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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

I hereby appoint the Honorable David J. Trone to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. PENCE 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Hon. Nancy Pelosi,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 12, 2020, at 10:40 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 249.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,
GLORIA J. LETT,
Deputy Clerk.

REAPPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker’s re-appointment, pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431) and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following individuals on the part of the House to the Commission on International Religious Freedom for a term effective May 14, 2020, and ending May 14, 2022:

Ms. Anurima Bhargava, Chicago, Illinois
Dr. James W. Carr, Searcy, Arkansas

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 7(b) of House Resolution 891, the House stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 12 o’clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

4284. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Assessment of Fees on Certain Bank Holding Companies and Nonbank Financial Companies Supervised by the Federal Reserve Board To Cover the Expenses of the Financial Research Fund (RIN: 1505-AC59) received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4285. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation’s interim final rule — Regulatory Capital Rule: Eligible Retained Income (RIN: 3064-AF40) received April 22, 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.

4286. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Definition of “Covered Clearing Agency” (Release No.: 34-88616; File No.: SR-AIIB-2020-017) received April 24, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4287. A letter from the Acting Director, Standards, Regulations, and Variances, Mine

Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Electronic Detectors [Docket No. MSHA-2019-0007] (RIN: 1219-AF23) received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4289. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Electronic Delivery of MVPD Com- mercials [Docket No.: 17-165]; Implementation of the Modernization of Media Regulations Initiative [MB Docket No.: 17-165]; Expansion of Online Public File Obligations to Cable and Satellite Radio Licensees [MB Docket No.: 10-121]; and Incident and Emergency Disclosure Requirements for Television Broadcast Licensee Public Interest Obligations [MM Docket No.: 09-58] received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4290. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Electronic Delivery of MVPD Commercial, Rulemaking to Implement the Modernization of Media Regulations Initiative [MB Docket No.: 17-165]; Final Notice of Proposed Rulemaking [MB Docket No.: 16-79]; and Expanding the Scope of Online Public Files Obligations to Cable and Satellite Radio Licensees [MB Docket No.: 10-121]; and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking [MB Docket No.: 09-58] received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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:

4291. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Relief for Taxpayers Affected by Ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic, Related to Gift and Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax Filing and Payment Deadlines [Notice 2020-20] received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4292. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IBR only rule — Relief for Taxpayers Affected by Ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic [Notice 2020-21] received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4293. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IBR only rule — Section 911(d)(4) — 2019 Update (Revenue Procedure 2020-11 (IR-10946-20)) received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.


4296. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Effective Date for Employment Tax Credit Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act [Notice 2020-21] received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4297. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous (Rev. Proc. 2020-20) received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4298. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous (Rev. Proc. 2020-20) received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4299. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IBR only rule — Effective Date for Employment Tax Credit Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act [Notice 2020-21] received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4300. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IBR only rule — Announcement and Report Concerning Advance Pricing Agreements (March 30, 2020) [ANN 2020-2-3] received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4301. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s final regulations — Rules Regarding Certain Hybrid Arrangements (TD 9896) (RIN: 1545-BM36) received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4302. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s final regulations — Rules Regarding Certain Hybrid Arrangements (TD 9896) (RIN: 1545-BM36) received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4303. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IBR only rule — Section 911(d)(4) — 2019 Update (Revenue Procedure 2020-11 (IR-10946-20)) received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4304. A letter from the Vice President, Environment, Tennessee Valley Authority, transmitting the Authority's final rule — Procedures for Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act received April 23, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.
H.R. 6807. A bill to expand vote by mail and early voting, and to improve the safety, accessibility, and efficiency of in-person voting during elections for Federal office; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. CROW (for himself, Mr. PAIETTA, Ms. MENDENHALL, Mr. DELUCA, Mrs. WATERS, Mr. GARCIA-ELIZondo, Mr. JACOBY, Ms. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. FOXX, Mrs. CARSO, Mr. JACOBY, Mr. LOWTHER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. McCLOONEY, Mr. MCINERNY, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SCHAROWSKY, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. SOTO, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TURLEY, Ms. WASHINGTON COLEMAN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. GHJALVA, and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 6808. A bill to provide for the establishment of a Health Force and a Resilience Force to respond to public health emergencies and meet public health needs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H.R. 6809. A bill to prohibit health care providers that receive funding through the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund from reducing employment or compensation for certain nurses employed by the provider; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. SCHREIDER, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, and Ms. RODRIGUEZ of New Mexico):

H.R. 6810. A bill to establish a Health Care Protection Program Fund to provide grants to employers to ensure continuity of coverage under a group health plan through the COVID-19 pandemic, to provide for premium assistance for COBRA benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELAUNO (for herself, Miss GONZALEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico, Ms. LAMAR of Pennsylvania, and Ms. SANCHEZ):

H.R. 6811. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the age of eligibility for children to receive benefits under the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Veterans’ Affairs, Oversight and Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DELAUNO:

H.R. 6812. A bill to extend limitation periods for labor and employment laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Veterans’ Affairs, Oversight and Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. RISCHENTHALER, and Mr. SMITH of Nevada):

H.R. 6813. A bill to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to improve the prevention of elder abuse and exploitation of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ELSHABEY (for herself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER, and Ms. ADAMS):

H.R. 6814. A bill that the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to promulgate regulations to provide support to institutions of higher education for the provision of certain equipment and services to students of those institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GONZALEZ of California, Mrs. WATSON of California, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. CONDELL, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSTON of Alabama, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CABRERA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. ENGEL, 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. FINKENAUER:

H.R. 6815. A bill to amend the CARES Act to provide for notice of the eviction moratorium under such Act to be provided to tenants of dwelling units subject to such moratorium, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio (for himself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. LEEHONG, Mrs. PATTERSON of Florida, and Mr. WENTRUP):

H.R. 6816. A bill to amend the CARES Act to provide additional time for employers to maximize their loan forgiveness under the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. DAVIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 6817. A bill to establish a payroll loan facility for small financial institutions affected by COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 6818. A bill to amend the CARES Act to provide for the prioritization of applications from certain small businesses seeking Payroll Protection Program loans through the Small Business Administration; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Mr. COLE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GALLIKO, Mr. KILMER, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TLEDIEU of California, Mrs. HUFFMAN, Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. GARIBAY):

H.R. 6819. A bill to fund grants for the immediate deployment of temporary wireless broadband service on Tribal lands and Hawaiian Home Lands, to provide emergency special temporary authority to use electromagnetic spectrum for the provision of wireless broadband service on Tribal lands and Hawaiian Home Lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HECK (for himself, Ms. WATERS, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. NORTON, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SCHAROWSKY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BERA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. FOCAN, Mrs. CARSOW, Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mrs. BRATY, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. MCCOVERN, Mr. BRYER, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JAYAFAL of California, Mr. JAYAFAL of Texas, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. DINGEL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GHJALVA, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. NEUZE, Ms. HALLAN, Mr. MURPHY of Idaho, Ms. DEMINGS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MCCOLL, Miss Rice of New York, Ms. COHEN of California, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RICHMOND, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. PRESSLEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. RODUA, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CABRERA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. MICHIE, Mr. GONZALEZ of California, Mr. COHEN of New York, Mr. CAHN, Mr. TLAIR, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. BASS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. LOWTHER, Mr. MOURITZ, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HINES, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LINCH, Ms. MENG, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHIAVONE, Mr. RYAN, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. WEXTON, Mr. WASHINGTON COLEMAN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. SIRES, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. DE LAURIE, Ms. TITU, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LOPUIR, Ms. MUCARSEI-Powell, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. DEGETTE, Mr. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. SOTO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTÉZ, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. REINS of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TROE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DAVIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. TRAHEAN, Mr. KILDERE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CINEROS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SHEMAN, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. QUELY, and Mr. CROWY:

H.R. 6820. A bill to provide emergency rental assistance under the Emergency Solutions Grants program of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in response to the public health emergency resulting from the coronavirus, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HOLDING (for himself, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. BALDWIN):

H.R. 6821. A bill to clarify for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that receipt of coronavirus disaster grants does not affect the tax treatment of ordinary business expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. BERA, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MURPHY of New Jersey, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. KILMER, Mr. WELLS, and Mr. ROSEN of California):
H.R. 6822. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a national public health service program to respond to emerging crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. HASTINGS):

H.R. 6823. A bill to expand the housing choice voucher program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide temporary housing during the COVID-19 health crisis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington):

H.R. 6824. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the carryover of the remaining 2020 balance in health flexible spending arrangements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 6825. A bill to increase the amount of loan forgiveness available to teachers; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MCEACHIN (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 6826. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to continue to update and make publicly available EJScreen or an equivalent tool, 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 Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ (for herself and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 6827. A bill to amend the Coronavirus Economic Stabilization Act of 2020 to place certain requirements on corporations receiving Federal aid related to COVID-19; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ (for herself, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. OAM, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. MENG, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. CEDY OF New York, Ms. MENG of Hawaii, Mr. ESPIELLAT, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 6828. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a fund to provide financial assistance for funeral expenses related to a deceased individual who died of COVID-19 to the survivors of such individuals; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. SUOZI, and Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee):

H.R. 6829. A bill to authorize funding for a bilateral cooperative program with Israel for the development of health technologies with a focus on combating COVID-19; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PHILLIPS:

H.R. 6830. A bill to amend the Riegel Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 to establish minimum issuance standards for the Community Development Block Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PHILLIPS (for himself and Mr. WATERS):

H.R. 6831. A bill to amend the CARES Act to authorize the Congressional Oversight Commission to submit discretionary reports to Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PHILLIPS (for himself and Ms. MENG):

H.R. 6832. A bill to amend the CARES Act to authorize appropriations to carry out the duties of the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Response and Other Emergency Appointments, in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PHILLIPS (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. McCOLLUM, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. WENTON, Mr. CARE, Mr. SHRES, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. QUOSING, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 6833. A bill to provide Peace Corps Volunteers and trainees whose service was terminated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic with health insurance, an expedited reemployment process, and domestic service opportunities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. KIND, Mr. LOWNETHAL, Ms. MOORE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. STEFANIK, and Ms. PINOY):

H.R. 6834. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a program to facilitate the direct purchase of fresh produce and dairy products by VFW posts and certain dairy organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 6835. A bill to require residential mortgage servicers receiving certain emergency relief under the CARES Act to provide reports on loan-level data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RUZI (for himself and Mr. HECK):

H.R. 6836. A bill to amend the CARES Act to provide for payments to the Indian Health Service, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and certain dairy organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mr. KIND, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 6837. A bill to provide COVID-19 funding for the supplemental nutrition assistance program and certain dairy organizations, 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 Ms. SCHJEREB (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 6838. A bill to provide emergency funding for caseworkers and child protective services, in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. SPANOBERGER (for herself and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio):

H.R. 6839. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report describing the relief, aid, and assistance enti- ties to the COVID-19 pandemic with respect to the development, regulatory evaluation, and deployment of diagnostic tests; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. BEA, Mr. CASE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CRUDU, Mr. CULBERT and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LER of California, Ms. RAY, Mr. SCHAKowsky, Mr. LOWNETHAL, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. Napolitano, Ms. OAM, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. SCHAKowsky, and Mr. Soto):

H.R. 6840. A bill to provide for the coverage of non-congregate shelter under the Public Assistance program of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for the emergency declared on March 13, 2020 relating to COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 6841. A bill to provide for exclusion from gross income for certain workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 6842. A bill to amend title 21, United States Code, to modify the apportionment formula for the: (1) vaccination programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself and Mr. TULUMOATI):

H.R. 6843. A bill to provide reimbursements for the child care operational emergency costs of certain institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 6844. A bill to provide expanded unemployment protection for employees and a limitation on liability for employers with respect to coverage relating to the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself, Ms. BROWNLY of California, Mr. ZELLEN, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6845. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from charging veterans copayments for services relating to COVID-19; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mrs. LER of California, Ms. MENG, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SERRANO, Ms. MOORE, Mr. EVANS, and Miss GONZALEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico):

H.R. 6846. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide for the participation of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the supplemental nutrition assistance program and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 6847. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to conduct elections for Federal office held in 2020 solely through the use of mail-in absentee
CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

STATEMENT

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

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:
H.R. 6799.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—allows Congress the power to make all laws that are 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. BUDD:
H.R. 6805.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CLEAVER:
H.R. 6806.
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. CLYBURN:
H.R. 6807.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Elections Clause of the United States Constitution gives Congress sweeping power to regulate the time, place, and manner of Federal elections (Article I, section 4 of the Constitution of the United States; see also Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc., 570 U.S. 1 (2013)). Congress also has enforcement power under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CROW:
H.R. 6808.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 Clause 1

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 6809.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 7

By Ms. DeLAURO:
H.R. 6810.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 1

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 6811.

By Ms. DeLAURO:
H.R. 6812.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to “regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.”

By Ms. DeLAURO:
H.R. 6813.

By Mr. DEUTCH:
H.R. 6814.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. ESHOO:
H.R. 6815.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Ms. FINKENAUER:
H.R. 6816.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1: Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio:
H.R. 6817.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1: Section 8, Clause 18—allows Congress the power to make all laws that are necessary and proper for executing its enumerated powers and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the U.S. Government.

By Ms. HAA LAND:
H.R. 6818.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce Clause: Article I, Section 8, clause 3—provides Congress with the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the states, including the use of the channels of interstate commerce, the instrumentalities of interstate commerce, or persons or things in interstate commerce.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 6819.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Article I, Sec. 8

By Mr. HECK:
H.R. 6820.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress by the Fiftieth Amendment 10).

By Mr. HOLDING:
H.R. 6821.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: “To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.”

By Ms. HOULAHAN:
H.R. 6822.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, section 9, clause 7

By Mr. HUFFMAN:
H.R. 6823.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KILMER:
H.R. 6824.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. LURI A:
H.R. 6825.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8

By Mr. McCAIN:
H.R. 6826.

By Mr. BELL:
H.R. 6803.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. BIGGS:
H.R. 6804.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. PALLONE):
H.R. 6800. A joint resolution withdrawing approval of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CORRERA (for himself, Mr. CINCEROS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. MOORE, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CASE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. JACKSON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. COSTA, and Mrs. DINENGLI):
H. Res. 964. A resolution establishing a whistleblower hotline for purposes of reporting waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement of taxpayer funds to the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis; to the Committee on Rules.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. OCAÑO-CORTEZ:

H.R. 6828.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 6829.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. OCAÑO-CORTEZ:

H.R. 6828.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 6829.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPANBERGER:

H.R. 6839.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 6840.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 5 and 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6841.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause “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 any Department or Office thereof.”

By Mr. PHILLIPS:

H.R. 6831.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power “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 any Department or Office thereof.”

By Mr. PHILLIPS:

H.R. 6832.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power “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 any Department or Office thereof.”

By Mr. PHILLIPS:

H.R. 6833.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power “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 any Department or Office thereof.”

By Mr. PHILLIPS:

H.R. 6834.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, clause 18, Congress has the power 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. POCAN:

H.R. 6835.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 6835.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 6836.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 6837.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. SCHRIER:

H.R. 6838.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPANBERGER:

H.R. 6839.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 6840.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 5 and 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6841.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause “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 any Department or Office thereof.”

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 6842.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. TRONE:

H.R. 6843.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing 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. TURNER:

H.R. 6844.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to provide for uniform laws that remove barriers to trade and facilitate commerce nationwide; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 9; Article III, Section 1, Clause 1; and Article III, Section 2, Clause 2 of the Constitution, which grant Congress authority over federal courts.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 6845.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 6846.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States: . . .

By Mr. WISON of Florida:

H.R. 6847.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. Res. 88.
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. Lowey

H.R. 6800, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, does not contain any congressional earmark, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.
The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the fountain of wisdom, we cherish Your presence and honor Your Name. Give our lawmakers the wisdom to live with honor, as they remember their accountability to history and You. Lord, remind them that You are glorified when they walk on the path of integrity, striving to please You in all they say and do. May their lives bring light to darkness, unity to division, and order to chaos. Lord, grant that they will become living letters read by those who desire to believe that You continue to rule in our world. We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

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.

CORONAVIRUS
Mr. GRASSLEY. COVID-19, as we all know, has thrown a wrench into America’s corners of commerce and manufacturing, in addition to threatening lives and the loss of lives. The unprecedented effort to stop the spread has shut down life as we know it, closing schools, movie theaters, gyms, salons, and restaurants in a hysterical approach to it.

I always say we have had pandemics before, but never have we shut down the government, shut down Congress the way we have. Our moves have disrupted our food supply chain and pulsed the rug out from underneath our economy. Yet, across my home State, Iowa businesses and industries stepped up to the plate. Ethanol plants, local distilleries, and others teamed up to produce hand sanitizers for hospitals, nursing homes, and local law enforcement. Others retooled their factories and redirected their workforce to sew masks and produce face shields and other supplies to replenish personal protective equipment for our frontline workers. Across Iowa, businesses have shown there is nothing halfway about the Iowa Way. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS
Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, our healthcare sector continues to battle the coronavirus at every level. Doctors, nurses, hospital workers, researchers, and public health leaders are working constantly to protect Americans and fight this invader.

Unfortunately, the last 2 months’ stoppage of much of our national life was never going to permanently extinguish the virus. That task will be ongoing. The stated purpose of this effort was to prevent a rapid spike that could have completely overwhelmed the medical capacities of many areas. The patriotic sacrifices of the American people have worked. We have bought our healthcare system that breathing room we needed.

As we cautiously move forward, major precautions will remain in place. Some routines will not go back to normal for a long time. But as a nation, we will need to regroup and find a more sustainable middle ground between total lockdown and total normalcy. Let me say that again. We need to find a middle ground between total lockdown and total normalcy.

While we keep battling the virus through testing, tracing, isolation, treatment, and hopefully soon, a vaccine, we need to smartly and safely begin to reopen our country. If Americans want to go back to work and back to school in the fall, we will need to reopen the country. No doubt, there will be many discussions here in Congress about more ways we can help make that happen.

Already, we are hearing that House Democrats are cobbling together another big laundry list of pet priorities. Even the media is describing it as a partisan wish list with no chance of becoming law. That is exactly the wrong approach. It is the wrong approach when a senior Democrat calls this pandemic “a tremendous opportunity to fundamentally transform the country.”

The American people don’t need a far-left transformation. They just need a path back to the historically prosperous and optimistic moment that they had built for themselves until about 12 weeks ago. The American people don’t need a far-left transformation. They just need a path back to the historically prosperous and optimistic moment they had built for themselves until about 12 weeks ago.

American workers don’t need Washington to inflict some far-left, extreme
makeover on our country. They need us to get rid of obstacles that might stand in their way. One such obstacle is becoming obvious.

A second epidemic of frivolous lawsuits could follow the actual pandemic and delay recovery before it begins. Already, more than two-thirds of independent business owners say they are specifically worried about a legal liability minefield getting in the way of reopening.

Already, lawyers have begun filing hundreds of COVID-related complaints in courts across our country. This is exactly the kind of hostile environment that could take our reopening and recovery from challenging to downright impossible. So the Senate is going to act. Senate Republicans are preparing a major package of COVID-related liability reforms to foster our economic recovery. This package, which Senator CORNYN and I are spearheading, will extend significant new protections to those who have been on the frontlines of this response and those who will be on the frontlines of our reopening.

First and foremost, we are going to protect the healthcare workers who have been at the forefront of this mysterious new disease. We are not going to let healthcare heroes emerge from this crisis facing a tidal wave of medical malpractice lawsuits so that trial lawyers can line their pockets. We will federalize the entirety of medical malpractice law, but we are going to raise the liability threshold for COVID-related malpractice lawsuits. This will give our doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers a lot more security as they clock in every day and risk themselves to take care of strangers.

Second, we are including new legal protections for the businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies that have been preserving throughout the crisis for those that will need to lead the reopening.

We are facing the worst layoffs since the Great Depression and a storm of uncertainty for Main Street businesses. Americans want to get back to work, and we need to do everything in our power to help that happen.

Also, K–12 schools, colleges, and universities right now are completely uncertain about the fall. If we want schools to reopen this fall, we will need to create the conditions to make that possible. If we want schools to reopen this fall, we will need to create the conditions to make that possible.

If we want even an outside shot at the kind of brisk rehiring that American workers deserve, we have to make sure opportunistic trial lawyers are not lurking on the sidewalk outside every small business in America, waiting to slap them with a lawsuit the instant they turn the lights back on.

