a non-profit organization which holds a supervised after-prom event for Crescenta Valley High School seniors as well as their guests. When her daughter voiced interest in establishing a youth arm, Prom Plus Club, she became the club's mentor and oversaw hundreds of students as they implemented volunteer tasks in the community and helped create the scholarship program for members of the Prom Plus Club. Ms. O'Keefe remains active in both Prom Plus and Prom Plus Club to this day.

Mary founded the Fire House Youth Center in La Crescenta, which welcomes youth to congregate and spend time with each other in a safe place. Under Ms. O'Keefe's mentorship,

youth are encouraged to establish their own programs such as Girl Empowerment Day, career night and college information night. In 2016, youth skateboarders from the Fire House worked with Los Angeles County and designed their own skate park at Crescenta Valley Park.

In addition, Mary also serves on the Crescenta Valley Prayer Breakfast Committee and Crescenta Valley Fire Safe Council Board, and helped create the local community newspaper, the Crescenta Valley Weekly, where she oversees a staff of reporters who write for the newspaper, while being a main contributing writer herself on in-depth stories.

A devoted wife and mother, Mary and her husband Mark have three children: Charly, Molly and Jessy.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Mary O'Keefe.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, last Thursday, I missed the vote series in order to travel back to WA with the state delegation and VP PENCE to visit the WA State Emergency Operations Center for the coronavirus response.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 87; YEA on Roll Call No. 88; YEA on Roll Call No. 89; and NAY on Roll Call No. 90.

CHRISTOPHER LUCIANO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christopher Luciano for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Christopher Luciano is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christopher Luciano is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christopher Luciano for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on March 9, I was unable to be present and missed the following votes due to my attendance at the Transportation Trades Department Executive Committee Meeting on official duties. If present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 91, and YEA on Roll Call No. 92.

RECOGNIZING THE INAUGURAL HEALTH LAW WEEK

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the inaugural "Health Law Week," a week-long series of events celebrating the health law profession by highlighting programs that create new opportunities for entry into the profession, showcasing organizations and firms dedicated to employing these professionals and elevating this community's contributions to the health care industry.

Sponsored by the American Health Law Association, Health Law Week will take place this year from April 27 through May 1, with receptions hosted in Los Angeles, California, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, St. Louis, Missouri, and, of course, Washington, D.C., where the American Health Law Association has resided for over 50 years. Additional community events will also take place across the nation in celebration of the health law professional.

With the landscape continuing to shift around delivery of care in the United States healthcare system, health law professionals are at the center, providing analysis, assessing risk, ensuring compliance and making recommendations to organizations and clients to protect them from liability. They are a stabilizing force within the industry, and we should celebrate and champion these professionals.

Health Law Week not only serves to celebrate the health law profession, but it also recognizes the rich history of health care delivery in our nation. In 1965, Medicare was enacted as Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, providing federally funded and administered health insurance coverage for the elderly through Part A and Part B of the Act. Medicaid was enacted at the same time as Title XIX of the Social Security Act, creating a voluntary federal-state program of medical assistance to the indigent and so began the need for health law professionals.

Today, the American Health Law Association helps educate and connect over 60,000 health law professionals across the country, with over 6,000 of them residing here in the District of Columbia metropolitan area.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representative to join me in recognizing Health Law Week and acknowledge the impact and contributions of the health law profession on the nation's healthcare system.

TRIBUTE TO SUSANA REYES—28TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Susana Reyes of Glendale, California.

Susana graduated magna cum laude from Saint Paul College with a degree in Communications. She earned a Civic Engagement Leadership and Management certification from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Anderson School of Management and a Government Purchasing and Contract Administration credential from George Washington University.

Susana Reyes has dedicated her life to working on issues that impact the environment, both in her personal life and professional career. As a Sierra Club leader and activist, she is an advocate for the greater Los Angeles community in environmental justice issues. Ms. Reyes supported the successful battle against a large residential development in the Verdugo Mountains of Glendale and helped pause the Glendale gas plant expansion in favor of exploring clean energy alternatives. She was the Political Chair of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, a member of their National Political Team, and served on the Sierra Club's Political Action Committee. Susana was an elected member of the Sierra Club National Board of Directors where she served as Vice President, was elected to the Board's Executive Committee and currently is the national volunteer co-lead for the Clean Transportation for All campaign. In addition to her service with the Sierra Club, in 2019, she was appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to the Board of Commissioners of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) making her the first Filipino-American LADWP Commissioner.

Ms. Reyes is the founder and CEO of AgilEngines LLC, a consulting and advocacy firm with a focus on civic engagement strategies and community outreach. Prior to this, she was a Senior Sustainability Analyst at the Los Angeles Mayor's office, where she played an essential role in launching the first Sustainable City Plan and was responsible for securing a \$1.7 million grant from the California Air Resources Board for the first-ever electric car share program specifically designated for low-income communities. Previous positions also include serving as Manager of the City of Los Angeles Facilities Recycling Program and Human Resources Director at the LADWP.

For her outstanding accomplishments, Susana has received the City of Los Angeles Career Service Award, the Sierra Club Political Service Award, the Sierra Club Phil Bernays Award, the Rotary Club Bay Area Women Leaders Award, and the Women in Business Environmental Leader Award.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of Califor-

nia's 28th Congressional District, Susana Reyes.

YOUTH, PEACE, AND SECURITY ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Youth, Peace, and Security Act, the first comprehensive legislation that would prioritize the inclusion of youth in conflict resolution.

There are more than 1.8 billion youth in the world. Whether here in the U.S. or abroad, youth populations have long been at the forefront of building peace in their communities by creating youth-led movements, organizations, and networks to mitigate negative effects of conflict and to prevent recurring cycles of violence. Inclusive peace processes are proven to more holistically address the root causes of violence and lead to more sustainable peace.

Not only is it important to include youth in conflict resolution for the sake of inclusivity, it has also been proven to lead to more sustainable peace. For example, Somali Youth Learners Initiative ("SYLI") was created to improve Somali youths' access to education and to promote civic engagement. After learning leadership and nonviolent conflict resolution skills through the program, the students were able to implement their own youth-led community projects and communicate effectively with politicians about policies that impact youth. Youth who gained access to improved secondary school and civic engagement opportunities through SYLI and the community projects were 65 percent less likely to demonstrate moral or material support for political violence.

My bill will codify the roles of a Youth Coordinator at USAID and Youth Points of Contact in relevant bureaus; integrate youth consultation into program design; and provide financial and technical assistance to youth-led initiatives in pursuit of conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

The Youth, Peace, and Security Act is a once-in-a-generation shift in U.S. foreign policy that would bring youth voices to the table in conflicts around the world. In countries facing conflict, it will be the young people who will bear the burden of sustaining peace over generations, leading their society from reconciliation to prosperity.

I am thrilled to be joined in leading this bill by my colleagues, Representatives SUSAN BROOKS, DEAN PHILLIPS, and JOHN CURTIS, and am grateful to our other colleagues who have supported this introduction. My bill is also endorsed by over 35 non-governmental organizations. I urge the House of Representatives to join me in passing this important legislation.

CHRISTIAN MAERZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christian

Maerz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Christian Maerz is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christian Maerz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christian Maerz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD BLACKBURN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the late Howard Blackburn of North Wilkesboro, North Carolina for his recent induction into the Wilkes County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Howard Blackburn epitomized a life of excellence and service. He served in the military during World War Two and the Korean war. Howard Blackburn influenced thousands of lives through his leadership in education and agriculture. Through his work at Wilkes Community College, where he served as director of the life sciences program, Mr. Blackburn helped thousands of students develop farming skills.

Howard Blackburn is perhaps best known throughout Wilkes County for his contributions to beekeeping. He helped found the Beekeepers of Wilkes, and personally served as an instructor and mentor for decades. He helped many, many other people understand the importance of bees to our lives. He always maintained the highest standards of meticulous conduct and expected others to strive to the same level of excellence. Howard Blackburn is a shining example of service that we should all seek to emulate.

SALUTING THE EXTRAORDINARY CAREER OF MIKE STANFORD

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I salute the extraordinary career of Mike Stanford as he retires from a lifetime of civic involvement. Mike devoted nearly four decades of incredible service to communities throughout the State of Texas through his career in the television industry. With his "what can I do to help?" spirit and high-minded vision, he's made Central Texas a model for child-focused community outreach.

A pillar of the Texas community, Mike has devoted years of selfless service to help those

in need. Through his tireless work and altruistic leadership, he created Camo Santa that focused on providing toys for soldier families in financial need. Mike's contributions to his community doesn't stop there. He has organized several programs to help serve others, such as numerous Dallas Cowboys Charity events, Wednesday's Child, Criswell's Kids, and Adopt a Pet. Mike's dedication to service and hard work has helped make a difference in many lives from providing children with basic supplies to helping those impacted by natural disasters. His generous activism speaks to the very best of Texas values.

Mike's commitment to the highest standards of excellence has not gone unnoticed. Recognized by his colleagues for his devotion and hard work, he has achieved a long list of accolades, including four Emmy Awards, twelve Addy Awards, the Dallas Press Club's Katy Award, as well as high recognition from the Texas Association of Broadcasters as recipient of the Bonner McClain Service Award. Mike's resume speaks to an innovator unafraid to do what it takes to excel in a demanding profession.

Mike Stanford's generous commitment to helping others serves as an inspiration for all to follow. There's no doubt that Central Texas is a better place because of him. I heartily salute his work and wish him the best of luck in his richly deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JANET WORKMAN—
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Janet Workman of the Elysian Valley neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Janet Workman is a devoted wife and community leader in Elysian Valley. Ms. Workman was born and raised in Hermosa Beach and briefly lived in Sao Paulo, Brazil as an exchange student during her teenage years. While attending the University of Southern California, she majored in French, after which she spent several years teaching French and English at the high school level. She then moved to the City of Pasadena in 1981, where she started her career in corporate and emergency planning. An expert in her field, she ran her own company for twenty years before working for Southern California Edison. Additionally, she volunteered for eight years as a docent at the historic Gamble House and seven years on the board of a domestic violence shelter. Despite her full and active life in Pasadena, she and her husband, Robert, decided to relocate to Elysian Valley to start a new chapter in their lives.

Ms. Workman built a new sense of home in Elysian Valley for herself and her husband. Never one to sit idly by, she started the Frogtown Art Walk with a group of neighbors,

of which she was an essential planner for several years. To ensure the Art Walk's success, she and Robert converted a small home into a meeting place for the event which eventually became the social hub for the entire neighborhood. A lover of art, she studied botanical drawing and watercolor, and produced her own stained-glass art that was exhibited at the Frogtown Art Walk.

Ms. Workman was also instrumental in restoring the Elysian Valley Community Garden, where she took a hands-on approach to rebuild the garden back into a resource for local residents. She took charge of the restoration by building and painting a tool shed, helping to construct planting beds, and enlisted the City of Los Angeles to donate trees for the garden's orchard.