Our legislation is going to create a legal safe harbor—safe harbor—for businesses, nonprofits, governments, and workers and schools that are following public health guidelines to the best of their ability. To be clear now, we are not talking about immunity from lawsuits. There will be accountability for actual gross negligence and intentional misconduct. That will continue. We aren’t going to provide immunity but we are going to provide some certainty. If we want American workers to clock back in, we need employers to know that if they follow the guidelines, they will not be left to drown in opportunistic litigation. We are going to make sure it is the trial lawyers and not struggling job creators who will need to clear a very high legal burden.

In addition, I hope our bill will find ways to expand existing protections for the manufacturers of therapeutics, diagnostics, and potential vaccines—things we are urging the private sector to produce as fast as possible. And I hope we will be able to create new protections for other medical equipment manufacturers to ensure that the policies we put in the CARES Act to increase the supply of masks.

So it is all well and good to give rhetorical tributes here on the floor to healthcare professionals, essential workers, small businesses, charities, and nonprofits. Rhetoric is well and good. Words matter, but actions matter more. Americans on the frontlines do not just need Senators to talk about how important they are. They need action. They need us to provide the same kinds of commonsense legal protections that Congress has enacted a number of times previously in difficult or unusual periods.

American taxpayers deserve these protections as well. The men and women of this country just saw Congress commit historic amounts of their own money to sweeping recovery legislation so that we could help healthcare facilities and small businesses survive the crisis. We are not going to stand idly by while a small group of wealthy lawyers vacuum up this relief money and redirect it into their own pockets. Strong legal protections are the right move for doctors, nurses, hospitals, schools, and universities; for workers who want their jobs back, for small business owners who are struggling to stay open, and for nonprofits that have helped the vulnerable; and for tax-payers, who want their money to finance a real national rescue and not the biggest trial lawyer bonanza in American history.

Senate Republicans are going to continue to develop this legislation. It is going to be a redline for us in any future coronavirus legislation. The administration has already stated its support for action on this issue as well. American heroes across our country deserve these basic protections. This Senate majority will make sure they get them.

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.
The President’s words are reckless—constant belittling of the crisis, ignoring the crisis, burying the truth, and burying his head in the sand—and it has prolonged and made the crisis worse, and the American people know it.

That is why he lashes out—the President does—at reporters who ask him fair questions. That is why. He knows he is to blame for a good part of the depth and prolongation of this crisis. He knows that. Yet he can’t bring himself to tell the truth, can’t bring himself to tell the American people the truth. Pitching quack medicines, telling people it is going to go away, saying yesterday “that we have met the moment and we have prevailed.” What planet is he on?

More than 30 million are unemployed, and “we have prevailed”? There are 1.3 million infected and 80,000 American fatalities, and those numbers are still growing. And “we have prevailed”?

The President’s comments show a stunning disregard for the truth, and it hurts every American. I don’t care what your politics is. No one should tolerate a President who ignores the truth, who tells us whatever pops into his head, whether it is true or false or dangerous, and then moves on his merry way to speak the next untruth and talk about the next quack cure.

The President’s comments show a stunning disregard for the truth. It may have been in the Rose Garden and not on the deck of a battleship, but President Trump saying “We have prevailed” is akin to declaring “mission accomplished” long before the battles are over and the war is won.

Later on, the President, as usual, tries to correct what he said—or his advisers do. He said he only meant testing, that we have prevailed on testing. But that is false too. Even the correction is false. Trump is saying: “We have prevailed” is akin to declaring “mission accomplished” long before the battles are over and the war is won.

And, Dr. Fauci, maybe if you tell the truth in this opportunity—a hearing without the President looking over their shoulders, modifying their answers, or directly contradicting their advice.

Dr. Fauci, please don’t pull any punches, particularly when you are asked questions. We know the White House may have to approve the statement you make, and they will mute it. It was muted this morning and very technical. But you don’t have to do this. When the questions are asked, don’t pull punches. Tell the American people the truth. Dr. Fauci, you have an obligation to tell the American people the truth because only that will save lives and reduce the economic length of this crisis. And, Dr. Fauci, I hope your testimony, Dr. Fauci, reaches not only the American people but a President who is ready to throw caution to the wind in order to reopen the country, Please, Dr. Fauci, don’t pull punches.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. One final matter today. Today, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a case in a case that will determine whether the President can block access to his tax returns and other financial documents.

You may not think this is related to COVID, but in a certain sense, it is. In a sense, the case about the President’s tax returns has something in common with the case about the President’s delayed response to coronavirus: President Trump wants to hide the truth. He wants to hide the truth about coronavirus and the depth of the problem and how we deal with it. He wants to hide the truth and not reveal his tax returns.

For 40 years, every President has disclosed his personal financial information to avoid even the perception of impropriety or self-dealing, but this President has used every avenue to deny such transparency. Why? President Trump wants to hide the truth. The President is not an ordinary citizen anymore; he is President of the United States. The American people have a
right to see how he has dealt with his taxes. President Trump has an obligation to show them. Why has President Trump fought so hard to deny the American people this information?

If this Court wants to prove, at least in one step, that they are not highly political, they should always side with President Trump. I hope they will step up to the plate and rule that the President does not have the unilateral power to shield his tax returns from the American people. On this issue, like every other, the American people deserve the truth—not what the President wants us to believe but the truth.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, there was a meeting last week—a telephone conference call—of the leaders of a dozen major nations around the world to discuss something we are all thinking about, the answer to the question everyone in America asks every day: How will this end? When will this end? In this telephone conference, leaders from other nations talked about the ending that most of us envision—the discovery of a safe and effective vaccine that can protect people around the world from the scourge of this coronavirus.

I am not sure when that vaccine will be discovered—the sooner the better—but the big question we need to ask ourselves at this point is, Where will it be discovered, and what benefit will it provide for the United States?

You see, there was one major nation that boycotted this international telephone conference about discovering a vaccine. It was the United States. President Trump decided not to participate with the leaders of nations from around the world in this global conversation about finding a safe and effective vaccine to fight coronavirus. I am not sure what his motive was. But we know that at least 94 other vaccines are being explored and worked on in nations around the world—in England, for example, and in Germany and so many other countries. They are discussing for the same safe and effective vaccine as we in the United States are looking for.

I have great faith and confidence in the men and women in medical research in the United States and the production facilities in our country, but I am not so proud or so vain as to believe that no other country could find that safe and effective vaccine.

And if they did—and if they did—would we hesitate for a moment to turn to a country and say that the United States wants to be part of producing that vaccine and receiving that vaccine for the people who live here?

I think that our leadership in the United States decide we are going to boycott that conference, stay away from it? Oh, I am sure he has a dozen reasons, but they don’t seem very convincing to me. We should be at the table wherever there is a serious, credible effort to discover a vaccine. The United States should be participating.

They were trying to raise $8 billion. That is a lot of money, but remember, we are dealing with an effort to rescue our economy from coronavirus, which is now in the range of $2.8 trillion. They are asking the participants to put in money. Norway said it would pledge $1 billion—Norway. The European Union said it would pledge $1 billion toward this global vaccine effort. The United States, sadly, and irrefutably. We should be all in for any credible effort to find this vaccine as quickly as possible. I have introduced a resolution calling on the administration to reverse its position and to join in this effort.

I want to commend Bill and Melinda Gates, who participated in that telephone conference and pledged millions of dollars of their own funds on behalf of the United States. Thank you to the Gates family for caring.

Now, Mr. President, you should join them.

This morning, the Republican leader came to the floor to talk about the problems and challenges that we face and the fact that there is another bill that is going to be offered publicly this week by Speaker NANCY PELOSI—the next in a succession of legislation that we have considered over the last several weeks.

We have seen dramatic investments in unemployment insurance for a record number of unemployed people in this country. We have seen dramatic investments in the small businesses of America, to give them a fighting chance to reopen and to prosper in the future. I have joined in all of these on a bipartisan basis, and I will continue to.

I don’t know the specifics of Speaker PELOSI’s proposal. Senator MCCONNELL came to the floor and warned us not to think big and not to think about transformational things. Then, of course, he went back to his time-honored course about the question of liability.

Senator MCCONNELL has come to the floor repeatedly—repeatedly—and said that before he would consider another COVID–19 rescue bill, he would need to see what he calls a redline honored when it comes to immunity from lawsuits.

What is being proposed by Speaker PELOSI when it comes to State and local governments is really an affirmation of what has been said by every one of us when it comes to our first responders, the police, the firefighters, the paramedics, the healthcare workers, and the teachers. What she says in the bill is that they have been hit and been hit hard at the State and local government levels by this COVID–19. She is proposing, as I understand it, a substantial commonsense action to help those units of government that have truly been hurt by this coronavirus. What she is asking for, really, is whether or not all of our speeches about healthcare workers, police, first responders, the teachers, and such who would be threatened by coronavirus.

Senator MCCONNELL has said that he will not support that legislation unless—he calls it—his redline of liability immunity is honored. What he is saying is that he refuses to fund our police, firefighters, paramedics, and teachers unless we provide guaranteed business immunities for corporations.

I want to commend—this afternoon there will be a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. One of the witnesses being called by the Republicans is a man named Kevin Smartt. He is the chief executive officer and president of Kwik Chek food stores in Bonham, TX. He is testifying on behalf of the National Association of Convenience Stores on this question of liability.

I read his statement this morning in preparation for the hearing, and I came away to my own cause. I want them to listen carefully to what Mr. Smartt says he believes businesses need. Here is what he says. He talks about his own company Kwik Chek.

Kwik Chek’s first priority is the safety of our employees and customers. Beginning in early March, we adjusted our daily protocols to mitigate the spread of the virus. This was a challenge—

Listen to what Mr. Smartt says—because the guidance provided by the CDC, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, as well as State and local governments, often conflicted with one another in addition to being vague and difficult to follow. Yet despite many uncertainties, including the constantly fluctuating public health guidelines, we began to adjust to the pandemic.

Mr. Smartt is not saying that businesses don’t have a responsibility here. He is accepting that responsibility to create a safe environment for workers and customers, but he is saying to us: When are you going to establish the standards? Why do you keep changing the standards?

Here we are with Senator MCCONNELL threatening to derail the next rescue
bill for police, firefighters, and teachers across America, unless there is guaranteed immunity from lawsuits, and here is one of the leading companies, the No. 1 primary witness of the Republicans in the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, saying to the Federal and government: Establish standards, reasonable standards, for us to live up to when it comes to conducting business, and we will do it.

I think that is a reasonable request by his business. Why aren’t we doing it? OSHA established standards for the safety of workers?

One of our other witnesses here is this gentleman who is the head of the United Food and Commercial Workers, Marc Perrone. I have a special fondness for this union because when I was a college kid, I spent 12 months working in a slaughterhouse in East St. Louis, IL, and it was this union that I belonged to back in those days.

It was tough, dirty, and dangerous work I took to. It is an important chapter in my life, when I saw how real people go to work every day and many times risk their safety and their health in doing it.

Marc Perrone tells us there are literally thousands of his meat processing workers who have been affected by this virus and 95 of his members who have died as a result of it. What he is looking for—what we are looking for—is for those companies to establish standards of safety for their workers so that they can go back to work in this important business.

Some are doing just that. I commend them. Some are working with the union to find safe ways to test their workers and to bring them back to a job site that is safe for them to work in. But they don’t have a national standard to live up to. We haven’t established a national standard, as we should. Whether through OSHA or through courts, to establish standards for businesses across this country to live up to. I believe many—Mr. Smartt with Kwik Chek and Marc Perrone with the United Food and Commercial Workers—would applaud that. They would say: At least we know what social distancing standards are to be used in the workplace. At least we know what protective equipment is required in the workplace to protect our employees. At least we know going into this exactly what the standards are that they are up to.

Senator McCONNELL’s approach is immunity from lawsuits; don’t establish any standards and don’t hold anybody to any standards at all. That is wrong. The net result of that is that more people would be in danger, more people would be infected, and more people would die. That is not the right approach.

What we need to do is to make certain that this is not an all-or-nothing approach. We have a smart approach to this; that a business that is conscientious, cares for its customers, and cares for its workers has standards to live by and that they can meet reasonable standards that have been thought through from a public health viewpoint.

It is no wonder that there is uncertainty when you look at the situation today. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have suggested social distancing suggestions. The White House accepts some, publishes some, scoffs at others, and ignores others. There is just no clear message to businesses and people across America on what the standards of safety will be.

So I would say that this hearing this afternoon is important to hear from Mr. Smartt and his willingness to look for standards that he can live by, and to hear from Marc Perrone about the dangers to his workers across the workplace. And don’t believe for a minute that this caravan of lawsuits threatens that we hear over and over tells the whole story.

When you take a look at the lawsuits that have been filed, it is not just the so-called national law firms that are coming in and jumping on this. There are businesses suing businesses. There are lots of lawsuits that have little or nothing to do with personal injury. There are also lawsuits involving workers’ compensation.

Senator McCONNELL’s suggestion is that we overturn the State laws that give workers the right to recover in the workplace if their injuries and or their health is impaired because of the COVID–19 virus. What a terrible outcome that would be to walk away from decades of established protection for workers in every State in the Union, for Senator McCONNELL’s so-called redline threat when it comes to the COVID virus No. 4 bill that Speaker PELOSI is proposing.

There is a reasonable answer here. We can say to these businesses across America: Join us in the fight. Let’s stand together. You protect your workers, you protect your customers, and we will stand by you. We will establish a reasonable amount of contact for you, which will protect you from frivolous lawsuits. But to take the approach by Senator McCONNELL, saying that we just are going to guarantee immunity from lawsuits, is exactly the wrong thing to do. We need a standard of safety that businesses can be proud of, that workers can respect, and that customers can count on so that they can go into places, do their business, buy the products, and know that there is a standard of good health that is being established for everyone.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, my home State of Texas is a great place to do business. We keep taxes, government spending, and regulations at a rational minimum in order to give people and businesses the freedom to pursue their dreams and prosper. Texas is consistently ranked as one of the “Best States for Business,” the “Best States to Start a Business,” and the “Best States for Female Entrepreneurs.” According to the Small Business Administration, there are more than 2.6 million small businesses throughout the State, accounting for 99.8 percent of all Texas businesses. Those businesses employ nearly half of our State’s workforce and account for the massive portion of our Texas economy.

To say that the small businesses are an economic force in Texas would only paint half the picture. In big cities and in small towns alike, these businesses play a critical role in our communities—the locally owned restaurants and bars we visit, the gyms that are part of our regular routine, the dry cleaners, the pharmacies and the hardware stores we stop at when we run errands. But our small businesses aren’t just employers or generators of sales tax. They are owned by our friends and our neighbors and are part of the very fabric of our community.

Right now, they are under severe stress due to the coronavirus. The coronavirus has kept Texans at home and put our small businesses into serious financial trouble. When stay-at-home orders were put in place, many were forced to close their doors outright. Over the last several weeks, like many of my colleagues, I have held innumerable video conferences with chambers of commerce, small business owners, and others who have told me about the difficult decisions they have been forced to make in the wake of this virus.

Without any demand, without an opportunity to sell their services or the food or other material they provide, they had to lay off employees or reduce their pay, and some were more concerned that they couldn’t survive more than a few weeks because they still had to pay the rent and their overhead. Those struggles are familiar for businesses across the country, and that is why we, together—literally, unanimously, in the Senate—created the Paycheck Protection Program. This new loan program was designed to help America’s small businesses and their employees manage these uncharted waters by providing 8 weeks of cash flow assistance to cover payroll and other business-related expenses.

As we now know, it was so popular and so needed that the initial $350 billion we funded ran out in less than 2 weeks. For that batch of funding bill, Texas received nearly 73,000 loans from any other State. Nearly 135,000 small businesses benefited from the Paycheck Protection Program—a sum total of
23.5 billion. That is just from the first $350 billion we appropriated. It became obvious that there was more demand than supply, and so we had to then replenish the program with an initial $200 billion. So far, $670 billion has gone into the Paycheck Protection Program. That is an astronomical number, but, obviously, the need was serious, and this appears to be meeting a very real need to keep these businesses afloat, along with their employees.

Since our small businesses have gotten there is no shortage of stories about the positive impact they have had in my State, and I am sure each of us can tell similar stories.

One of the recipients of a PPP loan is Sevy’s Grill, which has been a favorite in Dallas for more than two decades. Like other restaurants throughout Texas, the stay-at-home order put them in a very tough financial spot, and the restaurant closed in March without an end in sight. Then a lifeline came in the form of the Paycheck Protection Program.

A Facebook post from the restaurant read: “We are blessed to be a part of the Paycheck Protection Program to help fund our comeback.”

There was also another company called JuiceLand, an Austin-based company with locations in Dallas and Houston as well. Matt Shook is the founder and CEO. He says they were preparing for a busy spring, but instead of having their nearly three dozen locations full of customers, he had to close 25 stores and lay off 300 employees. He said: “Every day it’s like being at a poker table and getting bad hands every hand.”

But Matt was then dealt with a few good cards. JuiceLand received its Paycheck Protection Program loan in late April, and began to reopen the stores and to hire back his employees. He said that this loan is going to be the difference in keeping his company afloat.

The businesses that have received these loans were in danger of drowning until Congress, working together in a bipartisan way, threw them a lifeline. But now they are facing another risk that could bring a second wave of devastation and danger. Across the country, we are seeing coronavirus-related litigation filed by the hundreds of cases—patients or their families suing doctors, students suing universities, employees and customers suing businesses—and this is just the beginning. As more States begin to restart their economies, we can expect a tidal wave of lawsuits to follow.

And while there is and should absolutely be legal recourse for those with legitimate claims, there are serious concerns about the number of frivolous claims and nuisance lawsuits we are expecting to see.

Imagine you are the owner of a small restaurant. Once stay-at-home orders were put in place, you did it the way you were asked, and you tried to keep your business going and your employees on payroll. You received a PPP loan, which helped you and your workforce survive until you could reopen your doors. And once that happened, you took every action and followed every guideline to protect your employees and your customers.

You did your best to follow all government guidelines and regulations to the T. You stayed in close communication with your staff to keep their health and required anyone who was not feeling well to stay home. Your employees wore masks and gloves and had their temperatures checked at the start of each shift. You did your best to clean high-touch surfaces, maintained social distancing in the restaurant, and had hand sanitizer available for customers and employees. But then you find out you are being sued because someone claims that they contracted the coronavirus in your place of business and they claimed that it happened because of your negligence and either you knew or you should have known. The legal nightmare you are about to enter could have your business filing for bankruptcy by the end of the year, even if the claim proved to be without merit.

The expense and the time and the effort that we want people putting back into the business to help rebuild our economy—they are going to have to defend a nuisance lawsuit and perhaps pay for just so they don’t have to continue to pay a lawyer to defend them in court.

Without action in this Congress, this is going to be a familiar story for small business owners, doctors, nurses, first responders—anyone and everyone who could potentially be blamed for another person contracting the virus.

We are all familiar with those who are ready to jump at the opportunity to file a lawsuit and perhaps pay for just so they don’t have to continue to pay a lawyer to defend them in court.

Again, let me just say I have no doubt there have been and will be legitimate lawsuits targeting bad actors. If there is willful or reckless disregard for the person affected, they should have every right to sue and be made whole. But we need to take action against these frivolous lawsuits to keep our courts, bankrupting our businesses, and discouraging our economy from reopening.

This is without some precedent. In the past, Congress has provided similar protections for businesses and workers who followed guidelines and acted in good faith. For example, there was the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997, which provided legal protection for volunteers who worked at nonprofits. There was the Y2K Act of 1999, which gave protections to businesses if they followed government guidelines in preparing for Y2K computer glitches. There was the Coverdell Teacher Protection Act of 2001, which gave protection to teachers and educators.

It is simply time for Congress to once again exercise our constitutional authority to provide reasonable liability protections for employers and workers who are operating in good faith and following government and public health guidelines.

There is no effort to allow bad behavior or protect those who are grossly negligent, period. In fact, if you think about it, providing a safe harbor for those businesses that follow public health and government guidelines will encourage them to do so, which will actually further protect the public and their employees.

The types of liability limitations my colleagues and I are interested in providing would simply prevent frivolous nuisance lawsuits harassing our frontline healthcare workers and small businesses which were acting reasonably and complying in good faith with health guidelines.