Janet is currently a board member of Friends of Silver Lake Library, a volunteer group dedicated in supporting special programs and cultural events at this branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. As a very active board member, Ms. Workman has increased the library's programs for children and helped to organize the library's 10-year anniversary celebration.

The Elysian Valley community and beyond has benefitted greatly from the generosity of Ms. Workman. With a focus on giving back, she has played a vital role in energizing her fellow community members to start their own neighborhood projects and organizations.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Janet Workman.

CHARLIE MARTIN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Charlie Martin for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Charlie Martin is a student at Arvada K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Charlie Martin is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Charlie Martin for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING 40 YEARS OF
COMMUNITY FOOD BASKET IN
IDAHO FALLS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate 40 years of the Community

Food Basket in Idaho Falls. This is an exceptional organization that is committed to fighting food insecurity in southeast Idaho.

In 1980, various members of the Idaho Falls community took it upon themselves to launch an effort aimed at securing emergency necessities for their church membership. Today, four decades later, the efforts of these selfless men and women continue to expand in the Idaho Falls area. Helping more than 4,000 individuals monthly, the Community Food Basket of Idaho Falls serves the public with a noble vision of meeting the needs of those who face food insecurity.

In 2019 alone, the Community Food Basket served over 100,000 people and gave away \$2.6 million dollars of food in order to provide struggling neighbors with life-saving essentials. Hundreds of volunteers have sacrificed their time and resources and hundreds of businesses have participated in food drives to support those around us in need.

Not only has the Food Basket provided countless members of our community with what they need to survive, but they have also highlighted the altruistic, selfless spirit so common in Idaho.

Madam Speaker, the Community Food Basket of Idaho Falls is a staple in my community. It is my privilege to applaud this great organization and its selfless volunteers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following roll call votes. Had I been present for them, I would have voted as follows: H.Res. 410—Encouraging Reunions of Divided Korean American Families Act—YEA and H.R. 1771—Divided Families Reunification Act—YEA.

ARIAH MCCLELLAND

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aariah McClelland for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Aariah McClelland is a student at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aariah McClelland is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Aariah McClelland for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO KATHY ARNOLD TAFT

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute in memoriam to Kathy Arnold Taft in honor of the opening of the Kathy Taft Center for Excellence and Leadership in Education in Greenville, North Carolina. Kathy was raised in eastern North Carolina and was a passionate educator, taken from us too soon on March 9, 2010. Kathy graduated cum laude in 1981 from East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education.

She spent many years as a public health instructor in both Raleigh and Greenville. She served as vice chair of the Pitt County Board of Education in Greenville and was a founding member of the Pitt County Communities in Schools program. Kathy served on the Board of Governors for the Governor's School of North Carolina from 1986 to 1992 and in 1995, was appointed by Governor Jim Hunt to the state Board of Education. She also devoted her time as a guardian ad litem volunteer, was a member of the East Carolina University Women's Roundtable, an Educator's Hall of Fame Inductee, and was honored by the Order of the Cupola.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the legacy of this incredible woman; she was a wonderful educator and dedicated public servant who served as an example to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on March 9, 2020, I was not able to cast my votes during the vote series due to personal engagements in the district. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted: YES on H. Res. 410—Encouraging reunions of divided Korean-American Families, as amended (Rep. BASS—Foreign Affairs); and YES on H.R. 1771—Divided Families Reunification Act, as amended (Rep. MENG—Foreign Affairs).

CHRISTINA REGMI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christina Regmi for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Christina Regmi is a student at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christina Regmi is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all

levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christina Regmi for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
KATHERINE JOHNSON**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Katherine Johnson, one of the first African American women ever to work at NASA, whose brilliant mind and countless contributions helped to make both flight in space and our space center in Huntsville, Alabama, possible.

Mrs. Johnson spent thirty-five years at NASA, during which time she used her remarkable mind to master even the most complex manual calculations and helped to pioneer the early use of computers. Her work was instrumental to launching Alan Shepard, the first American in space and John Glenn, the first American in orbit. Mrs. Johnson worked at NASA during a time when African American women were largely banned from taking advantage of such career opportunities, however, her grit, determination and indubitable brilliance helped her to persist, tearing down barriers for African Americans and for women.

At eighteen, Mrs. Johnson enrolled at the historically black West Virginia State College, where she found a mentor in math professor W. W. Schieffelin Claytor, the third African American to earn a PhD in mathematics. She graduated with highest honors in 1937 and took a job teaching at an African American public school in Virginia.

In 1939, West Virginia State's president, Dr. John W. Davis, selected Mrs. Johnson and two other African American men to be the first black students to attend West Virginia University, which was historically white. Mrs. Johnson resigned from her teaching job and enrolled in the graduate math program to become a full-time student. She did not complete her degree, deciding instead to leave school to start a family with her first husband, James Goble. She returned to teaching when her children got older.

In 1952, a relative told Mrs. Johnson about a job opportunity at the all-black West Area Computing section at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics' (NACA's) Langley laboratory. Mrs. Johnson and her husband decided to move the family to Newport News, Virginia, to pursue the opportunity, and Katherine began work at Langley in the summer of 1953. Just two weeks into her tenure in the office, she was assigned to a project in the Ma-neuver Loads Branch of the Flight Research Division. She spent the next four years analyzing data from flight tests and worked on the investigation of a plane crash caused by wake turbulence. Just as she was completing this work, her husband died of cancer in December 1956.