If you are a business owner debating whether to reopen once you are able, this lawsuit frenzy could be the deciding factor. You may just decide to throw in the towel, and we all would be losers, not the least of whom would be the employees who get their jobs from that employer.

Would you risk a potential lawsuit that would tie you up in courts for months, if not years, on end and bankrupt your business even though you are prepared to follow health guidance? Would you risk your livelihood just so they don’t have to continue to pay a lawyer to defend them in court.

Without limiting liability for our small business owners and workers, our economic recovery will be stunted as a result of the fear of the negative impact of these frivolous lawsuits. That is the situation we need to address and prevent.

Congress has taken unprecedented steps to strengthen our Nation’s response to the coronavirus and miniaturize our economic recession. It was necessary, but let us not be complacent. We must not be complacent in defending our economic recovery from yet another wave of frivolous lawsuits. That is why we have introduced the Liability Fairness Act. It is simply time for Congress to once again exercise our constitutional authority to provide reasonable liability protections for employers and workers who are operating in good faith and following government and public health guidelines. It is time for us to take action against these frivolous lawsuits to keep our courts, bankrupting our businesses, and discouraging our economy from reopening.

In order to strengthen our response to this pandemic, we must protect those who are doing everything in their power to keep us safe while following the guidelines their government provides them, and we need to keep them...
from having to suffer and perhaps not survive this second pandemic that will be caused by opportunistic litigation. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. LOEFFLER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

CORONAVIRUS

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I rise today to speak about the unprecedented crisis our Nation is facing. In a matter of just a few months, COVID-19 has completely changed our daily lives. This virus has forced us to close schools, shut down restaurants, cancel major events, and temporarily shutter businesses across our economy.

The changes we have been necessary for the sake of public health, to help “flatten the curve” so our medical facilities don’t become overwhelmed, but they have also been disruptive, frustrating, and in some cases, scary.

Despite the emotional and economic toll this crisis has taken, we have seen countless acts of compassion, generosity, and selflessness all across the country. Americans have stepped up to help each other to fight this new threat.

I want to make sure the American people know that since the very beginning of this crisis, Nebraskans have been on the frontlines.

When 13 Americans were evacuated from a cruise ship in Japan in late February, they were taken to the National Quarantine Unit at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. As the Nation’s only Federal quarantine unit, they were also trusted to care for Americans recovering from Ebola in 2014.

Beyond treating those exposed to or infected with coronavirus, UNMC is also working to test new treatments for this virus. In late February, the National Institutes of Health announced that the country’s first clinical trial for coronavirus therapy had begun at UNMC.

Our world-class medical center has been active from the very beginning of this crisis. The Nebraska National Guard—our citizen soldiers—has also played an important role in our response. They have been deployed as distributors at food banks, as healthers assisting with testing, and as drivers bringing ventilators to where they are most needed.

One of the first State Department evacuation flights out of China brought 57 Americans to Nebraska, where they were quarantined at Camp Ashland, a Nebraska National Guard training site. It is easy to forget that these first evacuations happened just back in February. Since that time, we have relied on our amazing healthcare workers and first responders. These heroes have been working around the clock to keep all of us safe. They get up every day to fight this virus in hospitals and in clinics across this country. I can’t imagine how hard it must be for them to see the effects of this new sickness day in and day out. Yet I know we are in good hands.

We have also relied on our food heroes, many from my home State, where one in four jobs is tied to production agriculture. If you raise cattle or grow soybeans, you can’t stay inside and work from your couch. If you package beef or pork, you can’t work from a laptop, but I am incredibly grateful for our essential workers throughout the food supply chain. They are working so that we can continue to put healthy, safe food on our tables.

Nebraskans and all Americans are making daily sacrifices to slow the spread of this virus. We have drastically reduced our contact with others, knowing that short-term sacrifice will lead to long-term public health.

But despite our best efforts, over 8,000 Nebraskans have contracted the virus, and 96 have died since COVID-19 arrived in the United States. These people were loved by their families and by their communities. I grieve for their loved ones. These tragic losses underscore the seriousness of this virus. They demonstrate to all of us that we need to keep up the fight.

The changes we have made in our national life, while necessary, have been difficult. They have come at the cost of the economic security of many people in the heartland of this Nation. We are seeing record numbers of unemployment claims, and many people who have never before been without work will now find themselves out of work. More Nebraskans are now dealing with food insecurity due to unemployment and the effects of COVID-19.

I have been inspired by the work non-profits across my State are doing to address this.

The local chapter of the Salvation Army in Hastings has started a mobile food unit, which they drive from neighborhood to neighborhood, and they serve hot meals.

The Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership has begun to box up food and leave it on people’s doorsteps. This has allowed them to reduce person-to-person contact while helping those who are in need.

The Food Bank of Lincoln, which serves Southeast Nebraska by acting as a distribution center for food pantries in 15 counties, has seen a huge surge in demand. They have been able to keep up with this demand in large part thanks to the innovation of a partnership of Lincoln business, philanthropy, and government leaders, who together formed the Lincoln COVID-19 Response Fund.

These are major problems, and there is no easy fix. Even so, it is our job in Congress to respond to this national crisis and do what we can to provide relief. That is why I was proud to support the CARES Act, which this body passed unanimously at the end of March.

A big part of this legislation was the Paycheck Protection Program, which was designed to help America’s small businesses keep thousands on payroll by offering forgivable loans.

Upon the creation of this program to provide relief, Nebraskans hit the ground running. By mid-April, the Paycheck Protection Program had provided nearly 25,000 loans worth just under $3 billion to Nebraska’s small businesses. This funding was enough to cover more than three-fourths of Nebraska’s eligible payrolls—the highest percentage in the Nation.

I think it is important to note that none of this would have been possible without Nebraska’s community banks and our credit unions. While some national banks hesitated, Nebraska’s local institutions stepped up to provide these loans and make sure small businesses in their communities received assistance.

To our community banks and credit unions. Nebraskans applying for these loans are not just statistics halfway around the country. The people hurting are their friends, their families, and their neighbors. The people who need their help live just down the street.

One of these banks is Union Bank & Trust in Lincoln. This family-owned bank is not in the top 200 banks by assets nationally, but after the first 72 hours of the Paycheck Protection Program, they ranked second in the Nation for the number of loans approved. Like many other lending institutions, Union Bank & Trust accomplished this while adjusting to working from home for the first time. Their remarkable efforts and those of another Nebraska institution, Pinnacle Bank, were covered in a recent Washington Post story for leading the way nationally with this program.

It is good to see the Paycheck Protection Program working well in my State. I am pleased that Congress came
together to further fund this program so that more small businesses can receive assistance. The drive to support one another, help out, and deliver relief to others is something we are seeing all across my State.

Along with grief, we have seen resilience. Along with sadness, we have seen hope.

I read a story about young children in Omaha who wanted to visit their grandfather. The Y couldn’t go into his nursing home, so they connected a microphone to a speaker inside so that they could talk to him and sing to him. I have seen schools that stopped holding in-person classes weeks ago still serving their students.

On top of instituting remote learning, many are also offering free meals.

In Gering, teachers organized an impromptu drive-by parade through their students’ neighborhoods.

In Hastings, Longfellow Elementary School has converted old newspaper vending machines into learning material dispensers. Students walk up to the dispenser for their grade level, and they take one weekly learning packet, just as you would a newspaper.

In short, I have seen neighbors helping neighbors. I have seen Nebraskans helping Nebraskans.

Much remains uncertain about our future. We don’t know how many more lives will be lost, how long we are going to have to wait for a vaccine, or how long it will take for Main Street to fully open for business once again. I think many have a long and tough road ahead of us, but I take great pride in the way Nebraska has responded to these difficult circumstances.

The inspiring stories of kindness and humanity in my State don’t come as a surprise to me.

I have seen our people respond to other disasters, including the widespread flooding that we faced just last year. I have seen Nebraskans respond the same way to COVID-19 as they did to that flood—by putting others first. It is just who we are.

Nebraskans will continue to adapt, to help others, and to lead the way in addressing and responding to this crisis. We will get through this, and we will come out stronger than ever before.

**Nomination of Brian D. Montgomery**

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I will vote to oppose the nomination of Mr. Brian Montgomery to serve as Deputy Secretary for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. My vote today is not because I believe Mr. Montgomery is incapable of doing the job. Across multiple administrations, Mr. Montgomery has shown himself to be a dedicated public servant with an impressive understanding of the programs and policies he would oversee if confirmed. During prior administrations, Mr. Montgomery demonstrated his commitment to HUD’s mission and helped respond to the early days of the financial crisis. Mr. Montgomery has done important work strengthening HUD’s reverse mortgage program.

But I will vote against Mr. Montgomery’s nomination today because, like too many people in this administration, over the last 2 years he has helped advance policies that will have devastating effects for millions of families. In addition to his role as Federal Housing Commissioner and Assistant Secretary for Housing, Mr. Montgomery began performing the duties of the Deputy Secretary at HUD nearly a year and a half ago. Since that time, he was inveighed in the decision to advance a revised disparate impact rule that the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights wrote that it was very concerned would “impose substantial new obstacles for victims of discrimination” and “undermine the protections of the Fair Housing Act,” thereby substantially undermining necessary civil rights protections in an area about which the Commission and its state advisory committees continue to receive compelling evidence of need for meaningful federal corrective action.

Mr. Montgomery also helped advance HUD’s Housing Finance Reform Report, which would increase the cost of an FHA-backed loan for those who can least afford it, restructure FHA in a way that could undermine HUD funding, and restrict consumers’ choice between an FHA and Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac-backed loan. But when confronted with questions about these issues, that are critical to low- and moderate-income families, Mr. Montgomery offered little explanation.

Throughout Mr. Montgomery’s time performing the duties of the Deputy Secretary—the No. 2 person at HUD—HUD’s budget requests have repeatedly zeroed out critical housing and community development accounts, like the community development block grant, HOME investment partnerships, and public housing capital funds, while proposing to raise rents for the lowest income households. When asked to justify these disastrous proposals, Mr. Montgomery offered no explanation.

Our Nation is facing an affordable housing crisis and a crisis of equity across our housing system. Before COVID-19 hit, there was a nearly 30-point gap between the Black and White home ownership rates, and more than one in four renters paid more than half of their income for housing. With COVID-19’s economic devastation disproportionately hurting the lowest income households and communities of color, these challenges will only grow.

We need leaders at HUD who will fight for our housing and community development programs and the families who depend on them. We need leaders at HUD who will push for progress and equality in our Nation’s housing system, regardless of race, disability, or family status. We need leaders at HUD who will advance proposals that support, not further burden, the lowest income households and families. Mr. Montgomery has not shown us a record of fighting for those priorities, and that is why I cannot support his nomination today.

Mrs. FISCHER. I yield the floor. Under the previous order, all postcolture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Montgomery nomination?

Mrs. FISCHER. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Sasse).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 86 Ex.]

YEA—61

Barasso  Barrasso
Blacksburg  Blackburn
Bunting  Bunt
Boozman  Boozman
Braun  Braun
Burr  Burr
Capito  Capito
Carper  Carper
Casas disparity
Collins  Collins
Cox  Cox
Cowan  Cowan
Cotton  Cotton
Cramer  Cramer
Caspary  Caspary
Crus  Crus
Daines  Daines
Davis  Davis
Ernst  Ernst
Fischer  Fischer
Garnder  Gardner
Backlund  Backlund
Bouck  Bouck
Brown  Brown
Cantwell  Cantwell
Carr  Carr
Casey  Casey
Cortez Masto  Cortez Masto
Duckworth  Duckworth
Durbin  Durbin

PERMITTED VOTE—7

Barrasso  Graham
Blacksburg  Grassley
Bunting  Hawley
Boozman  Hooven
Braun  Hyde-Smith
Burr  Inhofe
Capito  Johnson
Carper  Jones
Casas disparity
Collins  Kennedy
Cox  King
Cowan  Lankford
Cotton  Lee
Cramer  Loeffler
Caspary  Manchin
Cruz  McCain
Daines  Menendez
Davis  Moran
Ernst  Murkowski
Fischer  Young
Garnder  Paul

NAYS—32

Balduin  Baldwin
Bennet  Bennet
Binumsental  Binumsental
Booker  Booker
Brown  Brown
Cantwell  Cantwell
Carr  Carr
Casey  Casey
Cortez Masto  Cortez Masto
Duckworth  Duckworth
Durbin  Durbin

NOT VOTING—7

Alexander  Cox
Leahy  Leahy
Markey  Markey
Perdue  Perdue
Portman  Portman
Risch  Risch
Roberts  Roberts
Romney  Romney
Rounds  Rounds
Rubio  Rubio
Scott (FL)  Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)  Scott (SC)
Shelby  Shelby
Sinema  Sinema
Sullivan  Sullivan
Tester  Tester
Thune  Thune
Tillis  Tillis
Toomey  Toomey
Warren  Warren
Wicker  Wicker
Wyden  Wyden

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.
RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:01 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. CAPITO).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the nomination of Troy D. Edgar, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security.


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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Troy D. Edgar, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 31, as follows:

YEAS—62

Barrosa Burr Cornyn
Blackburn Capito Cotton
Bhattacharya Capito Crapo
Bosman Cassidy Crapo
Braun Collins Cruz

Daines Duckworth King Kennedy Rounds
Burr Lankford Lee Kain Romney
Fischer Lee Lankford Levin Rounds
Fischer Lee Lankford Levin Rounds
Gardner Manchin McConnell Risch
Grassley McSally McConnell Risch
Hassan Moran McSally Ron Johnson Rounds
Hawley Musketeers Paul Peters Russell
Hyde-Smith Perdue Peters Russell
Inhofe Peters Peters Russell
Johnson Portman Peters Russell
Jones Risch Peters Russell
Kaine Roberts Peterson Russell

NAYS—31

Alexander Baldwin Feinstein Schatz
Bennet Blumenthal Gillibrand Schumer
Booker Brown Gillibrand Schumer
Brown Booker Hirono Smith
Casazza Carstensen Klobuchar Stabenow
Cardin Casey Menendez Stabenow
Casey Coons Menendez Stabenow
Coons Murphy Menendez Stabenow
Cortez Masto Reed Stabenow
Durbin Rosen Schatz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 62, the nays are 31.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Troy D. Edgar, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the post-confirmation time of the Edgar nomination expire at 4:30 p.m. today. I further ask that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, we are back for our second week in the Senate after spending some time working remotely to help flatten the coronavirus curve. We are getting used to the temporary new normal—social distancing during hearings, floor votes, and meetings; masks; a lot of conference calls and Skype calls instead of in-person meetings; lots of hand washing and hand sanitizer; and as many staff working remotely as possible. We are committed to doing the essential work of the American people, and they are depending on us to do it in the safest way possible.

Responding to the coronavirus continues to be at the top of the agenda. Last week, we held a number of coronavirus-related hearings, including a hearing on coronavirus testing and a hearing on the impact the pandemic has had on the airline industry.

When people think about what the Senate does, they tend to think about voting on bills and debating on the floor, but the truth is, committee work is some of the most important work we do here in Washington. Committees are where we review nominees’ qualifications, hear from experts in various fields, develop legislation, and conduct essential oversight of government programs. The work we do in coronavirus-related committee hearings will inform any future coronavirus legislation we might consider.

This week, the Senate Banking Committee will be voting on the nomination of Brian D. Miller to be Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery at the Treasury Department. If he is confirmed by the full Senate, Mr. Miller will be an essential part of ensuring that the trillions we have provided for coronavirus relief are spent properly. The Banking Committee will also be holding an oversight hearing with key Federal financial regulators to learn about the steps they have taken to ensure the safety and soundness of our financial sector during this challenging time.

The Senate Judiciary Committee will be examining the issue of liability during the COVID pandemic and discussing ways to prevent frivolous lawsuits from damaging our economy once we reopen.

The Senate Commerce Committee, of which I am a member, will be holding a hearing looking at efforts to maintain and expand reliable high-speed broadband access during this time when so many Americans are relying on their internet for work, school, and connections with friends and family.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee will be hearing directly from the leaders of our fellow health committee—Drs. Fauci, Redfield, and Hahn, and Admiral Giroir. Senators will be talking to these experts about what we need to do to safely reopen our economy and our schools.

Another big part of our coronavirus response right now is monitoring the implementation of the funds we have already provided. We have delivered a tremendous amount of money to respond to the pandemic—equal to almost 50 percent of the entire Federal budget for 2020—and it is important that any future funding be carefully targeted.

We are facing extraordinary circumstances, and they call for an extraordinary, bold response from Washington, but it is important to remember that every dollar of the trillions we provided for the pandemic is borrowed money, and our children and grandchildren are going to be paying for that borrowing. That doesn’t mean we are not going to provide more money if necessary, but it does mean we need to make sure we are spending money wisely and well and only appropriately...
what is really needed. That means monitoring the implementation of the funds we have already provided, which haven’t been fully spent yet. Once we see how and where those funds are getting spent, we will have a better sense of what we have spent sufficiently and where more may be of monetary value.

It is also important that we make sure those funds are being spent in the most effective and efficient way possible. Again, these are all dollars that our children and grandchildren will have to pay for. We want to make sure we are not wasting any of that money.

Finally, while coronavirus will, of course, continue to be at the top of our agenda, there are other important things we have to do to keep the government running and to protect the Nation.

This week, we will take up legislation to renew and reform several key provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which the Democratic House allowed to lapse despite unanimous support for an extension here in the Senate.

Our law enforcement officers are working every day to protect Americans from terrorist threats. It is essential that we ensure they have the tools they need to do their jobs, while also providing critical protections for civil liberties.

We are also taking up two nominations this week for senior administration posts: Brian D. Montgomery to be the Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Troy Edgar to be the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Homeland Security.

The American people are relying on us right now, and we have a responsibility to deliver for them. We will continue to do everything we can to support our Nation’s families and businesses as the country fights its way through this crisis and emerges on the other side.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Cramer). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the Constitution of the United States contains a number of constitutional protections for the citizens of our great Republic. Among the many provisions that it contains, in addition to the structural safeguards of federalism and the separation of powers, separating out power along two axes—one vertical, which we call federalism, and the other horizontal, which we call the separation of powers. Congress also contains a number of substantive restrictions.

These are things that the government may not do, and there are penalties attached to the government’s doing those things.

Among those many protections can be found the provisions of the Bill of Rights, including the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The Fourth Amendment reminds us that it is our right—a fundamental, inalienable right—as citizens in a free republic, to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures, and that any warrants issued under government authority have to be justified by probable cause and any probable cause-based warrant has to include with particularity a description of the places and persons to be searched and to be seized.

This is a tradition that reaches not just back a couple of centuries, but it reaches back much farther than that and has its origins not only in our own country but in our mother country, in the United Kingdom. By the time John Wilkes was serving in Parliament in the 1760s, there had been a long-established tradition of private warrants. In fact, there had been a series of laws enacted to make sure that warrants were not abused and to make sure the rights of the English subjects would not be infringed. Among other things, there was a law that all warrants had to be in place that would make clear that those conducting searches and seizures would be subject to a warrant requirement. In other words, they would lose any immunity that they would otherwise have as government officials if they didn’t obtain a warrant and if that warrant was not valid.

In 1763, the home of John Wilkes was searched aggressively. John Wilkes, while serving as a Member of Parliament, had become critical of the administration of King George, and he had participated in the publication of a weekly circular known as the North Briton. Although the North Briton was not one likely to engage in excessive, unfounded criticism of the reigning Monarch, it wasn’t until the publication of North Briton No. 45 in 1763 that the administration of King George decided to go after John Wilkes. His home was searched, and it was searched pursuant to a general warrant.

A general warrant was something that basically said, in that instance: Find out who had anything to do with the authorship and publication of North Briton No. 45. You see, North Briton No. 45 accused, among other things, King George and those who served in his government of laying aggressive taxes on the people—taxes that they knew couldn’t adequately be enforced or collected without intrusive measures that would involve kicking open people’s doors, rummaging through their drawers, and doing things that couldn’t be justified for the use of a warrant laid out with particularity.

John Wilkes, in that circumstance, was arrested within a matter of a few weeks. He won his freedom, albeit on something of a technicality at the moment. He asserted parliamentary privilege and was released. Eventually, after becoming subjected to multiple searches using general warrants, Wilkes sued Lord Halifax and those who participated in the searches and seizures in question. He was able to obtain a large award, a large judgment coming by way of agreement.