In 1957, Russia launched Sputnik, the first successful satellite to be launched into space, and the United States immediately began efforts to beat Russia and become the first country to put a man into space. Mrs. Johnson was selected to provide math for "Notes on Space Technology," a collection formed by NACA engineers who became part of NASA when that agency was formed in 1958.

Mrs. Johnson went on to do the trajectory analysis for America's first human space flight by astronaut Alan Shepard in 1961. She worked closely with Ted Skopinski, a male engineer, to co-author "Determination of Azimuth Angle at Burnout for Place a Satellite Over a Selected Earth Position," a report on the equations for an orbital spaceflight with a landing site target. It was the first time a woman in NASA's Flight Research Division received credit for authoring a research report.

In 1962, John Glenn was preparing for his orbital flight and was hesitant to trust the new computers' calculation of his orbital trajectory. He relied on Mrs. Johnson to cite her calculations on syncing the Apollo Lunar Model with the orbiting Command and Service Module. This was known as Mrs. Johnson's greatest contribution. After this successful event, she authored and co-authored 26 research reports before retiring in 1986. Mrs. Johnson was then awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama, and played by Taraji P. Henson in the movie "Hidden Figures" about NASA's black women pioneers.

Mrs. Johnson fought through discrimination and adversity, proving to America and to the entire world not only that African Americans were just as capable as white Americans, but that women were just as capable as men. In many ways, she displayed even more patriotism, as she overcame adversity in order to serve her country. Katherine Johnson's legacy is one that should make the state of Alabama truly proud. She is a part of Alabama's remarkable legacy of advocating for civil rights, proving that the determination of African American women can charge the course of history, not only for our country but for the entire world.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the exemplary service of Katherine Johnson. May we celebrate her resilience and sacrifice every day.

DOROTHY (DOTTIE) WHAM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dorothy (Dottie) Wham, a great Coloradan, wife, mother and grandmother.

Dorothy Stonecipher was born January 5, 1925 in Centralia, Ill. She died peacefully on October 20, 2019, surrounded by loving family and friends. She was married to her husband Bob, her high school sweetheart, for 65 years and had three children, Nancy Mitchell and husband Rohn, daughter Jeanne Ryan and husband Brent; son Robert S. II and his wife, Jamie Shaffer; five grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and friends. She is also survived by brother Ernest Joseph Stonecipher, Jr.

In 1946, Dottie graduated from MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Ill. where she earned a bachelor's degree and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Illinois in 1949. After coming to Colorado in 1950, and then moving to Denver in 1953, Dottie's interest in politics was sparked. In 1952, she worked for Dwight Eisenhower's presidential campaign collecting contributions, which irritated both her family and Bob's family as they were backers of the more conservative Robert Taft of Ohio. She then took an interest in immunization issues, which brought her to Montrose, Delta and Mesa counties where she helped to organize immunization drives. Dottie continued to pursue her interest in public health and worked for a federal agency for 10 years. She also led the Colorado Civil Rights Commission

from 1972 to 1980 and served on the boards of several metro area mental health organizations.

In 1984, Dottie was first elected to the Colorado State House. She was appointed to the Colorado State Senate when Sen. Cliff Dodge stepped down in November 1987. She won election to that seat the following year, and handily won re-election twice more. During Dottie's tenure at the legislature she chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee from 1989 to 2000. Her legislative focus remained centered on her passion for health policy, including mental health issues. Dottie was term-limited in 2000.

She was one of the first state lawmakers to carry legislation requiring reporting of HIV and AIDS in Colorado. Dottie's bill, Senate Bill 157

in 1990, laid down a marker for how individuals with HIV or AIDS should be treated, stating that any such infection should not serve as the basis for discrimination or prevention of access to services.

I was privileged to know Dottie for many years and to call her my friend. It was an honor to work with her in the Colorado State Senate. I admired her focus and effectiveness. She never shied away from a tough challenge. She was one of the smartest, toughest, shrewdest and kindest people I have ever met, and I appreciated her tireless work ethic and service to the people of Colorado. I extend my deepest appreciation to Dottie Wham for her dedication to her community and to the people of the State of Colorado.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1641–S1674

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3423–3433, and S. Res. 537–538. **Page S1672**

Measures Considered:

Advanced Geothermal Innovation Leadership Act: Senate continued consideration of S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto:

Pages S1643–49, S1649–58

Pending:

Murkowski Modified Amendment No. 1407, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1644**

Portman/Shahen Amendment No. 1514 (to Amendment No. 1407), to establish greater energy efficiency and cost-effectiveness in building codes. **Page S1644**

Shahen Amendment No. 1525 (to Amendment No. 1514), to modify the authorization of appropriations for cost-effective codes implementation for efficiency and resilience. **Page S1644**

Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability—Agreement: Senate began consideration of S.J. Res. 56, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability”. **Pages S1658–60, S1660–65**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to discharge the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions from further consideration of the joint resolution. **Page S1669**

By 55 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 69), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution. **Pages S1659–60**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the joint resolution at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday,

March 11, 2020, and that all time expire at 12 noon. **Page S1675**

House Messages:

Broadband DATA Act: Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to 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. **Page S1660**

Danly Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of James P. Danly, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. **Page S1658**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, March 12, 2020. **Page S1658**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1658**

Messages from the House: **Page S1669**

Measures Referred: **Page S1669**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S1669**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1669–71**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S1671–72**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1672–74**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S1674**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1668–69**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S1674–75**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—69) **Page S1660**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:37 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2020. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1675.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: FCC

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Federal Communications Commission, after receiving testimony from Ajit Pai, Chairman, and Jessica Rosenworcel, Geoffrey Starks, and Brendan Carr, each a Commissioner, all of the Federal Communications Commission.

THE SAHEL

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concluded a hearing to examine fragility in the Sahel, after receiving testimony from Mark Green, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development; and David Hale, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Matthew P. Donovan, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, and William Jordan Gillis, of Georgia, who was introduced by Senator Perdue, and Victor G. Mercado, of California, both to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

CFPB SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's semi-annual report to Congress, after receiving testimony from Kathleen L. Kraninger, Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from David Bernhardt, Secretary of the Interior.

AFGHANISTAN AGREEMENT

Committee on Foreign Relations: On Monday, March 9, 2020, Committee received a joint closed briefing

with the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs on the Afghanistan agreement from Mary Catherine Phee, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, and Alice G. Wells, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, both of the Department of State.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY MARKETS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine competition in digital technology markets, focusing on self-preferencing by digital platforms, after receiving testimony from Gene Kimmelman, Public Knowledge, Sally Hubbard, Open Markets Institute, and Morgan Reed, ACT The App Association, all of Washington, D.C.; Thomas W. Hazlett, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina; and Luther Lowe, Yelp, San Francisco, California.

COPYRIGHT LAW AND DIGITAL PIRACY

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Intellectual Property concluded a hearing to examine copyright law in foreign jurisdictions, focusing on how other countries are handling digital piracy, after receiving testimony from Justin Hughes, Loyola Marymount University, and Jonathan Yunger, Millennium Media, both of Los Angeles, California; Pamela Samuelson, University of California Law School, Berkeley; Michael D. Smith, Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Daphne Keller, Stanford University Cyber Policy Center, Stanford, California; Stanford K. McCoy, Motion Picture Association EMEA, Brussels, Belgium; Julia Reda, Harvard University Berkman Klein Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Matt Schruers, Computer and Communications Industry Association, Washington, D.C.

NOMINATION

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of James E. Trainor III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 23 public bills, H.R. 6164–6186; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 96; and H. Res. 892–895, were introduced.

Pages H1586–87

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H1588–89

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 891, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 68) to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2486) to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6172) to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the production of certain business records, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–415).

Page H1586

Announcement by the Chair: The Speaker addressed the Members on matters of decorum in the House.

Page H1559

Recess: The House recessed at 10:33 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H1563

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Erin Keys, Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C.

Page H1563

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 212 yeas to 185 nays with two answering "present", Roll No. 94.

Pages H1563, H1578–79

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Requiring an evaluation by the Government Accountability Office of the social, economic, and historic contributions that Minor League Baseball has made to American life and culture: H.R. 6020, amended, to require an evaluation by the Government Accountability Office of the social, economic, and historic contributions that Minor League Baseball has made to American life and culture;

Pages H1564–67

Moving Our Democracy and Congressional Operations Towards Modernization Resolution: H. Res. 756, amended, implementing the recommendations adopted by the Select Committee on the Mod-

ernization of Congress, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 395 yeas to 13 nays, Roll No. 93; and

Pages H1567–74, H1577–78

Federally Requiring Earned Education-debt Discharges for Vets Act: H.R. 3598, amended, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to automatically discharge the loans of certain veteran borrowers.

Pages H1575–77

Recess: The House recessed at 1:27 p.m. and reconvened at 3:30 p.m.

Page H1577

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Support for Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act: S. 760, to enable registered apprenticeship programs to better serve veterans.

Pages H1574–75

Recess: The House recessed at 5:04 p.m. and reconvened at 7:28 p.m.

Page H1585

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1577–78 and H1578–79. There were no quorum calls,

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a markup on the Budget Views and Estimates Letter of the Committee on Agriculture for the agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee for fiscal year 2021; H. Res. 189, recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting United States Agency for International Development's commitment to global nutrition through its multi-sectoral nutrition strategy; and H. Res. 742, recognizing the continued success of the Food for Peace Act. The Budget Views and Estimates Letter of the Committee on Agriculture was approved, without amendment. H. Res. 189 and H. Res. 742 were ordered reported, without amendment.

U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE: STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture held a hearing entitled

“U.S. Agricultural Trade: Stakeholder Perspectives”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Chairman McGovern, and Representatives Casten of Illinois, Cunningham, Rodney Davis of Illinois, González-Colón of Puerto Rico, Griffith, Haaland, Jackson Lee, Radewagen, Schneider, Schrier, Slotkin, Suozzi, Thompson of Pennsylvania, Graves of Louisiana, and Trahan.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Agriculture. Testimony was heard from Sonny Perdue, Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS—OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a budget hearing on the Office of Management and Budget. Testimony was heard from Russ Vought, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget.

APPROPRIATIONS—CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Testimony was heard from the following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials: Ileana Arias, Associate Deputy Director for Public Health Science and Surveillance; Sherri A. Berger, Chief Strategy Officer and Chief Operating Officer; Debra Houry, Director, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; and Robert Redfield, Director.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Commerce. Testimony was heard from Wilbur Ross, Secretary, Department of Commerce.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related

Agencies held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Cisneros, Craig, Golden, González-Colón of Puerto Rico, Hudson, and Johnson of Louisiana.

U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND (SOUTHCOM)

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled “U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM)”. Testimony was heard from Admiral Craig S. Faller, Commander, U.S. Southern Command. This hearing was closed.

APPROPRIATIONS—U.S. COAST GUARD

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security held a budget hearing on the U.S. Coast Guard. Testimony was heard from Admiral Karl Schultz, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard.