John Wilkes, at the time, became famous, really, on both sides of the Atlantic. The name of John Wilkes was celebrated in taverns, saloons, and other public places in England and in what was then the nascent United States of America, the colonies in North America that would later become the world’s greatest Republic. John Wilkes’ example was something that helped to solidify a long-standing legal tradition, one that would in time make its way into our Constitution through the Fourth Amendment.

We have to remember that government is simply force. It is the organized collective official use of force. When John Wilkes and those who worked with him on the North Briton, culminating in North Briton No. 45, criticized the King too much, questioned excessively, in their judgment, the collection and imposition of taxes, the administration of King George decided they had gone too far and that it was time for John Wilkes to pay a price.

Fortunately for John Wilkes and for people on both sides of the Atlantic, John Wilkes emerged victorious. Today, we don’t have general warrants, at least nothing masquerading under that title in the United States. The fact that we have a First Amendment is a test to his vigorous defense of the rights of English subjects.

What we do have is something that ought to concern every American. We have the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which we know has been abused, and we have known for a long time is ripe for opportunities for abuse among government officials.

In fact, what we have seen is that the current President of the United States has himself, become the target of abuse under FISA. Back in 2016 when this started being abused and when we saw the emergence of things like Operation Crossfire Hurricane, you had the campaign of a man who would become the 45th President of the United States targeted and spying on, unfairly, using these practices—these procedures that were designed originally for use in detecting and thwarting the efforts of agents of foreign powers. As the name of the law implies, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is not something that is intended to go after American citizens. It is certainly not something that is intended to be used as a tool for bullying a Presidential candidate. Now that it has been used to bully and incorrectly surveil the 45th President of the United States, we need to do something about it. That is what the Lee-Leahy amendment does.
First, for a bit of background on this particular law, we have three provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that expired on March 15, 2020, just a few weeks ago. We have one provision known as section 215, another provision known as lone wolf, and another provision known as roving wiretaps.

On March 16, the Senate passed a bill to reauthorize those provisions through May 30, 2020, which would give us a little bit of breathing room to debate and discuss reforms that need to happen under FISA. In order to pass this bill, the Senate entered into a unanimous consent agreement for votes on three amendments to the Pelosi-Nadler-Schiff bill passed by the House of Representatives a few weeks ago. One of those amendments is the one that I referred to a moment ago, the Lee-Leahy amendment, introduced by myself and Senator Leahy from Vermont.

Unfortunately, however, the House of Representatives, however, passed a short-term extension measure, so that the three authorities that I mentioned—lone wolf, roving wiretaps, and 215—have been expired now for almost 2 months.

Now, this is not for lack of trying on the part of us—the part of those of us who really want to see meaningful FISA reform. In fact, just a few days before these authorities were set to expire, I came down here to the Senate floor and I asked a series of unanimous consent requests to consider the House-passed reauthorization bill with a handful of relevant and, I believe, very necessary amendments. Unfortunately, my friend, a distinguished colleague, Senator Burr, objected.

The Department of Justice Inspector General Horowitz’s December report on Crossfire Hurricane proved what many of us reformers have been saying now for years. In my case, I have been working with this legislative and democratic debate and discussion about the dangers inherent in provisions of FISA now for a decade. But what the Horowitz report in December demonstrated was that FISA really is ripe for opportunities for abuse. Inspector General Horowitz not only found evidence that the FISA process was abused to target President Trump’s campaign. He found evidence that basic procedures meant to protect the rights of U.S. persons—that is to say, U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States—were not being followed.

And so, just as we see that John Wilkes, through his publication of North Briton No. 45, solidified a preexisting set of rights available to all Englishmen, I ask the House to recall that President No. 45, Donald John Trump, has the opportunity to strengthen this right protected in our Fourth Amendment, harkening back to the example of John Wilkes in the publication of North Briton No. 45.

My amendment with Senator Leahy would make reforms to applications for surveillance across the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, including both section 215, the authority that recently expired, and under title I, which happens to be the authority that was abused in order to surveil President Trump’s campaign.

First, the amendment would strengthen the role of the friend-of-the-court provisions—the amicus curiae provisions that we adopted in 2015 in connection with the USA FREEDOM Act, which was introduced by Senator Leahy and myself back then. It would strengthen those provisions, or friend-of-the-court provisions and make them applicable in circumstances in which there are sensitivities inherently in play.

Now, these amici curiae, or friends of the court, are people who, as contemplated under the proposed legislation, would be experts and would have at least some knowledge or expertise of FISA and of privacy, civil liberties, secure communications, and other things that are important to the FISA Court. They would also be people who would have clearance to review matters of concern from a national security standpoint.

These amici are essential because, you see, FISA Court is a secret court which, by its very design, operates on an ex parte basis, meaning without the presence of opposing counsel. You have government counsel and the judges themselves, and that is it. Therefore, the amici provisions, the amici curiae I am describing, provide the opportunity for the FISA Court to hear from a fresh perspective—a neutral, trusted perspective—one that comes with some expertise in national security clearance but without presenting the threat to upending the national security investigations entrusted to the FISA Court.

So that is why the amici are so necessary and so important. In the absence of opposing counsel, we have to strengthen the provisions that provide for these amici to ensure that there is some advocate somewhere in front of the court who is in a position to say: Wait a minute. What happens if we do this? Wait a minute. Is this really what the law authorizes? Wait a minute. Isn’t there a constitutional concern implicated here, especially where they are dealing with the rights of American citizens?

The December 2019 inspector general report on the surveillance of President Trump’s campaign staffer Carter Page demonstrates the significant need for an outside expert legal advocate, especially when a FISA application involves a sensitive investigative matter, like the surveillance of a candidate for public office or an elected official or that official’s staff.

If the Lee-Leahy amendment were in statute, it would have required the FISA Court to appoint an amicus in the Carter Page case. If an amicus had been appointed in that case, would she have raised some of the issues that we now see regarding the credibility of the Steele dossier? Well, it is quite possible. In fact, I think it is quite likely. I think it is almost unimaginable that had there been an amicus curiae present in the FISA Court at that moment, somebody—likely, the amicus—would have said: Wait a minute. We have got a problem. Wait a minute. You have got evidence that is unreliable. Wait a minute. You have got huge credibility problems with the evidence that is backing up what you are asking for.

Our amendment would require the FISA Court to appoint an amicus when an application involves “sensitive investigative matter,” such as the surveillance of candidates and elected officials or their staff, political organizations, religious organizations, prominent individuals within those organizations, and domestic news media.

One of the arguments made by those who oppose FISA reform is that the appointment of an amicus would somehow slow down the surveillance and the FISA order application process, which, so the argument goes, could then harm our national security in those instances where there could be an imminent attack. Anytime this argument is made, it is important for the American people to listen and listen carefully. It is an important argument. It is not one that we want to treat lightly. At the same time, we have to remember the immense harm that has been inflicted, not only on our own society but elsewhere, when people simply suggest: Don’t worry about this; it is a matter of national security. Don’t worry about it; we have the experts covering it. Don’t worry about it; your liberty is not to concern you.

We know the risk. We know that we have to ask the difficult questions, and that is what we are doing here. In any event, the argument doesn’t work here. The argument falls apart under its own weight here, you see, because our amendment allows for the FISA Court to have flexibility. In fact, the FISA Court, under the amendment, may decline to appoint an amicus if the court concludes it would be inappropriate to do so under the circumstances. All it has to do is make that finding.

Is this too great an intrusion on the ability of the U.S. Government to collect information on U.S. citizens? I think not, especially as here we are dealing with this sensitive investigative matter, one involving an elected official or a candidate for elected office or religious officials or media organizations.

We know in our hearts that these are areas where our foreign intelligence surveillance authority ought to give way, ought to at least recognize the rights of individual Americans.
Our amendment also provides the amicus with more access to information regarding applications and requires the government to make available the supporting documentation underlying assertions made in applications requested by the amicus or by the FBI itself.

Now, this information is, to be sure, required by the FBI's internal operating procedures, including its so-called Woods procedures, to be maintained in a series of documents known collectively as the Woods files. But the FBI's failure to correctly maintain the supporting documentation or, in some cases, even to assemble it in the first place—the documentation underlying these FISA applications to surveil U.S. persons, that is—was itself the subject of the inspector general's most recent memorandum to FBI Director Christopher Wray. That memorandum proved, among other things, that the government's failure to provide all of the evidence, especially evidence that undermined the government's case before the FISA Court, when considering the application to surveil Trump campaign advisor Carter Page, was not an isolated accident to the contrary. After sampling 29 FBI applications for FISA surveillance of U.S. persons, the inspector general, Mr. Horowitz, found an average of 20 errors per application, with most applications having either missing information or incorrect data, leading the inspector general to conclude: “We do not have confidence that the FBI has executed its Woods procedures in compliance with FBI policy.”

This is absolutely unacceptable in any free republic, but especially in ours, with the existence of the Fourth Amendment.

We are not talking about the failure to create or maintain some obsolete piece of paperwork just for the sake of having it. No, no, no, this is much more than that. And we are not talking here about exculpatory evidence being withheld as to suspected foreign terrorists. These are applications to surveil U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, who themselves have constitutional rights and also have an expectation that their government will not secretly spy on them, in violation of that which is rightfully theirs under the Constitution of the United States.

So can we walk away from this and pretend that the 45th President of the United States didn't have his own campaign surveilled abusively by the FBI itself? No, we can't. And I don't know anyone—Democrat or Republican, liberal or conservative or libertarian or something else—who could look at that and say: Yes, that makes a lot of sense. It makes a lot of sense that we should just leave unfettered, unreviewable discretion in the hands of those who are able to operate entirely in secret.

The Lee-Leahy amendment would require that the government turn over to the FISA Court any and all material information in its possession, including information that might undermine its case as part of the FISA application. As I said earlier, this information would be made available to the amicus curiae upon request.

As an added protection, our amendment would require any Federal officer filing an application for electronic surveillance or physical search under FISA to certify that the officer has collected and reviewed, for accuracy and for completeness, supporting documentation for each factual assertion contained in the application.

If we are going to require people to go to the FISA Court at all to get an order, if we are going to call it a court, ought we not require that such evidence be assembled and at least be made available to those whose job it is to make sure that the job is actually being done?

The Lee-Leahy amendment also requires these officers to certify in each application that they have employed accuracy procedures put in place by the Attorney General and the FISA Court, when considering the application for electronic surveillance of U.S. persons, the expectation that their government will respect their constitutional rights and also have an expectation that their government is best understood as the organized, official collective use of force, officially sanctioned as part of a government. And, as James Madison explained in Federalist No. 51, if men were angels we wouldn't need government. If we had access to angels to run our government, we wouldn't need rules about government.

But we are not angels, and we don't have access to them. So, instead, we have to rely on humans. Humans are flawed. They make mistakes, and they also are capable of nefarious or political or other reasons to flout the law—hence the need for the night watchman, hence the need for rules that restrict their ability to do that.

So I find it entirely unsatisfactory when people say: Just let the FBI deal with this, because, first of all, they haven't dealt with it. They haven't dealt with it even as abuses have become more and more known under various provisions of FISA and even as we are continuing with language that was adopted nearly two decades ago that itself was overly broad at the time and has been abused since then.

No, we are not going to just trust that an organization that is able to operate entirely in secret, with the benefit of protection of national security laws, with the benefit of over-classification of documents—we are not simply going to assume lightly that they are doing the things that they say they are doing. They haven't and because they won't and because they don't want to.

I understand why they might not want to. All of us can appreciate that when we do a job, if somebody else adds requirements to that job, we might be naturally resistant to it. But that doesn't mean that we don't need to do it here. That doesn't mean that our oath to uphold, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States doesn't apply. And we should be especially vigilant when it comes to protecting the rights and the privacy of Americans from a system that, by its very nature and, in some instances, by design, is ripe with opportunities for abuse. It is not perfect, but it will go a long way, if we pass it, toward forestalling this kind of abuse.

We have to remember that although we live in the greatest Republic ever known to human beings and although our rights are, by and large, respected in this country, we are by no means immune to the type of abuse that can take hold in any system of government, especially a system of government with a whole lot of resources at its disposal to gather information, including efforts to gather information on that government's own citizenry.

If we remember, about 45 years ago, there was a committee put together, headed by a Senator from Idaho named Frank Church, that looked at abuses of telephone surveillance by our government and concluded that in basically every administration dating back to the rise of the common usage of the telephone, our intelligence-gathering...
Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, by now, I think people are pretty much aware of something that happened about 2 weeks ago—an FCC approval of an application that was very, very significant. Yet not many people knew that it was going on. I think by now it shouldn't be a surprise to anyone that I oppose this decision by the Federal Communications Commission to approve an application by Ligado Networks. Ligado's plan would use Federal spectrum in a way that will interfere with GPS and satellite communications, and despite a near-unanimous objection from the rest of the Federal Government, the Federal Communications Commission has just said OK.

I said “near-unanimous.” It was nearly unanimous. A week before the decision was made by the FCC, they sent a letter outlining all of the reasons that everyone should be opposed to the application made by Ligado to the FCC. Their statement was that Ligado's proposal is not feasible, affordable, or technically executable. It goes on to say how destructive this would be, how the whole country uses this GPS, and how this would alter the GPS system so that it no longer could be used with predictability.

When I say “nearly everyone,” it is not “nearly”; it is everyone objected to it. I have never seen anything like this happen, to have something approved that was objected to by all of government. I was signed by the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, the Department of Commerce, NASA, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Transportation, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Federal Aviation Administration. That is everybody. I have never seen anything that has ever had that unanimity in being opposed to. For that reason, it was never approved until April 20 by the Federal Communications Commission.

The GPS and satellite communication functions support everything: equipment that our troops use in the field, navigation for first responders, airplanes—that is how airplanes keep from running into each other; they use GPS on cell phones, and ATMs. The list goes on and on.

Simply put, the FCC is jeopardizing GPS signals that Americans rely on every day. I chair the Senate Armed Services Committee. When you are conducting warfare, you are using GPS, if you use GPS. Simply put, the FCC is jeopardizing GPS signals that we rely on for both our national and economic security for the benefit of just one company and its hedge fund investors.

Ligado may be a new name, but the problem goes back a decade, when LightSquared was created in a hedge fund deal worth $5.3 billion. The investors put billions on the table, and the only way to get a return was to repurpose the LightSquared's satellite spectrum for the terrestrial cell phone network.

In 2011, when LightSquared asked the FCC for permission to do just that, GPS and satellite communication users strongly objected due to the interference with the GPS signal. That is the problem. The signal is in the same area that purchase took place by a company at that time named LightSquared. Federal agencies like the Department of Defense, the Department of Commerce, NASA, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Transportation, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Federal Aviation Administration echoed these concerns.

In 2012, after it was clear that there was no way to mitigate the GPS interference in their proposal, LightSquared declared bankruptcy, so it was gone.

Years later, LightSquared got enough new Wall Street hedge fund money to emerge from bankruptcy and be renamed “Ligado” and again pushed for permission to use the spectrum for its network. That is exactly the thing that the predecessor company tried to do for a long period of time, and they were denied, and they were justly denied. They shouldn't have been able to do that.

There was never any idea that an application by an operation like this would be acceptable. After extensive testing and analysis, experts at nine Federal agencies have unanimously concluded that LightSquared's proposal, even with updates, will still interfere with GPS signals and satellite communications. That is the one I just read. They were unanimous in doing this. Of course, we read the names of the agencies that were involved. This is something everyone agreed with. We can't find anyone who disagreed with it except Ligado itself—the ones who would end up with a lot of billions of dollars, and I am not sure where it would go.
readiness and capabilities. Ligado’s proposal will hurt the American economy. Our farmers rely on GPS to harvest their crops. Our truckers and our airlines rely on GPS to move supplies and people safely. Our maritime industry depends on GPS to place chains correctly on offshore oil drilling platforms. There are real threats out there—hurricanes and floods strike our communities. I am from Oklahoma. We know what hurricanes are. In fact, we were hit by two tornadoes just a day about a month ago with those threats. That is how you determine where they are and how serious they are, and it saves lives.

The FCC—Federal Communications Commission—has put all of this at risk by approving Ligado’s application. There wasn’t a lot of opposition out there talking about it because they had not been approved for a number of years. It has never been approved before. All of that was now at risk, just as of a week ago.

This is a complex issue. Here is an easy way to think about how Ligado’s network would interfere with our GPS signals. “Once Ligado turns its service on, it is going to help the heavens rustling over the roar of 100 jet engines.” This is according to Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Dr. Michael Griffin, an expert in this field.

The application included certain mitigation measures in approving Ligado’s application, but these are fundamentally flawed in every practical sense. They would make Ligado the fox guarding the henhouse. How can Ligado be impartial in deciding whether its own system is causing interference? It is not going to happen, and everybody knows that. Ultimately, the taxpayer and consumer will be left to pay to fix the interference. Ultimately, the people of America will end up paying to fix the interference. Independently testing and analysis conducted by nine federal departments and agencies show that allowing the Ligado’s proposed system—including its proposed modifications—to operate in close proximity to the GPS spectrum would cause harmful interference to millions of GPS receivers across the United States.

Actually, the band that is used for GPS is called L-band. It gets a little bit complicated. The area that people are concerned about, and that the Ligado is trying to say they are correcting, was an area that was in a different band all together. I think it was band C and this band. I think this is the first time a decision has ever been made—even discounting the universal opposition who oppose it—in response to this unprecedented and unwise decision. I am leading a letter to the FCC outlining critical national security concerns and urging the FCC to rescind the order.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letters by the NTIA be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:


SATELLITE—AMD-20180531-00045, SATELLITE—AMD-20180531-00045.


Hon. Ajit Pai,
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission,
Washington, DC.

Dear Chairman Pai: On behalf of the Executive Branch, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) submits the enclosed supplemental material for consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding the proposed license modification applications of Ligado Networks (Ligado), as amended. This letter and its enclosures are provided for inclusion in the application record, supplementing my letter to you dated December 6, 2019, in which I indicated that NTIA was “unable to recommend the Commission’s approval of the Ligado application.”

I enclose a letter from the Deputy Secretary of Defense to the Secretary of Commerce dated March 24, 2020. In the letter, the Deputy Secretary, citing 10 USC § 2281, states that “approval of the Ligado application would adversely affect the military potential of GPS and the Department of Defense is strongly opposed.” “After reviewing the existing public record of the Ligado proceeding,” he continues, “the information Air Force has submitted to the IRAC would be of significant value to the FCC in making its decision regarding Ligado’s license modification application. Therefore, we request that you have NTIA communicate this additional information to the FCC expeditiously to be put on the public record.” I believe this is a matter of law, and its communication is required from senior officials of the Department of Defense on March 25, 2020.

The FCC must refer to the enclosed memorandum from the Air Force—joined by several other departments and agencies—providing supplemental information to the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC) that detailed numerous expected impacts Ligado’s proposed license modifications would cause. The memorandum concluded that Ligado’s modifications “would cause unacceptable operational impacts . . . and adversely affect the military potential of GPS,” and further noted that “Ligado’s proposals for identifying and then repairing or replacing potentially-impacted legacy equipment is not feasible, affordable or technically executable.”

NTIA notes that in a 2011 Order and Authorization, the Commission’s International Bureau declared that its process for authorizing commercial operations on its MSS L-band frequencies would be complete only “once the Commission, after consultation with NTIA, concludes that the harmful interference concerns have been resolved.” We believe the Commission cannot reasonably reach such a conclusion.

Should you have any questions about this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. KINKOPH,
Associate Administrator,
Performing the Delegated Duties of the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information.

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,

Hon. Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.,
Secretary of Commerce,
Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Secretary: On June 6, 2019, the Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) sent a letter, on behalf of the Executive Branch, to the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recommending rejection of the license modification request of Ligado Networks. The Air Force, on behalf of DoD and endorsed by the Department of Homeland Security, submitted supplemental information to the IRAC on expected national security and defense impacts to Global Positioning System (GPS) operations if the proposed license modification request were granted. I request this additional information be transmitted by NTIA to the FCC for inclusion in the public record of the Ligado proceeding (FCC International Bureau Docket Numbers 11–109 and 12–340).