APPROPRIATIONS—U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. Testimony was heard from Brenda Burman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation; Rickey James, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; Timothy Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of Interior; and Lieutenant General Todd Semonite, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the Army Corps.

PUBLIC WITNESS DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Public Witness Day”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—U.S. ARMY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a budget hearing on the U.S. Army. Testimony was heard from Ryan McCarthy, Secretary of the Army; and General James McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army.

NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES AND U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE GREATER MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “National Security Challenges and U.S. Military Activities in the Greater Middle East and Africa”. Testimony was heard from Kathryn Wheelbarger, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Department of Defense; General Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps, Commander, U.S. Central Command;

and General Stephen Townsend, U.S. Army, Commander, U.S. Africa Command.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TACTICAL AND ROTARY AIRCRAFT ACQUISITION AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS IN THE FY21 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing entitled "Department of Defense Tactical and Rotary Aircraft Acquisition and Modernization Programs in the FY21 President's Budget Request". Testimony was heard from Bruce D. Jette, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)), Department of the Army; Brigadier General Walter T. Rugen, U.S. Army, Director, Future Vertical Lift Cross-Functional Team, Army Futures Command; James F. Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, Department of the Navy; Lieutenant General Steven R. Rudder, U.S. Marine Corps, Deputy Commandant for Aviation, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; Rear Admiral Gregory N. Harris, U.S. Navy, Director, Air Warfare (OPNAV N98), Office of the Chief of Naval Operations; William Roper, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (SAF/AQ), Department of the Air Force; General James M. Holmes, U.S. Air Force, Commander, Air Combat Command, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force; and Lieutenant General David S. Nahom, U.S. Air Force, Director of Programs, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Requirements, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FY2021 BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Department of Defense FY2021 Budget". Testimony was heard from David L. Norquist, Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a markup on H.R. 451, the "Don't Break Up the T-Band Act of 2019"; H.R. 5926, the "RESILIENT Networks Act"; H.R. 6096, the "Reliable Emergency Alert Distribution Improvement Act of 2020"; H.R. 4194, the "National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2019"; H.R. 5918, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting; H.R. 1289, the "Preserving Home and Office Numbers in Emergencies Act of 2019"; H. Res. 549, resolution reaffirming the commitment of the House of Representatives to media diversity

and pledging to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to develop common ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity; H.R. 3957, the "Expanding Broadcast Ownership Opportunities Act of 2019"; H.R. 5567, the "MEDIA Diversity Act of 2020"; H.R. 5564, the "Enhancing Broadcaster DIVERSITY Data Act"; and H.R. 4855, the "C-BAND Act". H.R. 451, H.R. 4194, H.R. 1289, H.R. 3957, and H.R. 5564 were forwarded to the full Committee, as amended. H.R. 5926, H.R. 6096, H.R. 5918, H. Res. 549, H.R. 5567, and H.R. 4855 were forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

HOLDING WELLS FARGO ACCOUNTABLE: CEO PERSPECTIVES ON NEXT STEPS FOR THE BANK THAT BROKE AMERICA'S TRUST

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Holding Wells Fargo Accountable: CEO Perspectives on Next Steps for the Bank that Broke America's Trust". Testimony was heard from a public witness.

PROSPECTS FOR PEACE: THE WAY FORWARD IN AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation held a hearing entitled "Prospects for Peace: The Way Forward in Afghanistan". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES ON CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery held a hearing entitled "Community Perspectives on Coronavirus Preparedness and Response". Testimony was heard from Christopher Neuwirth, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Public Health Infrastructure, Laboratories, and Emergency Preparedness, New Jersey Department of Health; Thomas Dobbs, M.D., State Health Officer, Mississippi State Department of Health; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE SPENDING PRIORITIES AND MISSIONS OF THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing entitled "Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management". Testimony was heard from Victoria Christiansen, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and Michael Nedd, Deputy

Director, Operations, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, THE BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT, THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, AND THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of the Interior officials: William Perry Pendley, Deputy Director, Policy and Programs, and Exercising the Authority of the Director, Bureau of Land Management; Scott Angelle, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; Walter Cruickshank, Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; Glenda Owens, Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement; and James Reilly, Director, U.S. Geological Survey.

SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE ACT; TO DIRECT THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES AGAINST THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS; USA FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2020

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2486, the “FUTURE Act” [NO BAN Act; Access to Counsel Act of 2020]; S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; and H.R. 6172, the “USA FREEDOM Reauthorization Act of 2020”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–4, a rule providing for consideration of S.J. Res 68, To direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress, H.R. 2486, the “FUTURE Act” [NO BAN Act; Access to Counsel Act of 2020], and H.R. 6172, the “USA FREEDOM Reauthorization Act of 2020”. The rule provides for consideration of S.J. Res. 68, To direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from

hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one motion to commit. The rule provides for the consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2486. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment with two House amendments: Amendment #1 consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–52, the No Ban Act; and Amendment #2 consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–53, the Access to Counsel Act. The rule provides one hour of debate on each House amendment, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion and provides that the Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides that the question of adoption shall be divided between the two House amendments, and that the two portions of the divided question shall be considered in the order specified by the chair. The rule provides that if only one amendment is adopted, that amendment shall be engrossed as an amendment in the nature of a substitute to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2486. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 6172, the “USA FREEDOM Reauthorization Act of 2020”, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary and the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Section 7 of the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from March 13, 2020, through March 22, 2020: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the

Chair in declaring the adjournment. The rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 7. The rule provides that each day during the period addressed by section 7 shall not constitute a legislative day for the purposes of clause 7 of rule XV. The rule provides that it shall be in order at any time through the calendar day of March 22, 2020, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV, and that the Speaker or her designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section. The rule waives the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of March 23, 2020. Testimony was heard from Chairman Nadler, and Representatives Jordan, Davidson of Ohio, and Gohmert.