On May 12, 2020, the Secretary of Defense “may not agree to any restriction on the GPS proposed by the head of a department or agency of the United States outside DoD that would adversely affect the military potential of GPS.” Approval of the Ligado application would adversely affect the military
Memorandum for IRAC Chairman

National Telecommunications and Information Administration,
U.S. Department of Commerce,
Washington, D.C.

The Air Force, in the exercise of the Department of Defense’s (DoD) statutory duties under 10 U.S.C. §2281, and as the Executive Agent for the Department of Defense’s Global Positioning System (GPS), and in its role as a member of the National Telecommunication Information Administration (NTIA) Interdepartmental Radios Advisory Committee (IRAC) submits supplemental information in support of the Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai of December 6, 2019. Specifically, this letter provides additional detail regarding the expected impacts on national security, operational impacts to the warfighter, and effects on the military potential of GPS by the proposed license modification sought by Ligado Networks (Ligado).

Extensive and technically rigorous testing and analysis conducted over the past nine years by DoD, the National Space-based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Executive Com- mittee (PNT), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the Air Force shows that the proposed license modification would adversely affect the military potential of GPS. It is DoD’s position that FCC approval of Ligado’s license modification would cause unacceptably high precision receivers, vulnerable to interference. Moreover, Ligado’s mitigation proposals would not protect the vast majority of GPS receivers, such as airborne uses, that are not restricted to specific defined areas of operation such as military installations. Ligado’s proposal to replace government GPS receivers that are affected by its proposed network, is a tacit admission that there would be interference, and is further addressed below in terms of cost, operational and mission impact, and timelines to replace these receivers. Additionally, the mitigation proposal by Ligado, even if technically feasible, only GPS receivers owned by the government and would leave many high-value federal uses of civil GPS receivers not owned by the government, such as those owned by agencies that need to inter- ference, as Ligado has admitted in its filings.

EXPECTED OPERATIONAL AND MISSION IMPACTS

The U.S. National Security Strategy emphasizes the importance of maintaining leadership and freedom of action in space as a vital U.S. interest as well as responding to the mission needs of the Department of the Navy, Transportation, communications and network synchronizations, command and control, civil engineering, and surveillance applications. Given the sophistication, classification, and the nature of how GPS receivers are embedded into all aspects of DoD testing, training, exercise, and operations, it would be practically impossible to repair or replace all of the potentially adversely affected receivers. These are not simple “plug-n-play” devices but would require significant time and resources to identify and repair or replace the potentially affected GPS receivers supporting national defense missions. Individually and collectively, each of these categories would adversely affect the national security of the United States. It is the Department’s position that there are no practical measures to meaningfully mitigate the impact of the proposed Ligado license modification.

The mitigation measures Ligado has proposed are impractical and un-executable in that they would shift the risk of interference to, and place enormous burdens on, agencies and other GPS users to monitor and report the interference. Moreover, Ligado’s mitigation proposals would not protect the vast majority of GPS receivers, such as airborne uses, that are not restricted to specific defined areas of operation such as military installations. Ligado’s proposal to replace government GPS receivers that are affected by its proposed network, is a tacit admission that there would be interference, and is further addressed below in terms of cost, operational and mission impact, and timelines to replace these receivers. Additionally, the mitigation proposal by Ligado, even if technically feasible, only GPS receivers owned by the government and would leave many high-value federal uses of civil GPS receivers not owned by the government, such as those owned by agencies that need to interfere, as Ligado has admitted in its filings.

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be exceptionally detrimental to national security.

Ligado's proposal would have significant effect on legacy military receivers and civil receivers.

Legacy Military GPS Receivers: Modernized GPS receivers cannot replace all military receivers currently in operation. Even after the transition to modernized military receivers is completed (by 2035 at the earliest), some high precision receivers would remain vulnerable to interference from the Ligado network transmissions. Remaining legacy military receivers are unable to lock onto weak signals and lack the anti-jam capability of more modern military receivers. In addition to continued military use, other Federal agencies and many partner nations will continue to use legacy high precision receivers. Even as the U.S. military transitions to modernized GPS receivers, it is unclear as to when, if or legacy GPS high precision receivers used by other critical agencies will be modernized.

Civil GPS Receivers Used by DoD: DoD makes use of civil GPS receivers in non-combat environments, such as surveying, flight training, training, exercises, other national security events, and scientific applications. Like their civilian counterparts, DoD surveyors use high-precision GPS receivers that are exceedingly sensitive to interference signals at nearby frequencies. As analysis indicates, these high precision GPS receivers potentially could be adversely affected at significant distances from the Ligado-proposed terrestrial transmitters, which would negatively impact high precision receiver use in major military installations near urban areas of the United States. Ligado has admitted in its filings that there would be potential interference. Additionally, both civilian and commercial applications for high precision wideband-GPS provide far-reaching benefits to the community, including operations that go beyond the PNT services for which it was originally developed. The great potential capabilities of high-precision GPS receivers are the most susceptible to the adjacent band interference from Ligado’s proposed network. Further, DoD uses civil and commercial infrastructure of many types for training and testing, both domestically and abroad. To the extent that operation of commercial infrastructure is degraded by Ligado’s proposals, the DoD’s use of GPS for communications networks, operation of unmanned vehicles (including UAS), precision landings, helicopter operations, collection of location based services or other applications, and other applications demanding high accuracy would be at increased risk.

Cost and Resource Impact

By 2020, DoD will have invested more than $15 billion taxpayer dollars since 2000 to sustain and modernize the GPS constellation and continue to modernize GPS user equipment integration across the force. As described earlier, almost every GPS receiver fielded throughout the DoD joint force potentially could be adversely affected if Ligado’s proposed system were approved. As indicated in the Fiscal Year 2020 President’s Budget, DoD is currently planning to spend more than $1.8 billion taxpayer dollars to procure, integrate and maintain GPS user equipment, which spans from 2018 to 2024, into user platforms across the Services. The $1.8 billion figure will grow to a total of approximately $3.5 billion when all of the modern GPS equipment fielded currently in the DoD inventory are transitioned to modernized GPS receivers before 2035. This cost includes the integration of GPS into each of the DoD’s services, including, but not limited to, the military aviation, maritime, and ground vehicles, as well as weapons.

Regarding Ligado’s proposal to identify and repair or replace potentially affected GPS receivers owned by the U.S. government, given the classified nature of the military high precision receiver potentially affected, Ligado could not possibly know the magnitude of the problem or the costs and operational impacts relative to the military high precision receivers. Such a failure to effect to the Department’s capabilities if Ligado’s proposal were approved, DoD would need to undertake unprecedented accelerated identification, characterization, and solution, which is cost- and schedule-prohibitive and would likely result in significantly degraded national security. For each integration, DoD would need to check out of service, test the platform to ensure that the upgrade worked as planned and did not cause a negative impact to other parts of the weapon system. To be clear, every weapons system or platform in the DoD inventory must be tested as an integrated system and it would cause significant reverse impacts from such a proposal, even if a modernized military GPS receivers require further modification. Adding such a requirement to mitigate the adverse effects of the potential interference to the military potential of GPS from this potential interference would be extremely difficult and likely cost prohibitive given current technology.

Time Required to Replace Impacted Receivers

Modification or replacement of GPS receivers within DoD has historically taken approximately a decade due to the sheer receiver number,ocomplications with how receivers are integrated in thousands of platforms and systems, depot and scheduling, and global operations. The first M-code capable receivers were integrated in 2010 in the Integrated Global Positioning System (IGPS) system and will be testing and will begin installation in DoD platforms beginning in 2020. The full transition is not expected to be complete until 2035. Based on past experience transitioning from first and second-generation GPS equipment to the present third generation. Any change to the requirements for legacy military GPS receivers as a result of approving Ligado’s proposed network and the need to mitigate the resultant interference would only extend that timeline, putting DoD forces and warfighting capabilities at risk due to the rapidly evolving threats.

It is therefore DoD’s position that approval of Ligado’s proposal would adversely affect the military potential of GPS significantly, based on the extensive testing done by DoD and others. Consistent with Section 12521, DoD cannot accept this adverse impact to military use of GPS and the resultant negative operational impacts to our warfighting capabilities. Modification or replacement of GPS receivers across the force to avoid adverse impacts from such a proposal, even if a solution were shown to be feasible, could take many years and delay fielding of modified equipment needed to respond to rapidly evolving threats by decades.

In his June 7, 2019 letter to FCC Chairman Pai, Acting Secretary of Defense Shanahan stated there are too many unknowns and the risks are far too great to federal operations to allow Ligado’s proposed system to proceed. We collectively agree with that assessment. Accordingly, the Department of Defense, pursuant to its statutory duties, re- states formal objection to Ligado’s request for a license modification and, along with the below signatories, requests that it be rejected.

Ms. Thu Luu, Department of the Air Force, Executive Agent for GPS.

The undersigned IRAC agencies endorse and support the position stated by the Department of the Air Force and the Department of Defense:

Mr. Joseph Bauer, Department of the Army; Mr. Kenneth Willis, Department of the Navy; Mr. Ivan Navarro, Department of Commerce; Mr. Rene (RJ) Balanga, NASA; Mr. Ramon L. Gonzales, Department of the Interior; Mr. Quan Vu, Department of Justice; Mr. John Cornicelli, Department of Homeland Security; Mr. George Dudley, Department of Energy; Dr. Aaron D. Robinson, National Science Foundation; Mr. James Arnold, Department of Transportation; Mr. Jerry Ulick, U.S. Coast Guard; Mr. Michael Richman, National Air Traffic Systems; and Mr. Dean Ulcek, Department of the Air Force, Department of the Navy, and Department of the Interior.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the FCC article in the Wall Street Journal be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, May 5, 2020]

The FCC’s Decision Puts GPS at Risk

(By Mark Esper)

Every day, tens of millions of Americans rely on the Global Positioning System. We use it for location features in cellphones, navigation for vehicles and aircraft, and financial and commercial transactions, including ATM withdrawals. As of today, the Defense Department and our colleagues across government use GPS to protect and serve the public by coordinating global trade, banking and transportation, as well as tracking terrorists and other threats to U.S. national security.

A recent decision by the Federal Communications Commission, however, could undermine the effectiveness and reliability of this critical technology. On April 20, the FCC announced its approval of Ligado Networks’ application to create a cellular network by repurposing a portion of radio spectrum adjacent to that used by GPS. The power and proximity of Ligado’s ground emissions on this spectrum will drown out GPS’s space-based signals. If you’ve ever tried to talk to a friend while standing next to the speakers at a rock concert, you get the point.

The FCC’s approval of Ligado’s proposals is another attempt to maximize the company changing the rules to maximize the benefits of its 5G woes, but its proposed license modification isn’t really about 5G. There is no evidence that the commercially viable 5G solution. This is about one company changing the rules to maximize the
value of its spectrum, and the cost to Americans is too great to justify.

The Defense Department recognizes that 5G technology is vital to maintaining America’s economic advantage over its competitors. We strongly support President Trump’s call for the U.S. private sector to lead in the development and deployment of 5G networks. The Defense Department expects to spend $1.3 million in just 2020. That is the company that we are talking about. They have spent $1.3 million on lobbyists trying to convince Congress that their proposal is a good idea.

This chart shows the list of all the lobbyists that come to $1.38 million. As of now, we have an order to reverse the Ligado decision. That is Ligado’s order is about winning the race for 5G and beating China. We are not sure what will happen to this decision. People have to hear from people before they realize how bad this is.

When you have this many people—one of the individuals was a former chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and turned lobbyist. He is a guy who spent his career building the military. Obviously, he is one of the lobbyists supporting this thing. Ligado said this order is about winning the race for 5G and beating China. Those who concern Ligado’s proposal was necessary to defeat China’s 5G push are deliberately mixing up two different and important spectrum issues in order to sell their product—the share of the mid-band 5G spectrum by DOD with industry and performance— and Ligado’s signal with the low band—that is L band, which we are talking about, which is right next to GPS signals that would be used in nearly every aspect of daily life.

The Ligado spectrum they are repurposing is not in the prime mid-band spectrum being considered for 5G. Ligado’s low-band spectrum was not a part of the FCC’s own plan to accelerate 5G deployment released in September of 2018, the so-called “5G FAST Plan.”

I would like to say that it is complicated, but that’s not what they did at all with this thing. Their concern was with only the L band, which is next to GPS. Reliable GPS satellite communication is important to everyone in America. It drives much of the Nation’s economy. We shouldn’t sacrifice GPS reliability for the sake of lobbyists and hedge fund investors on Wall Street.

I ask my colleagues to join me in urging the FCC to withdraw its approval of Ligado’s application. Instead of moving ahead with this order, we have to reverse the order. That is the right decision if we are going to have an order to reverse this decision. We have people with an interest in this.

The hearing that we had just on May 6 was with the people who head up DOD DC and the DOD Chief Information Officer. By the way, in the private sector he was the CEO of three of the largest corporations in America. We had Dr. Michael Griffin, Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, a retired U.S. Coast Guard Admiral; Thad Allen, who is now on the National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Advisory Board; and Gen. Jay Raymond, Chief of Space Operations, U.S. Space Force. That is everyone who is really knowledgeable about this. They are all unanimous in their opposition to this program.

I would ask that Members keep an eye on the opportunities they have to reverse this decision. We would actually try to get the Federal Communications Commission to come to a decision on their own.

I yield the floor to the President. I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled for 4:30 p.m. start at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Cassidy). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Edgar nominations?

Mr. INHOFE. I ask for the yea and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Sasse).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. Murray), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Whitehouse) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 62, nays 31, as follows:

[Read roll call Vote No. 88 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Barrasso
Blackburn
Blunt
Brown
Braun
Burr
Capito
Carper
Cassidy
Collins
Coryn
Cotton
Cranium
Crapo
Crus
Daines
Duckworth
Rosen
Sensenbach
Fischer
Gardiner

Perdue
Grassley
Hassan
Hawley
Hoven
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Jones
Kaine
Kennedy
King
Lankford
Lee
Loeffiler
Manchin
McConnell
McSally
Morrill
Murkowski
Paul

NAYS—31

Baldwin
Blumenthal
Booher
Brown
Cantwell

Cardin
Humphrey
Cortez Masto
Durbin
Feinstein

Gillibrand
Coons
Hiroto
Klobuchar
Menendez
The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from the Iowa.

(The remarks of Mr. GRASSLEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 3698 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today coming to the floor to salute and thank our Nation’s law enforcement officers during this year’s National Police Week. It is notable that this week dedicated to the brave men and women in blue is in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am grateful to all who are working on the front lines right now, whether they are doctors and nurses or teachers and grocery store clerks. We are grateful to all of them, including a lot of jobs that I haven’t even mentioned.

But this week, we have the unique opportunity just to settle on one group of people and thank them in a special way during National Police Week, and that is our police officers. Not only more than ever, we appreciate their service and dedication. Being a police officer isn’t just a job. I am in public service, but I haven’t been a police officer. I think it is fair to assume that they put their lives on the line more than most of us who are Members of the Senate.

It is not just a job. It is a calling. Each officer has answered that call and is dutifully serving during these very trying times that we call this virus pandemic. For them, it’s never more than ever, we appreciate their service and dedication. Being a police officer isn’t just a job. I am in public service, but I haven’t been a police officer. I think it is fair to assume that they put their lives on the line more than most of us who are Members of the Senate.

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As a Senator, my actions often speak louder than my words. So I am pleased to show the members of the law enforcement community how much I support and appreciate you through legislation. Every year, during Police Week, the Senate advances various bills focusing on behalf to the brave men and women in blue. This year is no different. To that end, I recently introduced a bipartisan bill with the title of Safeguarding America’s First Responders Act. This bill addresses the unfortunate reality of officers exposed to COVID-19.

To ensure benefits through the Public Safety Officer Benefits Program, my bill creates a presumption that if a first responder is diagnosed with COVID-19 within 45 days of their last day on duty, the Justice Department will treat it as a line-of-duty incident.

Loss of a family member in the line of duty isn’t only emotionally devastating, but it also means lost wages in tough times. This bill recognizes the challenges posed by the pandemic and better ensures that officers’ families will get the financial help as promised to other police officers who are killed in other ways in the line of duty. This bill enjoys wide support from multiple law enforcement groups and a group of bipartisan cosponsors here in the Senate.

The Senate is considering two other police bills that I support. Police officers have demanding jobs and experience events that often impact their mental health. The next bill is named the Confidentiality Opportunities for Peer Support Counseling Act, or we call it COPSP Counseling Act, for short. This bill builds off the recommendations provided by the Justice Department in their recent report on law enforcement mental health and wellness issues.

Specifically, the bill provides confidentiality to Federal law enforcement officers or directing individuals who participate in peer support counseling sessions from disclosing communications arising out of these sessions. With that privacy, we encourage more people to get the help they might need. Peer support programs serve as a valuable role in providing mental health care to law enforcement and first responders. But as I have indicated, confidentiality concerns have left these programs and these professionals underutilized. This bill also encourages best practices for officers and for first responders on peer support programs across the country.

I want to thank Senator CORTEZ MASTO for leading this bill and teaming up with me on this important issue.

Lastly, I am proud to cosponsor Senator HAWLEY’s bill, with a title of Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Act. This bill seeks to address mental illness and increasing suicide numbers among law enforcement by requiring the FBI to open a voluntary data collection program to track suicides and attempted suicides within local, Tribal, State, and Federal law enforcement.

By providing accurate and detailed information on these issues of suicide, more effective prevention programs can be implemented.

I urge my colleagues to support all three of these bills. Passing them into law is one way of saying a big thank you to those who serve us so selflessly in law enforcement. We owe them a debt of gratitude, particularly during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I wish to state for the record that, though the difficulties of traveling across the country in the midst of the current coronavirus pandemic made it impossible for me to present in the Capitol to vote on the nomination of Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, I would have voted ‘nay’ had I been present.

Few things create a stronger foundation for a thriving, successful families than affordable housing. Study after study has shown that children who grow up in a stable home do better in school and are more successful over the course of their lives. Stable affordable housing builds strong neighborhoods and communities because the members of that community are invested in its success. For generations of Americans, homeownership has been a driving force behind the building of a strong middle class, helping families build wealth through the equity generated through homeownership.

As the son of a union mechanic, I experienced this throughout my own life. My father’s wages were enough to afford a modest ranch home in a blue collar Oregon community. And because of that house and that community, I was given all kinds of opportunities. I was allowed to explore my interests, whether it was taking machines apart and putting them back together again in my dad’s garage or exploring the great outdoors as a Boy Scout. I was able to receive a good public education and go on to be the first in my family to graduate from college.

But far too many Americans don’t have those same opportunities today. That is because the goal of affordable housing, whether buying a house or renting a decent apartment, is out of reach for too many working and middle-class families and falling further
out of reach with every day that passes. Prior to this pandemic, we saw rents and home prices rising twice as fast as worker’s incomes. Today, the cost of a typical single-family home is four times greater than the median household income.

We need a Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development who will make it a priority to reverse the trajectory that we have been on and to actually make housing more affordable in America. This position is responsible for making sure that all day-to-day operations within HUD, including roughly 7,700 employees. They oversee a budget of approximately $50 billion that funds a number of programs meant to provide quality, affordable housing for lower income Americans, provides rental assistance for low-income families, and distributes grants to states and communities for various housing-related purposes and also enforces the Fair Housing Act.

Brian Montgomery is not the person for the job.

In his current role as the FHA Commissioner, Mr. Montgomery has supported policies from the Trump administration that would increase the cost of FHA loans and include risk-based pricing, continuing to make homeownership even less affordable for those who can least afford it. He was also part of the senior leadership team that published a rule that would help undermine enforcement of the Fair Housing Act through the Disparate Impact Study. The disparate impact standard is a longstanding tool used to root out policies and practices that may not be openly discriminatory on their face, but disproportionately harm a protected class under the Fair Housing Act. The proposed rule that Mr. Montgomery helped create—and which is vigorously opposed by a coalition of fair housing, civil rights, and consumer groups—rigs the system to make it nearly impossible to win a disparate impact claim.

A person who has used his current position to make it harder for low- and middle-income Americans to afford to buy a home should not serve in a top-tier position as the equivalent of the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s chief financial officer. We need individuals in these positions fighting to get families into homes, not pushing that dream further and further out of reach. Therefore, I oppose Mr. Montgomery’s nomination to serve as the Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and would have voted nay, had I been able to be present.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL BRAD COOPER

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today I am here to recognize and congratulate Rear Admiral Brad Cooper of the U.S. Navy on his exemplary service to our Nation as the Department of the Navy’s Chief of Legislative Affairs from July 2019 to May 2020. During this time, he led with precision and class.