THE IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS ON AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "The Impact of Coronavirus on America's Small Businesses". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE INTERNATIONAL ROLE OF THE UNITED STATE COAST GUARD

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled "The International Role of the United States Coast Guard". Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral Daniel B. Abel, Deputy Commandant for Operations, U.S. Coast Guard; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on H.R. 2224, the "Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Act"; H.R. 5056, the "Modern GI Bill Act"; H.R. 5324, the "Sergeant Daniel Somers Veteran Network of Support Act of 2019"; legislation on the Disaster School Closures; legislation on the Education Eligibility, TAP, Skillbridge; legislation on the HMIS Fees; legislation on the Native VetSuccess Pilot; legislation on the Consumer Testing GI Bill Comparison Tool; legislation on the Reducing Veteran Homelessness Act of 2020; legislation on the IHS/ HUD-VASH Case Management Coordination; legislation on the Clarifying the Location of Online Schools; legislation on the Montgomery Repayment Clarification; legislation on the VR&E Rebranding; and legislation on the Overseas Yellow Ribbon Clar-

ification. Testimony was heard from Margarita Devlin, Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on H.R. 1133, the "VA Employee Fairness Act of 2019"; H.R. 4949, the "VA Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance Act"; H.R. 5245, the "SHIELD for Veterans Act"; H.R. 5843, the "Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2020"; and legislation to align the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Chief Financial Officer's authority with federal law. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Veterans Affairs officials: Jon Rychalski, Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer; Christopher Wilber, Counselor to the Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General; Jessica Bonjorni, Acting Assistant Deputy Undersecretary for Health for Workforce Services, Veterans Health Administration; and public witnesses.

NGA BUDGET HEARING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Strategic Technologies and Advanced Research held a hearing entitled "NGA Budget Hearing". This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

MOLDOVA

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine Moldova, focusing on access and accountability, after receiving testimony from William H. Hill, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Studies, Washington, D.C.; Tatyana Margolin, Open Society Foundations, New York, New York; and Valeriu Pasa, WatchDog.MD, Chisinau, Moldova.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Navy and Marine Corps, 10 a.m., SD-138.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Government Accountability Office and Congressional Budget Office, 2 p.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2 p.m., SD-192.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation within the Department of the Interior, 2:30 p.m., SD-138.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings to examine Marine Corps ground modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program, 10 a.m., SR-222.

Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine personnel programs in the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider S. 1046, to establish the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, S. 3132, to extend the Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act of 2006, S. 3191, to increase the capacity of research and development programs of the Federal Government that focus on industries of the future, S. 3248, to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, S. 3303, to amend title 49, United States Code, to promote transportation career opportunities and improve diversity in the workforce, H.R. 835, to impose criminal sanctions on certain persons involved in international doping fraud conspiracies, to provide restitution for victims of such conspiracies, and to require sharing of information with the United States Anti-Doping Agency to assist its fight against doping, and routine lists in the Coast Guard; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine pending nominations, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Douglas Benevento, of Colorado, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and David A. Wright, of South Carolina, and Christopher T. Hanson, of Michigan, both to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nominations of Kipp Kranbuhl, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Sarah C. Arbes, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Jason J. Fichtner, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board, 10:10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine Assad's campaign against the Syrian people, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 3045, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to protect United States critical infrastructure by ensuring that the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has the legal tools it

needs to notify private and public sector entities put at risk by cybersecurity vulnerabilities in the networks and systems that control critical assets of the United States, S. 3416, to reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, S. 2757, to waive the imposition of a civil fine for certain first-time paperwork violations by small business concerns, S. 3412, to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, S. 2502, to ban the Federal procurement of certain drones and other unmanned aircraft systems, S. 2722, to prohibit agencies from using Federal funds for publicity or propaganda purposes, S. 3418, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide capitalization grants to States to establish revolving funds to provide hazard mitigation assistance to reduce risks from disasters and natural hazards, and other related environmental harm, S. 3207, to require the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish a Cybersecurity State Coordinator in each State, S. 3332, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses, S. 2847, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, as the "Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office", S. 2945, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 171 South Maple Street in Dana, Indiana, as the Ernest "Ernie" T. Pyle Post Office, S. 3257, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 311 West Wisconsin Avenue in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, as the "Einar 'Sarge' H. Ingman, Jr. Post Office Building", S. 3365, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Crosby Street in Mansfield, Louisiana, as the "Dr. C.O. Simpkins, Sr., Post Office", H.R. 3675, to require a review of Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler programs, H.R. 2589, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a homeland intelligence doctrine for the Department of Homeland Security, H.R. 4761, to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, and other personnel have adequate synthetic opioid detection equipment, that the Department of Homeland Security has a process to update synthetic opioid detection capability, H.R. 5273, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to increase to 100 percent the rates of scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems to enhance border security, H.R. 4713, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department of Homeland Security, H.R. 4739, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to protect U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, other personnel, and canines against potential synthetic opioid exposure, H.R. 1833, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Tulip Avenue in Floral Park, New York, as the "Lieutenant Michael R. Davidson Post Office Building", H.R. 3207, to

designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Mill Street in Hookstown, Pennsylvania, as the “Staff Sergeant Dylan Elchin Post Office Building”, H.R. 3329, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5186 Benito Street in Montclair, California, as the “Paul Eaton Post Office Building”, H.R. 4794, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8320 13th Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the “Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office Building”, H.R. 4981, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2505 Derita Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the “Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office”, H.R. 5037, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3703 North Main Street in Farmville, North Carolina, as the “Walter B. Jones, Jr. Post Office”, H.R. 3317, to permit the Scipio A. Jones Post Office in Little Rock, Arkansas, to accept and display a portrait of Scipio A. Jones, and the motion to issue a subpoena to Andrii Telizhenko as described in Schedule A, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the EARN IT Act, focusing on holding the tech industry accountable in the fight against online child sexual exploitation, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of the Interior, 9:30 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, budget hearing on the Federal Communication Commission, 10 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the National Labor Relations Board, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, budget hearing on the Department of the Treasury, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security, budget hearing on the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 10:30 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Federal Aviation Administration, 10:30 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Food and Drug Administration, 11 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled “U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM)”, 11 a.m., H–140 Capitol. This hearing is closed.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Architect of the Capitol, 1 p.m., HT–2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Impact of PFAS Exposure on Servicemembers”, 1 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Energy Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Office of Science, and Environmental, 2 p.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Government Publishing Office, 2 p.m., HT–2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled “U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM)”, 3 p.m., H–140 Capitol. This hearing is closed.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “National Security Challenges and U.S. Military Activity in North and South America”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled “Reviewing Department of Defense Science and Technology Strategy, Policy, and Programs for Fiscal Year 2021: Maintaining a Robust Ecosystem for Our Technological Edge”, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces; and Subcommittee on Readiness, joint hearing entitled “Sea-lift and Mobility Requirements in Support of the National Defense Strategy”, 2:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Protecting Congress’ Power of the Purse and the Rule of Law”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, markup on H.R. 5279, the “Cosmetic Safety Enhancement Act of 2019”; H.R. 5668, the “MODERN Labeling Act of 2020”; H.R. 5663, the “Safeguarding Therapeutics Act”; H.R. 4866, the “National Centers of Excellence in Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Act of 2019”; H.R. 4712, the “Fairness in Orphan Drug Exclusivity Act”; H.R. 2117, the “FASTER Act of 2019”; H.R. 2468, the “School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act”; H.R. 2271, the “Scarlett’s Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act”; H.R. 4801, the “Healthy Start Reauthorization Act of 2019”; H.R. 1379, the “Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act”; H.R. 2477, the “BENES Act of 2019”; H.R. 5534, the “Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act”; and H.R. 3935, the “Protecting Patients Transportation to Care Act”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled “The Healthy Families Act (H.R. 1784): Examining a Plan to Secure Paid Sick Leave for U.S. Workers”, 2 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Holding Wells Fargo Accountable: Examining the Role of the Board of Directors in the Bank’s Egregious Pattern of Customer Abuses”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism, hearing entitled “The Crisis in Idlib”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment, hearing entitled “Antagonizing the Neighborhood: Putin’s Frozen Conflicts and the Conflict in Ukraine”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, hearing entitled “Securing America’s Transportation and Maritime Systems: A Review of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Requests for the Transportation Security Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard”, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation, hearing entitled “Resourcing DHS’ Cybersecurity and Innovation Missions: A Review of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the Science and Technology Directorate”, 11 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “Confronting the Coronavirus: The Federal Response”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1548, for the relief of Maria Carmen Castro Ramirez and J. Refugio Carreno Rojas; H.R. 5602, the “Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2020”; H.R. 2733, the “Savanna’s Act”; H.R. 2438, the “Not Invisible Act of 2019”; and H.R. 6100, the “Strengthening the Opposition to Female Genital Mutilation Act”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 139, the “Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument Act”; H.R. 1162, the “Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act”; H.R. 2473, the “Securing Access for the central Valley and Enhancing (SAVE) Water Resources Act”; H.R. 3094, to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806, and for other purposes; H.R. 3250, the “Julius Rosenwald and the Rosen-

wald Schools Act of 2019”; H.R. 3349, the “Republic of Texas Legation Memorial Act”; H.R. 3723, the “Desalination Development Act”; H.R. 4153, the “Health Care Access for Urban Native Veterans Act”; H.R. 4891, the “Western Water Security Act of 2019”; H.R. 5068, the “Women Who Worked on the Home Front World War II Memorial Act”; and H.R. 5126, the “Direct Enhancement of Snapper Conservation and the Economy through Novel Devices Act of 2019”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Coronavirus Preparedness and Response”, 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, hearing entitled “Examining Travel Insurance for Coronavirus-Related Cancellations”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled “Reauthorization of the National Institute of Standards and Technology”, 10:15 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6079, “Microloan Improvement Act of 2020”; H.R. 6078, “Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act of 2020”; legislation on the STEP Improvement Act of 2020; and H.R. 6021, the “Northern Mariana Islands Small Business Development Act”, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “FEMA’s Priorities for 2020 and Beyond: Coordinating Mission and Vision”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support, hearing entitled “Combatting Child Poverty in America”, 2 p.m., 2020 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled “NSA Budget Hearing”, 10 a.m., HVC-304. This hearing is closed.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 11

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of S.J. Res. 56, Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability, and vote on passage of H.J. Res. 76, the House-passed version of S.J. Res. 56, at 12 noon.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 6172—USA FREEDOM Reauthorization Act of 2020 (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2486—Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education Act (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of S.J. Res. 68—To direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress (Subject to a Rule).

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