Eleven months—a short period, yet the presence of the Navy here in the Capitol and the results we have seen since last July would indicate a labor of love. And that is because, at that time, he has served under various leaders, yet in spite of that, the Department of the Navy has never been more strongly integrated with Congress than it is today. Through dedication and impactful communication, he has deftly navigated his team, our staffs, and our mutual partnership to new heights.

Brad has had the challenge of being the Navy’s lead advocate on Capitol Hill and has had the privilege of communicating with all Members of Congress, which inherently is no small feat. The hidden mission therein is the tireless jobs of educating our staffs, precisely executing congressional delegations on all continents, supporting hearings, and negotiating the NDAA. He has handled our thousands of constituent inquiries and properly represented the Navy while taking into account military, political, and budgetary priorities.

Brad is the reason senior Navy leaders are always well prepared to stand before us during all hearings, calls, and numerous briefings. His clear, concise, and consistent communication to the Hill during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensured the Navy’s efforts for the safety of sailors and their families and the execution of all missions to support the national defense strategy and safety and security of our Nation was well understood. Because of Brad’s professionalism and visible commitment to the Navy and our country, he certainly established lasting relationships with all of the Members of Congress.

On behalf of our entire U.S. Congress, I want to personally thank Rear Admiral Brad Cooper for his more than three decades of dedicated service to the Navy and our Nation. He will be missed. I also want to thank his wife, Susan, and children Bradford and Katie for their deep sacrifices and tremendous support. I wish them all the best in his next assignment in Norfolk, VA, and I sincerely look forward to working with him again in the future. Fair winds and following seas to you.

TRIBUTE TO LOLETA MARIE “LETA” RECORD TANNER

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I would like to say a few words to send best wishes to a good friend of mine on her next adventure, Loleta Marie “Leta” Record Tanner. I want to announce that Leta will be moving to Texas from our great State of Wyoming to live with her son. While I am overjoyed that she can be with her family, I am deeply saddened that Wyoming will no longer be the physical home to such a dedicated, strong, and loving person.

Leta was born in Gillette, WY, in 1930. She graduated from Campbell County High School and then traveled to Denver, where she graduated from a small community college. A dedicated public servant and Wyomingite through and through, Leta served for more than 15 years in the Campbell County Assessor’s office and district court, and 12 years of the Gillette City Council. She also worked for former Wyoming Senator Al Simpson for 10 years, both in his northeast State office and in Washington, DC.

While her political career alone is impressive, Leta was always involved and giving her time to Wyoming. Leta is a dedicated member of the ranching community and the community at large as a member of Campbell County Cattle Women, Campbell County Wool Growers Auxiliary, and a member of Women in Business, just to name a few. She loved nothing more than working on the ranch with her family, and has worked tirelessly to support the next generation in agriculture.

In 2002, Leta was named Campbell County Woman of distinction. She has done many wonderful things for the Gillette community and the State of Wyoming. She has been a generous supporter of family-oriented performance at the Cam-Plex Heritage Center in Gillette since 1996. In 2013, her donation to Gillette College in support of their Agriculture Education Center and Rodeo complex made it a reality. This state of the art facility features an indoor rodeo practice area, classroom, lab, and 20-stall loafing sheds. It is quite possible that, without Leta’s support, this world-class facility and many other projects would not have come to fruition. The dorms at Gillette College will forever bear the name Tanner Village. Her willingness to help the community grow and thrive will never be forgotten.

I am reminded of a few words my mother taught me: “Do what’s right. Do what’s best. Treat others as you’d want to be treated.” Leta has embodied these principles and will continue to do so. Although she will be leaving our great State, Leta’s legacy will live on and continue to be an example of just what is possible for Wyomingites of all ages.

Leta, thank you for your years of tireless service to Wyoming. Diana joins me in sending our best wishes to you and your family. Stay in touch. Wyoming will always be your home. Thank you and God bless.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN NYBERG

Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, I want to honor a remarkable woman who has retired after three decades at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. In her 30 years at NASA, Karen Nyberg spent 20 of them as an astronaut, including 180 days in space on two space flights. Since retiring from the space program, she has worked tirelessly to inspire the next generation of American women and minorities to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Karen was a trailblazer in the world of space exploration. She was the first woman to command the International Space Station and the first woman to command a mission with a woman as the deputy commander. Her achievements are a testament to her dedication and bipartisanship.

As a member of Campbell County’s Cattle Women, Campbell County Wool Growers Auxiliary, and a member of Women in Business, just to name a few. She loved nothing more than working on the ranch with her family, and has worked tirelessly to support the next generation in agriculture.

In 2002, Leta was named Campbell County Woman of distinction. She has done many wonderful things for the Gillette community and the State of Wyoming. She has been a generous supporter of family-oriented performance at the Cam-Plex Heritage Center in Gillette since 1996. In 2013, her donation to Gillette College in support of their Agriculture Education Center and Rodeo complex made it a reality. This state of the art facility features an indoor rodeo practice area, classroom, lab, and 20-stall loafing sheds. It is quite possible that, without Leta’s support, this world-class facility and many other projects would not have come to fruition. The dorms at Gillette College will forever bear the name Tanner Village. Her willingness to help the community grow and thrive will never be forgotten.

I am reminded of a few words my mother taught me: “Do what’s right. Do what’s best. Treat others as you’d want to be treated.” Leta has embodied these principles and will continue to do so. Although she will be leaving our great State, Leta’s legacy will live on and continue to be an example of just what is possible for Wyomingites of all ages.

Leta, thank you for your years of tireless service to Wyoming. Diana joins me in sending our best wishes to you and your family. Stay in touch. Wyoming will always be your home. Thank you and God bless.
Fred, who was born in South Carolina and grew up in Idaho, earned a degree in history at the University of Idaho before earning his law degree at the University of Chicago Law School. His early career included serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney from 1963-1965. He then served as Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City, where he was appointed chief of the organized crime division. He then practiced criminal law in private practice from 1969-1998, serving as counsel for two former Idaho Governors, Cecil Andrus and John Evans. He also served as law clerk for Judge Edward J. Lodge from 1975-1980, and he provided legal, political assistance to local governments, businesses, and individuals throughout his career. Further, Fred served on multiple commissions, authored books, and led organizations. This includes him helping to start Ukraine on locally driven, community focused efforts on preventing regulatory agencies from doing economic harm to rural America.

In the half-century since the first moon landing, space exploration has had phenomenal impact on the world, which I believe is underappreciated by the average citizen. Karen's contributions to space exploration during 30 of those years have added to our greater understanding of our world and universe.

There is a bright future for America to lead the world with commercial, technological, and military space missions. The work of astronauts like Karen and the future impact of current students at institutions like the University of North Dakota inspire us to move forward with these vital endeavors.

On behalf of all North Dakotans, I send my sincere congratulations to Karen Nyberg on her distinguished career, and her space shuttle crew on their historic voyage to the International Space Station.

REMEMBERING FRED KELLY GRANT

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, today I honor Fred Kelly Grant. In March, our Nation unfortunately lost a reason for dedication, and outstanding advocate for high standards and excellence. However, Fred leaves a lasting reminder in the extraordinarily positive impact he had on so many people.
pandemic. I extend my deep condolences and prayers to Betty, their family, and friends. Kirk is described in his obituary first as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Additionally, Kirk was a pillar of Idaho industry and politics, thought-leader, and friend, who no doubt boosted and inspired countless budding leaders and efforts throughout our great State.

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–4455. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, the National Emergencies Act, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order declaring a national emergency to deal with the threat posed by the unrestricted acquisition or use in the United States of critical infrastructure or technology material designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied by persons owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or control of foreign principals, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4456. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the mobilizations of selected reserve units, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 11, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4457. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the mobilizations of selected reserve units, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4458. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on a rule entitled “Prioritization and Allocation of Certain Scare or Threatened Health and Medical Resources for Domestic Use” (RIN1660–A801) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4459. A communication from the Director of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Capital Rule: Eligible Retained Income” (RIN1557–A881) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4460. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Short-Term Investment Funds” (RIN1557–A864) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4461. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Capital Rule: Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility” (RIN1557–A883) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4462. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Capital Rule: Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility” (RIN1557–A883) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4463. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Application of Certain Provisions in the Servicing Transfers” (12 CFR Part 1024) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4464. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Accidental Release Reporting” ((RIN3301–AA80) (40 CFR Part 1604)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4465. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the mobilizations of selected reserve units, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4466. A communication from the Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Handling of Information with Respect to Certain Persons” (12 CFR Part 1024) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4467. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Right of Rescission Rules in Light of the COVID–19 Pandemic” (12 CFR Part 226) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4468. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Capital Rule: Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility” (RIN1557–A910) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4469. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Right of Rescission Rules in Light of the COVID–19 Pandemic” (12 CFR Part 226) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4470. A communication from the Photojournalist, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Emergency and Tax Payment Program Temporary Amendment Act of 2020” to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.


EC–4482. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–4483. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–4484. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. HYDR-Smith, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. Ernst, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3686. A bill to provide for parental notification and intervention in the case of an unmarried minor seeking an abortion; to the Committee on Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 3687. A bill to take certain actions in response to Saudi Arabia’s aggression towards the United States petroleum industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. Risch):

S. 3688. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Secretary of Energy to offer assistance in securing the assets of the owners and operators of energy infrastructure against threats and increasing the security of the electric grid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 3689. A bill to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET (for Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLLEN, Mr. BENNION, Mr. SCHEUMER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. JONES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MYDEND, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Ms. KLOUCHAR, Ms. CORTES MASTO, Ms. ROBINSON, Ms. HERSCHORN, SMITH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WARNER, Mr. WHITTHEUSE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KAIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARPER, Ms. SENEMA, Mr. COONS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3690. A bill to provide for E-Rate support for Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, and connectivity during emergency periods relating to COVID–19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 3691. A bill to prohibit the provision of United States Government assistance to any Lebanese government that is influenced or controlled by Hezbollah; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. SENEMA):

S. 3692. A bill to improve the ability of the Department of Defense to effectively prevent, track, and respond to military-connected child abuse; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. HAINES):

S. 3693. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to foster efficient markets and increase competition and transparency among packers that purchase livestock from producers; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 3694. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently allow a tax deduction at the time an investment is made in properties that contain critical minerals and metals from the United States, to modify the prohibition on the acquisition of certain sensitive materials from non-allied foreign nations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. CORINTHIAN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3695. A bill to institute a moratorium on disconnections of telephone and internet services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLLEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3696. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disregard additional unemployment compensation for purposes of premium tax credit-sharing subsidies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3698. A bill to expand compassionate reentry authority and home confinement access for offenders with heightened coronavirus risk; to the Committee on Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 3699. A bill to establish the America Forward Commission to create a strategy to re-open the economy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3700. A bill to provide Peace Corps Volunteers and Peace Corps Service was terminated as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic with health insurance, an expedited reemployment process, and domestic service opportunities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. HIRANO, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3701. A bill to require the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Commerce for Communications and Information, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to regularly provide to support to institutions of higher education for the provision of certain equipment and services to students of those institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. HIRANO, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3702. A bill to appropriate additional amounts to provide loans under the paycheck protection program to community development financial institutions and minority depository institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3703. A bill to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to improve the prevention of elder abuse and exploitation of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. Res. 570. A resolution opposing and condemning the potential prosecution of United States and Israeli nationals by the International Criminal Court; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BURK, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. Cramer, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. COUSINS, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. CASIDY, Mrs. FOEFLER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. TIUSCH, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 571. A resolution congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and leaders of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education and supporting the ideals and goals of the 21st annual National Charter Schools Week, as cosponsored May 14, 2020, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
financial assistance to rural health care facilities and providers impacted by the COVID–19 emergency.

S. 3567
At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3607, a bill to extend public safety officer death benefits to public safety officers whose death is caused by COVID–19, and for other purposes.

S. 3624
At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3624, a bill to amend the national service laws to prioritize national service programs and projects that are directly related to the response to and recovery from the COVID–19 public health emergency, and for other purposes.

S. 3626
At the request of Mrs. JOFFLEFFER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3626, a bill to extend public safety officer death benefits to public safety officers whose death is caused by COVID–19, and for other purposes.

S. 3630
At the request of Ms. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCGRIST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3630, a resolution supporting the rights of the people of Iran to determine their future, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes.

S. 3643
A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to foster efficient markets and increase competition and transparency among packers that purchase livestock from producers; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. President, Iowa is home to 66,000 family farmers. These farmers make up the economic foundation of our rural communities, and farmers are the leaders who make up the councils and the school boards across our State. So when we see economists estimate a 20-percent drop in livestock and grain producers’ revenue due to COVID–19, it isn’t just our farmers who are concerned; it is our whole State.

In the CARES Act, we provided USDA with $24.5 billion to address this loss in revenue; however, we know that even with this funding, the supply chain disruptions from COVID–19 will force some agriculture producers to miss payments, and ultimately some will be forced to sell their family farms.

The consequences of COVID–19 shutdowns have injected uncertainty that we haven’t seen since the farmer crisis of the 1980s.
During my time in the Senate, I have always tried to be a vocal advocate for the importance of a safe, affordable, and secure supply of food. But now our country’s food supply chain is facing disruptions never envisioned before. As circumstances have shut down due to employees being sick, the supply chain disruptions are being felt by farmers and, of course, by consumers.

I ought to tie the two together because it is so important. The old saying that we are only nine meals away from a riot—we haven’t had that in the United States yet, and I hope we don’t have it, but when you see short supplies of toilet paper and people fighting over toilet paper in the supermarket, it wouldn’t surprise you that they would fight more for food.

With as much as 40 percent of the slaughter capacity at our packing plants down for the past month, beef prices have Trump, to the consumer. That has caused meat shortages in fast food chains, and grocery stores across the country have been forced to limit meat purchases per consumer.

If that is not bad enough, at the same time, producers with livestock that is ready to sell have been turned away by meat processors. Even if producers are lucky enough to sell, the prices they are getting are well below the cost of production, and they are losing money on every animal they sell.

I have received a large volume of calls and emails from Iowans and members of Congress expressing concern that the current discrepancy between high shelf prices and increased losses for cattle producers just doesn’t make any sense. I share the concerns of these farmers, and I take their claims of market manipulation very seriously.

President Trump is on top of this issue, and this past week, he echoed a request that I made of the Attorney General last month to examine the current structure of the beef meatpacking industry and investigate potential market manipulation. Market manipulation, allowing the four large meatpacking companies accountable for the least we can ask of Federal officials, and I thank President Trump for talking to Barr about that as well.

The fact that over 80 percent of the feedlot cattle in the United States are slaughtered by the four largest meatpacking companies: Tyson Foods, JBS, Cargill, and No. 4 National Beef. Because companies control a large percentage of slaughter and processing capacity in the United States, they have the unique ability to influence the price of live cattle. They use tactics such as bottlenecking processing capacity, utilizing private forward-formula contracts, and piling up meat in cold storage to delay the need to purchase live cattle from the family farmer.

I am glad President Trump and the Department of Justice are looking into these schemes to see if any of this behavior is illegal—the same request I made to Barr about a month ago.

Independent producers will always struggle with negotiating prices when there are only four large, multinational corporations that control prices; however, in Iowa, it is a little different. Our producers sell 98 percent of their cattle at negotiated cash prices. This allows for market transparency so that producers know the market price of cattle, and the price more accurately reflects the cost the producers incur when raising livestock. However, this isn’t the case across the entire United States, as more than 80 percent of all cattle are sold through formula contracts and/or the cattle futures market. These private contracts don’t allow for price transparency and hide the true value of production from the rest of the marketplace.

It happens that this is not a new problem. In fact, 18 years ago, I introduced a bill with former Senator Feingold from Wisconsin that would have helped producers gain leverage by mandating that a percentage of a packer’s weekly slaughter come from a negotiated cash price. I introduced that bill every Congress until 2009, but, sadly, at that time, not enough of my colleagues saw the need for a transparent marketplace.

That need is much more obvious today because conversations across the country have started to shift, and people’s opinion about four big meatpackers controlling 80 percent of the market—like more of a problem when farmers are losing a lot of money when they sell their cattle and the price for the consumer goes up at the supermarket. Lawmakers have begun to realize that in order to have a sustainable supply of meat in our country, we need to restore transparency in the marketplace and protect the market from collapsing when there is a supply chain disruption.

Let me repeat something I said at the beginning: Lawmakers must be concerned with a market that is driving our country’s food supply chain to collapse. We can’t let that same thing happen with food, so today I come to the floor to submit my bill to foster efficient markets and increase competition and transparency among packers that purchase livestock from our producers. The only change to that Feingold-Grassley bill is to increase the amount of mandated negotiated cash contracts from the original 25 percent in that bill that Feingold and I cooperated on. This change is needed to increase price discovery for producers across the country.

I am proud to lead this effort with Senator Tester of Montana and will work with my colleagues in the Senate and particularly those on the Senate Agriculture Committee to make sure this bill becomes law. Without significant change across the independent beef producers will not be able to stay in business. I believe the time to act is now. Failure to act is failing our independent producers.

If there is one silver lining that could come out of COVID–19, it may be that consumers will start to understand where their food comes from. Food does not come from grocery stores; it comes from the tens of thousands of farmers and independent producers who wake up day and night to ensure families across the country have an adequate supply of food.

Farmers are 2 percent of the population who provide for the other 98 percent, and they even provide for more than 98 percent of Americans—a lot of it is exported.

I urge my colleagues to support my legislation being introduced today and do right by the producers who provide the food that we all eat.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. GRASSLEY):
S. 3703. A bill to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to improve the prevention of elder abuse and exploitation of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President. I rise to introduce the Promoting Alzheimer’s Awareness to Prevent Elder Abuse Act. I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues, Senators MENENDEZ and GRASSLEY, in sponsoring this legislation that seeks to help combat elder abuse perpetrated against those living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

An estimated 5.8 million Americans aged 65 and older currently live with Alzheimer’s disease. This disease takes a tremendous personal and economic toll on individuals and their families, and the COVID–19 crisis has made many of the challenges they face even more difficult.

People living with Alzheimer’s and related dementias make up a large proportion of all older Americans who receive adult day services and nursing home care, making them among those most vulnerable to COVID–19. Many of the public health and safety measures put in place to control the spread of COVID–19, including social distancing, also may contribute to social isolation, which is one of the greatest risk factors for elder abuse. This crisis has also given rise to a number of COVID–19-related scams seeking to financially exploit Americans of all ages, including seniors.

Individuals with Alzheimer’s are at greater risk for elder abuse. According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, approximately one in ten Americans aged 60 and older have experienced elder abuse. For people with Alzheimer’s and related dementias, the prevalence is much higher, with some estimates putting it at just over 50 percent.

Elder abuse can take a number of forms. In 2015, the Aging Committee heard from Philip Marshall, the grandson of philanthropist Brooke Astor, who testified that his father neglected...
his mother’s health and safety and mismanaged her assets while she suffered from Alzheimer’s disease.

More recently, a constituent called the Aging Committee Fraud Hotline after she discovered a contracting scam targeting her aunt and uncle. These scams exploit the vulnerability of the elderly and unwise, often resulting in monetary loss and emotional distress.

Identifying, investigating, and prosecuting elder abuse cases often involve several challenges. Victims may not be able to report the abuse they are experiencing, and prosecutors may need to prove the case without the victim’s testimony. When elder abuse victims or witnesses have Alzheimer’s or related dementia, these challenges can be exacerbated.

Specialized knowledge and training can help address the issues of abuse and fraud. The Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act, a federal law in 2017, required the Department of Justice to develop training materials to help criminal justice, social services, and health care personnel investigate elder abuse cases and assess, respond to, and interact with the victims and witnesses in these cases. The legislation is essential today, and we need to ensure that we have the resources and training to handle these cases effectively.

As Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, one of my top priorities is promoting and supporting Alzheimer’s awareness. Promoting Alzheimer’s Awareness to Prevent Elder Abuse Act would help to ensure that the frontline professionals who are leading the charge against elder abuse have the training needed to respond to cases where the victim or a witness has Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of dementia. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 570—OPPOSING AND CONDEMNING THE POTENTIAL PROSECUTION OF UNITED STATES AND ISRAELI NATIONALS BY THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Mr. CRUZ submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Whereas the United States has long objected to any assertion of jurisdiction by the International Criminal Court (ICC) over nationals of states that are not parties to the Rome Statute, including the United States and Israel, absent a referral from the United Nations Security Council or the consent of such a state; whereas, on December 20, 2019, the Prosecutor of the ICC asked the ICC judges to confirm that the Court may exercise jurisdiction over the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza, facilitating the potential prosecution of Israeli nationals; whereas, on March 10, 2020, the ICC authorized an investigation into the actions of United States Armed Forces and intelligence officials operating in Afghanistan, facilitating the prosecution of United States nationals; and whereas prosecutions of nationals from states that are not parties to the Rome Statute, absent a referral from the United Nations Security Council or the consent of such a state, are illegitimate and terminally endanger the credibility of the ICC.

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate opposes and condemns the potential prosecution of United States and Israeli nationals by the ICC; and

(2) it should be the policy of the United States to pursue a resolution by the United Nations Security Council prohibiting the ICC from proceeding with respect to cases that are not parties to the Rome Statute, including the United States and Israel, absent a referral from the United Nations Security Council or the consent of such a state.

Whereas, on December 20, 2019, the Prosecutor of the ICC asked the ICC judges to confirm that the Court may exercise jurisdiction over the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza, facilitating the potential prosecution of Israeli nationals; whereas, on March 10, 2020, the ICC authorized an investigation into the actions of United States Armed Forces and intelligence officials operating in Afghanistan, facilitating the prosecution of United States nationals; and whereas prosecutions of nationals from states that are not parties to the Rome Statute, absent a referral from the United Nations Security Council or the consent of such a state, are illegitimate and terminally endanger the credibility of the ICC.

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Whereas, on December 20, 2019, the Prosecutor of the ICC asked the ICC judges to confirm that the Court may exercise jurisdiction over the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza, facilitating the potential prosecution of Israeli nationals; whereas, on March 10, 2020, the ICC authorized an investigation into the actions of United States Armed Forces and intelligence officials operating in Afghanistan, facilitating the prosecution of United States nationals; and whereas prosecutions of nationals from states that are not parties to the Rome Statute, absent a referral from the United Nations Security Council or the consent of such a state, are illegitimate and terminally endanger the credibility of the ICC.

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate opposes and condemns the potential prosecution of United States and Israeli nationals by the ICC; and

(2) it should be the policy of the United States to pursue a resolution by the United Nations Security Council prohibiting the ICC from proceeding with respect to cases that are not parties to the Rome Statute, including the United States and Israel, absent a referral from the United Nations Security Council or the consent of such a state.

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

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(3) encouraging the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities during National Charter Schools Week to demonstrate support for public charter schools.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have 4 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 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, May 12, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

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 Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

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

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

IMMIGRANT HEALTH HEROES

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, Americans owe a great debt of gratitude to the healthcare heroes on the frontlines of the fight against the COVID–19 pandemic. Today, I would like to spend a few minutes talking about one special group of healthcare workers: immigrants.

Considers the case of 6 healthcare and social service workers—3.1 million out of 18.7 million—are immigrants. These immigrants are playing a critical role in the battle against the pandemic, yet our broken immigration system does not allow them to fully realize their dreams of becoming part of America’s future.

I have come to the floor today to tell a story of one of our immigrant health heroes. I want to highlight these stories in the coming weeks. I am also inviting my colleagues from across the Nation to come tell their own stories on social media or on the floor with #ImmigrantHealthHeroes, shown on screen.

Thousands of immigrant health workers are suffering because of a serious problem in our immigration system: It is the green card backlog. This backlog puts them and their families at risk, limiting their immigration status, and it hinders their ability to participate in the fight against COVID–19.

Under our current laws, there are not nearly enough immigrant visas, also known as green cards, available each year. As a result, immigrants are stuck in backlogs not just for years but for decades.

Close to 5 million future Americans are in line waiting for green cards. Hundreds of thousands of them are already working in the United States on temporary visas, while many more are waiting abroad, separated from their American families. Only 226,000 family green cards and 140,000 employment green cards are available each year.

The green card backlog includes thousands of doctors—medical doctors—who are currently working in our country on a temporary basis. These doctors face many restrictions due to their temporary status, such as not being able to volunteer at hospitals in COVID–19 hotspots where they are so desperately needed.

The solution to the green card backlog is clear: Pass the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act, which provides an additional 15,000 green cards this year and up to 50,000 in the 2021 fiscal year. It is the only bill that will help health workers help Americans recover.

Many doctors and nurses who are stuck in this green card backlog. This backlog poses a significant risk to our ability to effectively respond to this pandemic. Our bill, the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act, is a temporary stopgap bill that will strengthen our healthcare workforce and improve healthcare access for Americans in the midst of this crisis.

Our bill would reauthorize 25,000 unused immigrant visas for nurses and 15,000 unused visas for doctors. These visas that Congress previously authorized, but we never used. Our bill would quickly allocate these visas to doctors and nurses who can help us today in the fight against COVID–19.

It is important to note that our bill requires employers to attest that any immigrant from overseas who receives these visas will not displace an American worker. We want to ensure that this bill will not displace an American worker. We want to ensure that all beneficiaries of this bill complement our American healthcare workforce. As Congress begins to work on the next legislation to address this pandemic, I will push for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act to be included.

Today, I want to tell you the story of one immigrant healthcare worker who is stuck in this green card backlog and who would benefit from the act I just described.

This is Dr. Ram Sanjeev Alur. Dr. Alur was born in India. As a child, he survived a bout with meningitis, a disease that is often fatal. This experience inspired him to become a doctor.

He went to medical school in India, then trained in internal medicine in the United Kingdom. Dr. Alur came to the United States in 2007 for medical residency training. In 2011, he began working as an internist and hospitalist in the Marion Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Marion, IL.

Dr. Alur has led the emergency room inpatient unit for the last 3 years, and now, he is on the frontlines of the pandemic as a member of his hospital’s COVID–19 response team.

Dr. Alur lives in Marion with his wife and three kids. Their ages are 12, 8, and 6. He sent me a letter, but listen to what he said about his life in southern Illinois living in Marion:

I consider the opportunity to work at the VA medical center as a blessing. To serve the veterans is an honor, responsibility and satisfaction that enhances anyone’s life, I found my calling and hope to spend the rest of my career and raise my family here. I would like to see my children blossom in this community and grow into successful, responsible citizens.

Unfortunately, Dr. Alur is one of thousands of doctors stuck in this green card backlog. He has been forced to renew his temporary visa four times
since he started working serving our veterans at the Marion VA facility. He has been approved for a green card but will have to wait decades—decades—because of the backlog of people just like him, waiting for their green cards.

In the midst of this pandemic, Dr. Alur's immigration status puts him at a great risk. If, God forbid—God forbid—he contracts COVID-19 and becomes disabled or dies, his family would lose their immigration status and be forced to leave the United States. Tell me that is fair, that this man who is serving our veterans and has waited patiently to become a citizen of United States and be part of our future, should he get sick or die, his family would be deported.

Here is what he said to me about this:

The pandemic shook our family. Being a temporary worker on a visa never scared us in the face more. This lack of protection is every frontline immigrant doctor’s nightmare.

Dr. Alur’s temporary immigration status also prevents him from working part—time in a COVID-19 hotspot like Chicago. Here is what he said:

It is depressing to watch the medical system, stretched while the pandemic takes its toll, and not be able to help or participate. It is like a soldier sitting out a battle, player sitting out a fire.

His family’s plight led Dr. Alur to start Physicians for American Health Care Access, a nonprofit organization to advocate for doctors serving underserved communities who are stuck in this green card backlog. I can tell you, in southern Illinois, we are desperate for good doctors. We need them not just at Marion VA, but we need more specialists around the entire region. This is a rural area of our State, small-town area, and they need these specialists more than ever.

How we can take a good man like this, who taught me and others how to serve our veterans and do more in this COVID-19 epidemic, and tell him he is not welcome to be a citizen of this country, I just do not understand.

When I heard Dr. Alur’s story, it inspired my legislation. I believe on a bipartisan basis to introduce this law that I mentioned, the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act. Under our bill, Dr. Alur and thousands like him could receive their green cards. They and their families would get the permanent immigration status that they deserve and be able to use their skills to serve in the frontlines of the pandemic if they are needed—and they are.

I hope that, even in these divided times, we can come together in Congress to quickly aid these immigrant healthcare heroes.

REMEMBERING GREG ZANIS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, in this season of great mourning, last Monday, America lost a man who tried for years—during some of our darkest moments—to comfort our grief-stricken Nation.

His name was Greg Zanis, but he was known as “The Cross Man.” One month ago, he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Last Friday, Mr. Zanis, his wife Sue, and their grown children watched from inside the Zanis family home in Aurora, IL, as a parade of neighbors drove past to show their love and respect for Greg.

This caravan of caring stretched for a mile and included more than 320 cars, trucks, SUVs, and motorcycles. It was a fitting tribute to a quiet man whose compassion and sacrifice helped ease the grief of countless Americans over the last 25 years.

You may never have heard his name before, but you may have seen his work. After the Columbine High School massacre in 1999 and nearly every mass shooting and natural disaster since then, Greg Zanis crafted wooden memorials to honor the fallen. Over nearly 20 years, he made and personally delivered 27,000 handmade memorials to communities across America. Most were crosses, but he also crafted wooden Stars of David and crescent moons to honor the fallen.

He drove to Sandy Hook, CT, after 26 children and educators were murdered in that grade school. He drove to Florida to honor the victims of the Pulse Nightclub shooting and returned a heartbreakingly short time later after the Parkland High School mass shooting. He drove to Las Vegas after 58 people were killed at a music festival; to the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, TX, after 26 worshippers were killed; to Pittsburgh, PA, to honor the 11 worshippers killed at the Tree of Life Synagogue.

Greg Zanis considered his work a ministry, and it cost him financially and emotionally. He was a master carpenter who gave up much of the work he did otherwise to make and deliver these crosses. He decided, after that, that he had to retire from his ministry. He was 69 years old. A few months later, his cancer was diagnosed.

In this time, when so many of the usual rituals of grief must be suspended, may we all find some consolations and inspiration in the extraordinary, ordinary man who helped to ease the grief of so many.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following the reporter for the New York Times, he could drive away from all the other tragedies, but he said, “I’m not going to be able to get away from this one.”

His ministry didn’t take him only to places of mass suffering and death; he also made crosses for the individual, the family. He made 700 crosses carried down Michigan Avenue in Chicago to honor those who died in that great city in 1 year.

He made his first cross in 1996 to honor his father-in-law, who had been murdered in a shooting. He learned from that experience that transforming wood into symbols of faith helped to make grief more bearable. That is the gift that he tried to share with others.

The mass shooting at a Walmart in El Paso last September shook him deeply. Among the 22 killed and 23 wounded were little children shopping for school supplies with their parents. Between the heat of the south Texas sun and the enormity of their losses, Mr. Zanis struggled to make enough crosses. He decided, after that, that he had to retire from his ministry. He was 69 years old. A few months later, his cancer was diagnosed.

In this time, when so many of the usual rituals of grieving must be suspended, may we all find some consolations and inspiration in the extraordinary, ordinary man who helped to ease the grief of so many.

I yield the floor.

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.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following the reporter for the New York Times, he could drive away from all the other tragedies, but he said, “I’m not going to be able to get away from this one.”

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I yield the floor.

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.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following the reporter for the New York Times, he could drive away from all the other tragedies, but he said, “I’m not going to be able to get away from this one.”

His ministry didn’t take him only to places of mass suffering and death; he also made crosses for the individual, the family. He made 700 crosses carried down Michigan Avenue in Chicago to honor those who died in that great city in 1 year.

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In this time, when so many of the usual rituals of grieving must be suspended, may we all find some consolations and inspiration in the extraordinary, ordinary man who helped to ease the grief of so many.

I yield the floor.

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.
leader remarks, the Senate proceed to consideration of H.R. 6172 under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:39 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 12, 2020:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
TROY D. EDGAR, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
BRIAN D. MONTGOMERY, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.
RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2020

HON. JAMIE RASKIN OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn recognition of the selfless sacrifice made by law enforcement officers across this great nation and to honor those who have fallen in the line of duty. Ever since President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation designating May 15th as Peace Officer’s Memorial Day, we as a nation have paused to show our support and eternal gratitude for the brave men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting their fellow citizens.

I embrace this opportunity to pay tribute to our fallen law enforcement officers. These are true and brave public servants who made the conscious decision to stand in between the men, women, and children in their communities and those who would do them harm. While these courageous individuals hail from a broad spectrum of social and economic backgrounds, they all share the common instinct to protect and serve their fellow citizens. These officers are husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters. They understand the perils they face every day when they go to work in service of others, but they are defined by a rare sense of duty and a love for their fellow human beings. They keep our roads and highways safe. They safeguard our property. They secure the event sites and venues where we gather. They respond to incidents of domestic violence and calls for help. They bring criminals to justice. They are the ones who are moving toward the sound of the gunfire when everyone else is running away.

Law enforcement officers engage in thousands of face-to-face encounters throughout their careers. They do so in most cases without knowing, even in the midst of the encounter, if the individual or individuals they are confronting are in need of their help or intend to harm them. Too often, these encounters end tragically. 128 officers died in the line of duty in 2019. Including officers identified from previous years, 307 names will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial in Washington, D.C. this year. Eight of those names are from my home state of Maryland.

Officer Kyle David Olinger was a husband, a father, and a Police Officer in the Montgomery County Police Department. On August 8th, 2003, while serving the citizens of my home district, he initiated a traffic stop in Silver Spring, MD on a vehicle with three passengers. Officer Olinger observed one of the occupants attempting to conceal a handgun under the seat, and he ordered the man to drop the weapon. A struggle ensued, and Officer Olinger was shot in the neck and paralyzed below the chest. Despite his wounds, Officer Olinger, a former U.S. Marine, continued to serve his department until his injuries forced him to retire in 2007, demonstrating the type of man he was and his commitment to the service of others. On April 18th, 2019, Officer Olinger succumbed to complications from the gunshot wound he suffered in the line of duty. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Beyond recognizing the bravery and sacrifice of law enforcement professionals like Officer Olinger, we must acknowledge the sacrifices made by their loved ones. Every day our officers leave for work, their families must live with the anxiety of knowing that they may not return home. The burden of the profession is not just borne by officers themselves. Their family members endure these circumstances for the benefit of others—in exchange for all the pain and suffering that is prevented by the actions of these dedicated officers. So, today we salute not only the fallen officers, but the loving families that supported them in their very challenging profession.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring all the courageous men and women who have taken the oath to protect and serve, and who have fallen in the line of duty. We are forever grateful for their sacrifice, and they will not be forgotten.

HONORING MURINDIA WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious woman, Ms. Murindia Williams. Murindia has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Murindia was born and raised in Rolling Fork and began her career with Sharkey County in 1992 as a deputy clerk in the Chancellor and Circuit Clerk’s office. Ten years later she was elected by her county to serve them as the first black Chancery and Circuit Clerk.

She is also heavily involved in community organizations, serving as co-chair for the Deep Delta Blues Heritage Festival and is a long-time member of the Ebonette Social and Civic Club. She is currently a member of the Circuit Clerks Leadership Committee, and is past president of that association, a member of the WWISCA Advisory Board, and member of the Shiloh M. B. Church where she serves as choir president.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Murindia Williams for her passion and dedication to serving Sharkey County and desire to make a difference in the community.

RECOGNIZING GREATER VALDOSTA UNITED WAY

HON. MIKE LEVIN OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Tej Patel and his team at Fluxergy, a local company developing rapid COVID–19 testing, as my April Constituent of the Month. During this time of uncertainty and crisis, Americans are looking for beacons of hope in the fight against COVID–19. Tej and his team answered the call. Founded in 2013 by engineers Tej Patel, Ryan Revilla, and Jonathan Tu, Fluxergy, a medical diagnostic company based in Irvine, worked in collaboration with UC San Diego Health to create a testing system designed to diagnose COVID–19 in under an hour.

Tej saw a deficiency in the turn-around of testing for COVID–19, and knew there was a better way to address testing in the most efficient way possible. Many tests sent to outside labs range from days to weeks for a patient to receive their results. Fluxergy’s on-site test for COVID–19 requires a very small sample, typically a nasal swab. This swab is mixed with a reagent solution, loaded onto the Fluxergy card and inserted into the Fluxergy Analyzer which produces results in under an hour.

During a rapidly spreading global pandemic, it is imperative to know the results of a patient’s test as soon as possible. The quicker
we have results, the sooner we can implement proper precautions and care. Solutions like the testing system that Fluxergy developed can help us save lives.

I launched a Constituent of the Month program to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to make our region and our country a stronger place for everyone to live and thrive. There are countless health care workers, first responders, grocery workers and many others who deserve recognition. Today, I am proud to recognize Tej and his team’s innovation during this time of crisis for our country, which is both inspiring and encouraging. I am honored to recognize Tej Patel and the Fluxergy team as my Constituent of the Month and I thank them for being beacons of light and hope for our community as we fight this global pandemic together.

HONORING IOWA’S TEACHERS AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE OF IOWA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mrs. AXNE, Madam Speaker, in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I am recognizing the incredible educators of Iowa’s Third Congressional District as our Iowans of the Week. Their daily contributions to our children’s lives have perhaps never been more evident than during the past couple of months while our nation battles the COVID–19 pandemic. As distance learning has become the new normal, our home-schooled educators have developed a whole new appreciation for the academic, social, and emotional support teachers provide our children.

It has been remarkable to see educators and school staff rise to the challenge of serving their students in the face of this unprecedented crisis. With little time to plan and while coping with the pandemic themselves, they transitioned lesson plans to fit the constraints of distance learning and have worked hard to find creative ways to keep students engaged. Within the Rigsby of Nashville, Tennessee. Her daughter, Tej Rigsby, is the founder and CEO of Fluxergy, a global health care technology company.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Esther Martin Rigsby. Mrs. Esther Martin Rigsby entered into eternal rest March 17, 2020. She was born August 31, 1932 to Reverend and Mrs. Alex L. Martin in Port Gibson, Mississippi. She was a graduate of Claiborne County Training School, where she was the class valedictorian. She matriculated at Alcorn State University where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in English Education. While at Alcorn, she was a member of the college choir, the Dramatic Guild, and was initiated into the Gamma Phi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. On December 25, 1954, she united in holy matrimony to her college sweetheart: Dr. John D. Rigsby. He predeceased her.

Her educational credentials included the Master of Science Degree in English Education from Indiana University. She also attained advanced certifications in Curriculum and Instruction and did additional studies at Mississippi State University, University of Southern Mississippi and New York University.

Her teaching career was in several Mississippi School Districts: Quitman County, Leflore County, Rankin County and Jackson Public Schools. During her career, she taught English, Journalism, Speech, Drama and Rigsby of Nashville, Tennessee. Her daughters-in-law are Terri, Linda, and Virginia Rig
When we face great challenges like COVID–19, the people of TX–22 come together and lift each other up; Amar, Karthik and Praneel are living proof.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I thank “The Three Masketeers” for working to protect our community from coronavirus. They have provided critical aid to people in need during these unprecedented times.

Recognizing Lohgan Denney of Butte

HON. GREG GIANFORTE
OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lohgan Denney of Butte for her work providing handcrafted personal protective masks to health care, school district, and community workers as Montana combats the COVID–19 outbreak.

At 10 years old, Lohgan knows what she wants to be when she grows up—a fashion designer. To encourage her dream, Lohgan’s parents bought her a sewing kit, and her mother taught her how to sew. She’s become a natural.

Her parents say she has a heart of gold, that she’s one of the most kindhearted human beings you’ve ever met. She enjoys making a difference. It was no surprise when Lohgan wanted to help when she heard there was a shortage of masks in Butte.

Lohgan watched YouTube videos on the proper way to make a mask with her sewing machine and materials. She admits it was difficult at first, but eventually she mastered the process and can make one in just 20 minutes. Lohgan sends her special masks to doctors and nurses at both St. James Healthcare in Butte and the Community Hospital of Anaconda, Butte’s public transportation drivers, school district employees delivering meals to kids, soldiers at the local military enlistment offices, and anyone who has a pre-existing condition. Montanans throughout our state embraced Lohgan in her efforts, donating money and supplies to keep her going. So far, she’s made 120 masks and has another 50 requests to make more. It’s a lot of work for Lohgan, who’s completing her fourth grade assignments from home, but she’s committed to doing her part to keep people safe and healthy.

Madam Speaker, for using her talents to help her fellow Montanans amid a public health crisis, I recognize Lohgan Denney for her spirit of Montana.

Kerry Glenn

HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kerry Glenn, who after 30 years in the Adams 12 School District, is retiring. Kerry’s work for the STEM education in the Adams 12 School District and in the City of Northglenn has made a significant impact on students which will last for years to come.

In 1984, Kerry graduated from Northglenn High School and received his bachelor’s degree in Applied Mathematics and Aerospace Engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1989. In 1990, he started teaching math at his alma mater, Northglenn High School. He continued to advance his own education and, in 2003, he completed a MA in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Colorado, Denver. From 2003 to 2012, Kerry was the instructional leader of the math department at Northglenn High School. In addition to teaching all levels of mathematics, Kerry also taught Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering classes from 2010 to 2012. These positions reflect his talent for bringing people together and fostering and strengthening collaboration in education—all with a smile on his face.

In addition to his teaching career, Kerry has provided countless hours and resources to his community by serving on local and state boards and commissions including District STEM Coordinator, CTE DAG team, City of Northglenn Business Recognition, City of Northglenn Branding, Adams County Business Pitch Committee, Adams County Education Consortium, Adams County Manufacturers Youth Pipeline, Colorado P TECH, as well as Board President of Anythink Libraries. He also co-founded STEMinspired. In 2012 as STEM Coordinator, Kerry used the K-8 Adams 12 STEM Model to design and implement the curriculum in grades 9 through 12. In 2016, Kerry became the District P TECH/STEM Coordinator.

Through both the STEM and the P TECH programs in Adams 12, Kerry has created hands-on, collaborative experiences for students right here in our community. I congratulate Kerry on a lifetime of service and wish him all the best in retirement.

In Recognition of Kenneth Leveno, MD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary work and life of service of Kenneth Leveno, MD with Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Leveno was instrumental in developing a number of the innovative programs that are an integral component of Parkland’s Women and Infant’s Specialty Health division for decades.

He earned his undergraduate degree at Notre Dame University and his medical degree from Creighton University School of Medicine. Dr. Leveno joined the Parkland medical staff in the 1970s and passionately sought to provide the best obstetrical care for patients entrusted to Parkland’s care. His clinical studies demonstrated that access to prenatal care could mitigate health disparities among patients who face high levels of socio-economic hardship. He collaborated with medical, nursing, and administrative leaders to create a highly organized, evidence-based system of care that led to expanded outcomes and became known as the “Parkland Way.”

Dr. Leveno was a pioneer in the development of advanced practice providers to expand
services to an ever-growing population of patients in need of care. In addition to the development of a low-risk delivery unit, he initiated the nurse-midwives program at Parkland. In 1987, Dr. Leveno recruited midwives across the U.S. and even abroad to launch Parkland’s new one of the largest and most respected Certified Nurse-Midwives services in the United States. His groundbreaking research and development of innovative obstetrical care practices transformed Parkland’s obstetric service and created a unified system that integrated prenatal delivery and postpartum care.

Dr. Leveno devoted more than fifty years of his life to the medical profession, including serving as the UT Southwestern Jack A. Pritchard Chair in Obstetrics & Gynecology and was recognized as the Distinguished Physician Award by Parkland Hospital in 1998. His positive impact and worthwhile contributions to the medical profession will be sorely missed by the patients he so diligently served and by the colleagues who held him in great esteem and respect. We are so grateful for his friendship and service and pray for comfort and peace for his wife and family.

HONORING QUITMAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT LORENZO “DC” WINDLESS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize the Honorable, Mr. Lorenzo Windless, fondly affectionately known as, “DC,” was born and reared in Darling, MS. He is a supportive and dependable brother to six siblings and a dedicated and loving son to his mother, Ms. Fannie Windless of Sledge, MS. Lorenzo has a genuine love for family, for friends, for the community, for our nation and to simply put it he has a love for people.

We would like to share a few of Mr. Windless’ accomplishments and positions that he has proudly and effectively held within our communities: Lorenzo was born with a heart to help others—at the age of 18 he was Asst Fire Chief of Sledge MS’s volunteer Fire Department, and being the trailblazer that he is, he began as a Security Officer at Sam’s Town Department, and being the trailblazer that he is, Pastor Windless is admired by his eloquent and graceful wife of over 20 years, Lady Sharonda Windless and his beautiful and respectful daughters: Gabrielle, Aleasha and Zarria Windless. As he journeys through this life being the example and epitome of a wise, courageous, fierce, strong and loving black man—he does so through the love and encouragement of his family and by the grace of God. President Windless and his family not only open their hearts to those in need, but they also open their home to those God has directed to them. With their nest one child from being empty, they have taken on the responsibility of providing a home, helping to mold and teach three other young men. His life is not one of the words but actions and deeds.

A glimpse into the life of Mr. Windless is a reflection of ‘helping others.’ He is a man with a God-given vision, the will to press forward, conflict, health issues and life itself can never, will never, nor will he back down. President Windless is one of a wise, courageous, fierce, strong and loving black man—he does so through the love and encouragement of his family and by the grace of God. President Windless and his family not only open their hearts to those in need, but they also open their home to those God has directed to them. With their nest one child from being empty, they have taken on the responsibility of providing a home, helping to mold and teach three other young men. His life is not one of the words but actions and deeds.

It has been an honor to recognize and present an outstanding and remarkable Man of God businessman, and community leader.

TRIBUTE TO BRETT R. BARBRE

HON. KEN CALVERT OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. BARBRE of California. The Chair. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ted Rowe, a wonderful constituent who just celebrated his 100th birthday. Mr. Rowe has honorably served our country in battle and as a public-spirited journalist, and he has been a popular member of the Chevy Chase community for over 45 years. This past Saturday, I was touched to join his loving friends and family who organized a drive-by parade of cars to celebrate Ted’s 100th birthday in a safe and festive way.

Ted left college in 1942 to enlist in the Army. During WWII, he served in North Africa and Italy and was awarded 4 battle stars for his courageous service. Following the war, Ted returned to education and received his MBA from Harvard Business School.

Ted led a fascinating career as a journalist, beginning at the Boston Globe before eventually moving to Washington to work as an assistant city editor of the Washington Post in 1980. He went on to serve at the Johnson White House on programs to help consumers. His distinguished career culminated in his generous creation of the Arthur Rowe Award for Press Criticism.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TED ROWSE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JAMIE RASKIN OF MARYLAND IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. RASKIN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ted Rowe, a wonderful constituent who just celebrated his 100th birthday. Mr. Rowe has honorably served our country in battle and as a public-spirited journalist, and he has been a popular member of the Chevy Chase community for over 45 years. This past Saturday, I was touched to join his loving friends and family who organized a drive-by parade of cars to celebrate Ted’s 100th birthday in a safe and festive way.

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Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the important accomplishments of my distinguished constituent, Ted Rowse, and hope this chamber will join me in wishing him a very happy 100th birthday.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the National Science Foundation (NSF). As the world responds to the novel coronavirus pandemic, it is more important than ever to invest in science and the next generation of scientists who will lead us through future global challenges.

My state is proud to be home to one of the eight NSF-funded Mathematical Sciences Institutes—the Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics (ICERM). In early 2019, scientists gathered at the Institute to study mathematical models related to treatments and prevention of infectious disease, research that has become glaringly necessary in light of the COVID–19 pandemic.

Investments like this are vital to prepare us for future challenges to Americans’ health and welfare and are why I continue to champion America’s research enterprise.

I hope you will join with me in celebrating the many accomplishments of NSF over the last 70 years, as well as the crucial work it continues to do.

RECOGNIZING GERRI BACKES OF KALISPELL

HON. GREG GIANFORTE
OF MONTANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gerri Backes of Kalispell for supporting and caring for seniors in her community as we face this unprecedented time.

Gerri is the president of the Kalispell Senior Center. Since taking over last summer, she has made increasing social events a priority, with a goal of creating programs that seniors will look forward to. Gerri says this new approach has paid dividends and her group is closer than ever. Last year, she set up a “90-plus” party for 17 members of the senior center, and dozens showed up to celebrate their long, fulfilling lives. She says parties like these promote community and build critical relationships that ultimately improve the life of her members.

She also oversees the center’s “Warm It Up” program. Through this major project, seniors knit hats, scarfs, and quilts to donate to organizations and schools throughout Kalispell. In 2019 alone, they donated 3,000 items. Under her leadership, the center also offers exercise classes along with educational presentations on health care and fraud. They play Pinochle on Tuesdays and Fridays and have a very popular weekly Bingo night. But all of that has come to a screeching halt.

Officials closed the center in response to the COVID–19 outbreak. As a result, seniors are confined to their homes, isolated and with little to no social interaction. Luckily for this Kalispell group, they have Gerri Backes. For Gerri, one of the best things in life is laughter. She says it keeps the soul happy and hopeful. While the center’s doors are closed, Gerri has been making phone calls to check up on her friends, and she refuses to hang up until she gets a laugh. And that’s not all she does.

During these long days at home, it’s easy to get lonely and restless, so Gerri delivers puzzles and books to her friends. She says this group of Kalispell Valley seniors is her family, and she’ll continue to help them whether the center is open or closed.

Madam Speaker, for delivering laughs and hope to Montana seniors, I recognize Gerri Backes of Kalispell for her spirit of Montana.

REMEMBERING JAMES WAYNE SMITH

HON. ERL L. “BUDDY” CARTER
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of James Wayne Smith of Jesup, Georgia, who passed away at 92 years old on April 22nd.

Known to some as “Hatchet,” and others as “The Mayor of Doctortown,” which had no mayor, he had a talent for making friends and was loved by many.

Wayne was a faithful member of Epworth United Methodist Church, and quite literally played a role in its foundation, as he graded the lot where the church now stands.

Although his dedicated work in highway construction for over 60 years sometimes took him away from home, he always returned to his beloved Jesup.

In his free time, he loved to fish and hike on the Altamaha River, but most of all, he loved spending time with his family and friends. A renowned raconteur and spinner of yarns, Wayne’s good humor never failed to bring a smile.

I am thankful for the immense impact he had on his community, and I know his legacy will remain.

My thoughts and prayers are with all who knew and loved Wayne during this most difficult time.

HONORING DEBORAH WRIGHT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious woman, Deborah Wright, who has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Deborah was born to the late Mr. Lee Grant Bridges and Mrs. Lutishia Bridges on November 6, 1961 in Rosedale, MS. She attended Marshall Elementary, Brinkley Jr. High and Hinds A.H.S. then crossed over to Hinds Jr. College in Utica, MS. Deborah Wright married in 1981 and two loving children, Laquita Shonta Sampson and Lawrence Douglas Sampson Jr., were born. In 1995, Mrs. Wright received her Real Estate Degree from the Mississippi Realtors Institute in Jackson MS. With an unwavering passion to improve her community, create balanced mental health care regimes, and to encourage others to excel past adversity, Deborah became the epitome of women in business leadership. She has established herself as a trailblazer in the Mississippi industry for over 30 years with entrepreneurial experience in the state of Mississippi. After college in 1981 Deborah Wright was employed by Milwaukee Electric Tools as a repair person. In 1992, she incorporated her first business, Teen’s World Activity and Community Center, which is a non-profit organization. In 1992, Deborah worked as the Public Relations Officer for Operation Shoestring, Inc. and later Deborah partnered with her mother, Lutishia Bridges and opened “Linda’s Florist and Gift Shop” in Jackson in 1996 and she also worked in transportation for Jackson Public School District.

Mrs. Wright rose against adversity by becoming the first African American woman in the world and sole proprietor of Mississippi Truck Driving Training, Inc., located in Jackson, Mississippi. After closing the truck driving school Deborah started Sincere Trucking. She wittingly coined its name from her late grandson, Master Sincere Rachele Christian.

This Bolivar County native has always exhibited visionary strength, while achieving a ripple effect of empowerment for future endeavors within the Health Care Industries. She later started Sincere Home Care, LLC in June 2013, certified and licensed with MS Department of Mental Health and MS Health Department to provide a complement of services to the community. She patterned her mission statement after her non-profit organization: Helping Other People Excel (H. O. P. E.). She developed her companies to offer a solution for the need of a permanent mediator between mental health and health care.

Deborah is not a stranger to blazing paths; she is motivated by the belief to insure a healthy standard of care for every client. She has vowed to ensure that Sincere Home Care LLC would become a pillar of major change for the impoverished and unhealthy in every county in Mississippi. Her goal is to provide first-rate employment opportunities as well as outstanding health care services for all social classes. Some of her services include: Assisted Living; Supervised Living; Sincere Home Care, LLC: a Mental Health Headquarter which includes: Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse and Recovery, Supported Living, Community Respite, Peer Support, Disabled & Developmental Disabled Community Support, Home Nursing Respite, Private Duty Nursing and Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy; three Adult Day Service Centers: in Jackson, Louisville and Morton, MS.

May Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Deborah Wright for her passion and dedication to serving many people and having the desire to make a difference in the communities.
Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the fallen officers from the state of Florida who diligently gave their lives to protect their communities. This week marks the annual observance of National Police Week. Though we set aside one week a year to honor law enforcement across the country, I encourage all Americans to join me in recognizing the dedication, courage, and selfless sacrifice of our nation’s officers every day.

The men and women being honored this week gave the last full measure of devotion to their country in the form of the ultimate offering—their lives. Every community is indebted to those individuals in uniform who voluntarily put themselves in danger for our safety and security.

Over three hundred officers’ names from across the nation will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., this year for sacrificing their lives in the line of duty. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the 13 officers from Florida who bravely and selflessly served to protect the state. It is an honor to recognize them along with all men and women in law enforcement.

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the urgency of global press freedom, particularly across the 57-nation region of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Earlier last week, we celebrated World Press Freedom Day, a day originally proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1993 to celebrate the fundamental principle of a free and independent press. On this day and beyond, we honor journalists and media professionals for their tireless service in reporting the truth, sometimes at the risk of their own personal safety. World Press Freedom Day serves as an important reminder to governments around the world to respect their country’s commitment to press freedom.

The U.S. Helsinki Commission, of which I am Chairman, is charged with monitoring compliance with human rights and security commitments in the OSCE region. Freedom of the press is a foundational commitment to human rights and democracy. Unfortunately, however, some leaders view the media as a threat and seek to silence individuals and outlets through financial, legal, and physical means. What these leaders truly fear is that journalists will expose corruption, human rights violations, abuses of power, and other undemocratic behavior.

According to the latest reports from the Committee to Protect Journalists, 250 journalists are imprisoned worldwide for their work, 64 journalists are missing, and 1,369 journalists have been killed since 1992. Additionally, Reporters Without Borders’ 2020 World Press Freedom Index found that global press freedom has deteriorated by 12 percent since 2013.

Madam Speaker, I also rise to applaud the undaunted service of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Harlem Dé sir. His leadership as an independent monitor for these issues among OSCE participating States has offered candid review of our collective challenges, while demonstrating the importance of OSCE institutions. Mr. Dé sir’s team has provided impeccable service to help nations implement their international commitments to this end through country visits and legislative review, as well as hosting expert conferences. I encourage my colleagues to closely follow his work and to learn more about his mandate by reviewing the proceedings of the U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing I chaired with Mr. Dé sir on July 25, 2019, addressing “State of Media Freedom in the OSCE Region.”

Madam Speaker, amid this global pandemic, it is more important than ever that journalists and media professionals are able to work freely and without retribution. Unfortunately, too many journalists remain in jail throughout the OSCE region, while states like Russia, Azerbaijan, and Hungary criminalize providing essential information and transparency about the COVID–19 pandemic. Independent media continue to be assaulted under the pretense of punishing allegedly false, misleading, or unofficial information. This is unacceptable.

Earlier in April, I released statements expressing concern with the latest attacks on press freedom in Russia and the unchecked power granted to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán amid the coronavirus pandemic.

During these trying times, strong journalism and access to accurate, unbiased information are essential tools for countering the spread of the disease. I ask my colleagues to join me in urging states to recognize the indispensable role of the media during this time and to reverse policies that in any way discourage freedom of expression.
D398

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

**Daily Digest**

**Senate**

**Chamber Action**

*Routine Proceedings, pages S2357–S2385*

**Measures Introduced:** Nineteen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3685–3703, and S. Res. 570–571. Pages S2378–79

**USA Freedom Reauthorization Act—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, Senate begin consideration of H.R. 6172, to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the production of certain business records, under the order of March 16, 2020; provided further, that at 12 noon, Senate vote on or in relation to the McConnell side-by-side amendment to the Daines amendment, if offered; and that following the disposition of the McConnell amendment, Senate vote on or in relation to the Daines amendment. Page S2384

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

- By 61 yea 32 nays (Vote No. EX. 86), Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Pages S2363–64
- By 62 yea 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 88), Troy D. Edgar, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security. Pages S2365–74

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

- By 62 yea to 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 87), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. Page S2365

**Executive Communications:** Pages S2377–78

**Executive Reports of Committees:** Page S2378

**Additional Cosponsors:** Pages S2379–80

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** Pages S2380–82

**Additional Statements:** Pages S2376–77

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** Page S2383

**Record Votes:** Three record votes were taken today. (Total—88) Pages S2364–65, S2373–74

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:39 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S2385.)

**Committee Meetings**

(Committees not listed did not meet)

**FINANCIAL REGULATORS OVERSIGHT**

**Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:** Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine financial regulators, including S. 3560, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to extend the consumer credit protections provided to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents under title 10, United States Code, to all consumers, after receiving testimony from Randal K. Quarles, Vice Chair for Supervision, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Joseph M. Otting, Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury; Jelena McWilliams, Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and Rodney E. Hood, Chairman, National Credit Union Administration.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:** Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Brian D. Miller, of Virginia, to be Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery, Department of the Treasury, and Dana T. Wade, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

**COVID–19**

**Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:** Committee concluded a hearing to examine COVID–19, focusing on safely getting back to work and back to school, after receiving testimony from Anthony S. Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Robert R. Redfield, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Admiral Brett P. Giroir, Assistant Secretary for Health, and Stephen M. Hahn, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Food
and Drug Administration, all of the Department of Health and Human Services.

COVID–19 LIABILITY

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine liability during the COVID–19 pandemic, after receiving testimony from Kevin Smartt, Kwik Chek Food Stores Inc., Spicewood, Texas; Anthony Perrone, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, Rebecca Dixon, National Employment Law Project, and David Vladeck, Georgetown University Law Center, all of Washington, D.C.; Larry Leroy Tyner, Jr., Texas Christian University, Fort Worth; and Helen Hill, Explore Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 49 public bills, H.R. 6799–6847; and 2 resolutions, H.J. Res. 89 and H. Res. 964, were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H1994–95

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Trone to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Commission on International Religious Freedom—Reappointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's reappointment of the following individuals on the part of the House to the Commission on International Religious Freedom for a term effective May 14, 2020, and ending May 14, 2022: Ms. Anurima Bhargava of Chicago, Illinois, and Dr. James W. Carr of Searcy, Arkansas.

Senate Referral: S. 249 was held at the desk.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page 1989.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the state of broadband amid the COVID–19 pandemic, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Natalie E. Brown, of Nebraska, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uganda, Sandra E. Clark, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to Burkina Faso, William Ellison Grayson, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia, Henry T. Wooster, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, all of the Department of State, and Ramsey Coats Day, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, 2:30 p.m., VTC.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine evolving the United States Cybersecurity strategy and posture, focusing on reviewing the Cyberspace Solarium Commission Report, 9:30 a.m., WEBEX.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SVC–217.

House

No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Wednesday, May 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 6172, USA FREEDOM Reauthorization Act.

At 12 noon, Senate will vote on or in relation to the McConnell or designee side-by-side amendment to the Daines-Wyden amendment (re: Sec. 215 Web Browser/ Search History Data Collection Prohibition), and in relation to Daines-Wyden amendment.

At approximately 4 p.m., Senate is expected to vote on or in relation to the McConnell or designee side-by-side amendment, if offered, to the Lee-Leahy amendment (re: Amicus Reform and Exculpatory Evidence), and in relation to the Lee-Leahy amendment.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 13

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9:30 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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